

Headteacher
Mr M A Pennington
BSc(Hons), PGCE, NPQH



Chair of Governors
Julia M Shaw
FCIPD Dipl PA

The Blue Coat School

An Academy 'Leaders in Science and Mathematics'

Church Road Wavertree Liverpool L15 9EE

Telephone: 0151 733 1407 Fax: 0151 734 0982

www.bluecoatschoolliverpool.org.uk

10 November 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: The Blue Coat School Curriculum

As I am sure you will know, schools and academies across the country are currently dealing with significant changes to how they are funded by the government. For most schools this involves reductions to the amount of money they get to provide a balanced education for the students.

Clearly these changes must be considered by The Blue Coat School. In considering these challenges, we remain focussed on ensuring our curriculum offers the students an enjoyable range of subjects that stimulate, stretch and challenge them. At the centre of this is our commitment to prepare students well for their likely applications to university by ensuring they enjoy a rounded and balanced menu of learning throughout the School.

In the light of challenges outlined above, we have pro-actively undertaken a full review of the curriculum we offer to students at all key stages. This has involved looking at which parts of our curriculum are most important to the future success of students at The Blue Coat School. Equally, we have also considered which aspects we might not offer in the future because they contribute significantly less to students' next steps.

For example, I recently wrote to the parents of Year 12 students about the additional AS level that the students are undertaking alongside their 4 A-levels. Following a consultation involving the views of students, parents and staff, we have established that:-

- Most students are concerned about the impact this additional AS-level might have on the time they can give to their other 4 A-levels.
- Most students, parent and staff recognise this aspect of our curriculum will not contribute directly to students' next steps in education
- Most students, parents and staff can see the benefit of using the time taken up by the additional AS-level to undertake private study in support of their 4 A-levels.

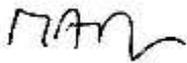


Consequently, I can confirm that we have decided to discontinue this part of our Key Stage 5 curriculum with effect from Monday 16 November 2015. With the time that the students will gain from this discontinuation, we will provide identified quiet study opportunities. Where appropriate students will be given the opportunity to talk to Mrs Mackenzie (Key Stage 5 Manager) about possible changes to their A-levels. We are extremely confident this will help all students make even more progress in their 4 A-levels, which is still a significantly larger number of qualifications than most schools offer.

This is an example of the positive steps that The Blue Coat School will take in reducing costs whilst maintaining those aspects of the curriculum that the students need most. As the year progresses, we will carefully consider what next year's curriculum for Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 will look like for students who start Year 7, 10 and 12. We will use the relevant information evenings to communicate our plans to both parents and students.

I trust this letter gives you positive reassurance about The Blue Coat School's determination to manage the challenges of national reductions in funding to schools. I thank you for your support as we continue to ensure our students enjoy and achieve as a result of the very best education.

Yours sincerely



Mr M A Pennington
Headteacher

