



# The Blue Coat School

Parent newsletter – October 2017

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## Headteacher's message

Last week we held our information evenings where parents of Year 7 and Year 12 students had an opportunity to meet form tutors and discuss how well their children are settling in. We are really grateful for your engagement in these evenings which are a crucial part of establishing the strongest of partnerships between parents and school. It is by working in close partnership that we consistently ensure that your children achieve great outcomes and develop into impressive young adults.

Of course, this partnership should not be restricted to such evenings. We always welcome supportive discourse with you as parents and I take this opportunity to welcome your engagement with form staff, class teachers and leaders at any point you feel is helpful.

Thank you for working with us so positively.

Mr M A Pennington  
Headteacher

## General notices

**Half term:** Students finish for half term on Friday 20 October 2017 and return to school on Tuesday 31 October 2017. During half term the school office will be closed and will reopen on Monday 30 October 2017.

**Staff development day:** The school is closed on Monday 30 October 2017 for a staff development day.

## Road safety and courtesy

Thank you to all parents who show great care and courtesy to others when dropping and picking up children from school. We know it can very busy and your support is greatly appreciated. Observations from our senior leader's on duty and from our neighbours do tell us that things could be even better if:

- All parents avoid parking on yellow lines or road markings even if for short stays
- All parents check to see if their parking is restricting access to other's property
- All parents take great care to moderate their road speed.

Many thanks in advance for your contribution to keeping the students safe and maintaining good relationships with our neighbours.

## Quick links

[Term dates](#)

[Online calendar](#)

[Requests for absence](#)

[Expectations](#)

[Examinations](#)

## Key events this term

**Year 11 Options evening 1 November 2017** takes place at 6.00 pm in Shirley Hall.

**GCSE Prizegiving 6 November 2017** takes place at 2.00pm in Shirley Hall.

**Remembrance Service 10 November 2017:** The services will take place in school and all students from Year 7 to Year 13 will attend.

**Year 7 York trip 17 November 2017:** Students and staff will enjoy visiting York on the annual Year 7 residential trip.

**Year 11 Parents' evening 23 November 2017** will take place in Shirley Hall starting from 4.15pm.



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### Duke of Edinburgh

Thanks to parents who supported the Year 9 Bronze D of E launch evening on 5 October 2017. For Bronze, Silver and Gold D of E programmes, all enrolment forms and deposits need to be with school by no later than 4 November 2017. We look forward to hearing of the students' achievements during the award programmes throughout the year.

### Ski trip 2018

There will be an information evening on Thursday 19 October 2017, for parents of those students who are going on the Ski trip in February half term. The meeting will take place in the Dining hall at 6.00pm.

### A Level Chemists

Chemistry Clinic takes place each Monday lunchtime in W15. This extra-curricular opportunity offers all A-level Chemistry students the opportunity to have a quiet place to study or to receive advice if they wish.

### Senior Prefects

The Senior Prefect team has demonstrated their leadership skills through a variety of key events and areas of school. Each member of the team has a key area of responsibility to develop and lead on throughout the school. They have entered in to the leadership of assemblies, Student Councils, Clubs and Societies, mentoring, KS bulletins, organising volunteers, with enthusiasm and have developed a real sense of team spirit as they embark on their new roles this year. Further developments this year include: working with all staff areas to help enhance the experience for students even further, working with support teams, enabling all students to access an even wider breadth of opportunities in school and increasing links across all years in the school.

### How do we recognise positive behaviour?

As a result of our improved monitoring processes we are now able to identify the students who have lived up to the high expectations of the school in terms of behaviour, attendance and punctuality. We will recognise the many students who deserve recognition and celebrate their achievements over the next couple of weeks.

We have seen improvements in the standard of uniform and presentation across the school and we thank parents for their continued support in this area.

### Supporting good punctuality

We believe it is extremely important that students of all ages have good punctuality habits. When students are late to school they are given an automatic lunchtime detention. We appreciate that on occasions students are late to school due to circumstances beyond their control e.g. vehicle breakdown, transport issues. Students should still report to C01 at the beginning of the lunchtime detention so that the teacher on duty can consider if it appropriate to serve the detention. Thank you for your support.

### How do we track your child's progress?

Over the next few weeks, students will be assessed in every subject they study to establish a predicted grade of what they might achieve if they continue to work as they are currently. They will also be assessed on their Good Student Habits. These include, Organisation, Respect, Participation, Responsibility and Resilience; a number from '1 to 4' is awarded for each of these areas, where a '2' represents expected performance. We will monitor each student's and put in place support through class teachers, form tutors and key leaders.

### Outstanding school outcomes

Following the students' best ever A-level results and the magnificent achievement of our students in their GCSE's this year, the Department for Education has recognised the school's outstanding outcomes in their [2017 Performance Tables](#).

You can read more [here](#). Well done to all students, parents and staff for this great collective achievement.



### School Show

We are pleased to announce this year's school show as Guys and Dolls, the 1950's Broadway musical. The show will take place over 4 nights in the week beginning Monday 5 February 2018.

Under the leadership of Mr Emery, student auditions have already begun with great excitement.

As ever, parental support is really appreciated for such large scale events. If you or anyone you know can support the show in any way please do contact the school. Many thanks.

### Scholastic Book Fair:

#### *Celebrate Reading at our Book Fair!*

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to the school's library in the week commencing 11 December 2017, with hundreds of new children's books to browse and buy! There are over 200 titles for you and your child to choose from, and with prices starting from only £2.99, there's sure to be a book for everyone.

The fair will be cashless and all orders can be placed over the phone using Scholastic's quick and secure payment line or alternately, using the credit card machine available.

Don't forget that every book you buy can help to get FREE BOOKS for our school library! More details will follow in the coming weeks.

### Parents' Association Quiz Night

**Friday 10 November 2017**

Tickets are now on sale for the hugely popular Quiz night run by the Parents' Association.

This fun, family event will once again be hosted by our quiz master, Mr Keith Caulkin MBE, and will include questions to suit all ages including 2 children's only rounds.

The Quiz trophy awaits the winning team, and there will be cash prizes for the top 3 teams.

Tickets cost £6.00 per adult and £3.00 for children (up to and including 16 years old / Year 11) and can be purchased via Parentmail. Last year's quiz was a sell out, so please buy your tickets early to avoid disappointment!

