



The Blue Coat School

Newsletter 13 December 2016

Church Road, Wavertree

Liverpool, L15 9EE

T: 0151 733 1407

F: 0151 734 0982

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents

On the run up to Christmas we are privileged to see the caring side of the students. Even though they have faced the challenges of a long term it is wonderful to see that so many still want to push themselves to do more, and better still, more for others. With a team of students arranging our Xmas Factor charity show, Senior prefects planning our Charity Christmas Jumper competition and students orchestrating the collection of Christmas presents for under-privileged children in Liverpool, it really is remarkable just how much our students are ready to do in the care of others.

It is important to all of the staff at Blue Coat that we contribute to and see this aspect of the students' development. Only by creating this balance of academic success and personal enrichment can we truly live up to the challenge of our motto: 'not for ones-self, but for all'. We know that this would not be possible without the guidance and support you give to your children as they stretch themselves to be not only great scholars but great people.

As we approach the Christmas holidays, on behalf of The Blue Coat School it is my pleasure to wish each of you and your families a very enjoyable and peaceful Christmas. We look forward to welcoming the students back in the New Year on Wednesday 4 January 2017.

Yours sincerely

Mr M A Pennington
Headteacher

General Notices

End of Term Arrangements: The Autumn term will end on Wednesday 21 December 2016 which will be a short day. Sixth form students may sign out and begin their Christmas Holidays at 12.30pm. Years 7-11 students will attend period 4 to be registered and the School day will end at 1.40pm. If you do not wish your son/daughter to leave until 3.30pm please can you contact the School and let us know.

Reminder of protocol of a student is unwell in school: Please be aware that a student who feels unwell in school should report to reception in the first instance and not contact home via their mobile phone. The office staff in consultation with Key Stage Leaders will contact home if and when necessary. Many thanks for your support.

Christmas Jumper Day Friday 16 December 2016

The School will support Christmas jumper day in aid of the Save the Children Charity. This will also be a non-uniform day. Students are welcome to wear their own clothes and a Christmas jumper and a donation of £2.00 will be collected during form time.

Carol Concert and Festive Music Thursday 15 December 2016

We look forward to welcoming you to the Carol Service and Festive music on Thursday 15 December 2016. The Chapel will open from 6.45pm for a 7.00pm start and festive music will follow in Shirley Hall from 8.00pm.

Parents' Association Christmas Raffle

The raffle will be drawn on Friday 16 December and winners will be informed and details included on the website. The student raffle is for a fantastic £500 Liverpool One voucher and there is also a host of prizes for the main draw.

Behaviour & Welfare

We are very pleased with the impact of our newly introduced behaviour and welfare recording systems. This term we have been able to ensure more prompt interventions that guide and support students across the whole school. Students of all ages are also benefiting from the Learning Support department adopting more simple systems to provide support for each of our students' needs. As we look ahead we are committed to improving the pastoral care and support and form tutors are working hard to develop stronger and more supportive relationships with our students. You can read more on our [website](#).

If you have any concerns about your child's welfare or behaviour please do contact your child's Key Stage Leader whose details can be found on our school [website](#).

Progress & Achievement

Student achievements: Thank you to all those parents who have provided details of their child's out of school achievements. We have received over 400 emails and will endeavour to recognise and celebrate these achievements in future assemblies, Key Stage meetings and Prize-giving events. This information will also be invaluable to UCAS mentors when the time comes for them to write references.

Academic Progress or Behaviour and Welfare: A reminder that parents are able to contact their child's Form Tutor in the first instance, if they have any concerns regarding academic progress or behaviour and welfare.

Personal development

The introduction of the discrete Personal Development curriculum is enhancing experiences for students in a range of skills and enables them to explore different perspectives in a variety of topics. In KS3 lessons students have been learning about discrimination, teamwork and political processes. KS4 students have been working on managing money, the impact of the media and fairness. Our KS5 students have been developing skills such as speaking and leadership whilst also preparing for university life.

Subject news

UK Bebras Challenge for Computational Thinking: During the week of 7-11 November, Blue Coat Students took part in the UK Bebras Challenge for Computational Thinking. Students performed fantastically well achieving certificates in each of the four age categories as follows:

Junior (Y7):	31 Distinctions and 31 Merits
Intermediate (Y8/9):	53 Distinctions and 52 Merits
Senior (Y10/11):	56 Distinctions and 54 Merits
Elite (Y12/13)	3 Distinctions and 3 Merits

Students have been selected to take part in the event at Oxford during weekends in January and February. This is in addition to the 194 that have qualified for the UK Kestrals follow on round that will take place in school during March.

UKMT Senior Maths Challenge: The Year 11-13 Senior Maths Challenge took place on 8 November and Blue Coat students gave an excellent performance achieving 23 Gold, 53 Silver and 47 Bronze certificates; our highest performance to date. In addition 18 students qualified for further rounds. Congratulations to all of the students.

English visiting writer: Matthew Drzymala will visit school on 14 December, to speak about his latest book and to lead a writing workshop. It is always exciting when writers visit the school, lifting texts from the page and inspiring students to write. In this case, this is timely preparation for Year 11 students' GCSE English Language mock examination.

Careers Information, Advice and Guidance

As part of the provision for students to explore career opportunities, we invite Old Blues and friends of the School to come in and talk to our students about their experiences and to offer advice about career paths. On 5th December, Old Blue Margaret Parr, Barrister, was in School, guiding students through the challenges and rewards of taking the route in the legal profession. A number of parents of former and current students, provided mock interviews for our hopeful Year 13 university applicants and thanks go to Mr McCarthy, Mrs Rigby, Dr McNulty, Mr Elcock, Miss Parr, Ms Rushton and Mr Collins. The inspiration which these talks give to students cannot be underestimated and we are always very appreciative of the time given by those who are passionate about their chosen career and want to develop this interest and vocation in young people.

Development Office

Library Appeal: Our Development Team has been working hard behind the scenes to plan our first capital campaign to raise the funds needed to refurbish the School library.

We are pleased to report that we have received an incredibly generous donation of £100,000 from one of our Old Blues, Haichao Joseph Lee from the Class of 1993. Haichao visited the School in October and following on from his visit decided he would like to help kick-start our Library Appeal; *"For me the Blue Coat experience was an important, character building experience which lead to shaping my entire life. Everyone knows that the Blue Coat has done well academically, but I think the real difference is the school's high level of ethics that are consistent from the Headteacher, to staff, and to the students. I learned to become confident yet disciplined, treating others with care, and this has helped me to later succeed in life. During my recent visit to school, it felt exactly the same as in my memories. Every member of staff I met was warm and welcoming, as were the students. They showed the same kind of confidence and kindness as I remembered. I was particularly moved when Mr. Caulkin gave me the hand-written physics test scores, dated back from over 20 years ago! I'm glad that I'm now in a position to help the development of this wonderful school, and in future I will continue to support the school in any way that I can."*

We look forward to keeping you updated with progress on the Appeal, and as always welcome any parents getting in touch with us that may be able to support our fundraising in some way, whether that is through a personal donation, a charitable trust or perhaps through a corporate organisation.

Christmas Cards: Thank you to everyone who purchased our School Christmas Card. We have raised almost £1,000 through the sale of our Christmas Cards, with all funds raised going towards our Development Fund. Thank you for your support.

Sponsorship of School Show: Thank you to those of you who have expressed an interest in sponsoring Sweeney Todd. We are still seeking a main sponsor of the show, our Gold Sponsor, as well as Silver Sponsors and we hope that you will be interested in supporting the School and our students in this way. All funds raised in sponsorship will directly support the School Show. For further information please contact our Director of Development, Cat Gransden, on 0151 733 1407 ext 207 or at c.gransden@bluecoatschool.org.uk.