



The Blue Coat School

Parent newsletter – March 2018

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Headteacher's message

One of the many strengths of our Blue Coat community is how closely staff, students and parents work together. This year we have sought to take this to an even higher standard by introducing new opportunities for students to review their developments that are undertaken termly and recorded in their planners. These can be used by form tutors and parents to more closely engage with and support students about their progress, attendance, behaviour and development.

We think these opportunities are working well and have been key to making our use of form time even more focussed in all key stages this year. As we look to develop this even further, we are very interested in your views about the termly review pages (colour) that are in the students' planners. Over the months of March and April we welcome your views about the usefulness of these pages from a parents' perspective. You can share your views with us by emailing:

schoolconsultation@bluecoatschool.org.uk

Many thanks in advance for your engagement and for your continued support of the school.

Mr M A Pennington
Headteacher

General notices

End of term: Friday 23 March is the end of spring term for all students. Students in Years 7-11 will register as normal during lesson 4 and then be dismissed at 1.40pm. Sixth form students may sign out from 12.30pm. Parents who wish their son/daughter to be supervised by school until 3.30pm should contact school at office@bluecoatschool.org.uk.

Requests for absence: Many thanks to parents for the swift transition to the new online request for absence form. By using this form, we are able to consider and respond to your requests much more quickly than in the past. For your convenience, a quick link to the online form will remain on our monthly newsletters.

Quick links

[Term dates](#)

[Online calendar](#)

[Requests for absence](#)

[Expectations](#)

[Examinations](#)

[Key contacts](#)

Key upcoming events

Students return to school on Monday 9 April 2018.

Year 12 Post-18 Options evening takes place on Thursday 12 April 2018. Parents are encouraged to attend with their Year 12 sons/daughters.

Year 10 Parents' evening takes place on Thursday 19 April 2018.

Year 12 Parents evening takes place on Thursday 26 April 2018.

Year 7 Parents' evening takes place on Tuesday 9 May 2018.

Year 11 Study leave begins on Friday 18 May 2018.

Year 13 Study leave begins on Friday 25 May 2018.



office@bluecoatschool.org.uk



www.bluecoatschoolliverpool.org.uk



twitter.com/liverpoolbcs

External examinations for GCSE and A Level

GCSE and A Level examinations will take place between Monday 14 May and Monday 25 June 2018. You can see an overview of the exam season [here](#). Your son/daughter will also be provided with a personalised examination schedule. This year, to be completely assured that examinations will not be disturbed by the construction work, students will sit their exams in the Sports Hall.

Staff news

We share our congratulations of a number of colleagues who have recently been promoted to new positions at The Blue Coat School:

- From March 2018, Mrs Hayburn takes overall lead for the school's Administration, ICT and Library support teams as Curriculum and Administration Support Team Leader
- From March 2018, Mrs Scowcroft assumes day to day lead of the Administration team as Administration Co-ordinator
- From September 2018, Mr Stokes will lead the computing teaching team as Computing Co-ordinator.

We also offer our very best wishes to Mrs Mackenzie (Assistant Headteacher) who, after 9 years of valuable service, left the school at the end of February. We are extremely grateful for Mrs Mackenzie's leadership of the Sixth Form between 2009 - 2015 and more recently in her role leading the school's behaviour and welfare systems.

Construction work

We are delighted with the progress we have made so far with our classroom and sixth form accommodation improvement project.

The two Art studios in phase one of the project are almost complete and ready to handover for school use. Alongside improved lighting, both rooms have received new sinks, new flooring and we are now awaiting the delivery of new specialist art furniture.

Meanwhile, phase 2 in the east wing is also rapidly progressing. Much of the demolition work to create a sixth form common room, study area and bistro has been completed and we are pleased with how well we have worked with conservation officers to retain and/or restore many of the wonderful building heritage features that the east wing of the school offers.

Over the coming weeks, we will be sharing some pictures of the progress made via the school [website](#), to keep you well updated about what exciting new facilities your son/daughter will benefit from soon.

Road safety

We are extremely grateful to parents who show patience, courtesy and consideration to the students, members of the public, other road users and our neighbours during drop-off and pick-up times. As a helpful reminder, parents should note that a number of things specifically help us to keep the students and public safe at these times including:

- Obeying road-markings about where it is safe to park
- Adhering to the highway code
- Avoiding parking over our neighbour's driveways
- Avoiding using the school car-park which is not designed for safe student drop-off or pick-up.

Your ongoing support for the students' safety is hugely appreciated.



Teaching and Learning

Improving our assessment: It is always our aim to continually improve all that we do in school for our students and their provision, and so it will not come as a surprise to you that our focus this year in Teaching and Learning has been 'Assessment'. Put simply, if we get assessment right then we become better at providing the opportunities that make the most impact on students' performance. Within our monitoring and evaluation cycle, we have focussed on two closely linked areas. How we use assessment information to plan new learning, and how we respond to what students can / can't do in lessons. It is clear to us that students are being better assessed in all areas of the schooling, which in the end will have a significant impact in their learning and outcomes.

Core Provision

In a recent parent survey, you told us that it would be more helpful to know a little more about what the students learn about in their core PE, PD and RS. To help you, we have provided some quick reference summaries on the school [website](#). If you would like any more information, you can contact the respective [Head of departments](#).



The Blue Coat Voice

It was a huge privilege to read the many student applications for the first ever whole school student council, The Blue Coat Voice. Interviews took place last week and we are pleased to be announcing the new reps in assemblies next week and presenting them with their badge, designed by Y12 student Kate Tinsley. The Senior Prefect Team organised the whole process with great professionalism and enthusiasm. The Blue Coat Voice will be exploring ways to support whole school issues, entering competitions and seeking ideas for raising money for charity: epitomising the school motto 'not for oneself but for all'.

Careers Fair

Delegates, staff, students and parents braved the sharp winter weather to attend an excellent Careers Fair on March 1st which was advertised in last month's newsletter. Students from a range of year groups enjoyed and benefited from opportunities to find out more about their future options and career pathways. Many thanks to all parents who supported the event by either attending or delivering on the evening.

Impeccable behaviour

Last month we signposted you to our new [behaviour policy](#) that more accurately describes how we work with the students and you to support a culture impeccable behaviour at The Blue Coat School.

As part of our ongoing improvements to our personal development, behaviour and welfare provision we are going to be carrying out a review about how well we monitor behaviour to support students. We have already gathered feedback from some parents in recent parents' evenings but will be seeking further parental views in the coming weeks. We would be very grateful for your support of this in order for us to evaluate more effectively.

Celebrating your children's achievements

A helpful reminder to parents: We are currently seeking information about your son/daughters out of school achievements. We are strongly committed to celebrating the achievements of our students, both within and outside of the classroom and we understand that many students take part in activities outside of school and we are not always aware of these. The information submitted will help the school to acknowledge a wider variety of achievements in our rewards afternoons. The current 'window' for submitting information via the school [website](#) is open until Friday 13 April 2018.



Recent opportunities

Above and beyond the top quality learning we offer at The Blue Coat School, we are also very proud to support your son's and daughter's development outside of the classroom. This comes in very many forms but recently we have been most pleased to provide opportunities for the students to enjoy international opportunities including:

- A Year 13 business and economics trip to New York
- A Year 12 & 13 History trip to Paris
- A ski trip to Folgardia, Italy
- A Year 12 Spanish exchange trip to San Sabastian

You will be able to read more about our trips over the coming weeks on our student led [Squirrel Blog](#).

We are only able to provide these opportunities because of the magnificent commitment of staff at The Blue Coat School whose contributions I know you value and hold in the highest regard.

Library leaders

We are really grateful for our team of around 15 students, across Years 7, 8 and 9, who volunteer their services in our library. The Library Leaders have a pivotal role in the day to day running of the library, with the same common aim; in promoting and developing the school library to provide an efficient service to students and staff. This is great example of the opportunities Blue Coat students take to develop skills such as people skills, organisation, system management and event planning. Their contributions have also included individual projects to make the Library more inclusive, such as the book clubs and introducing noticeboards for each key stage. The Library Leaders are valued for their handwork and dedication, they ensure that the Library is a space which can be utilised more effectively for all.

Development office

Founders' Fashion: A big Blue Coat thank you to all of our students and staff who took part in the final event of our Founders' celebration week; Founders' fashion. The spirit of giving has been evident throughout the school's history, and we are incredibly proud that our students continue to embody this. All funds raised from our House themed non-uniform day will go directly to our Library appeal, ensuring that we are one step closer to providing our students with a modern, state-of-the-art facility that they truly deserve.

Development Fund: The number of Development Fund applications continues to rise. So far this term funding has been allocated to new resources in the library including online subscriptions for the British Medical Journal, JSTOR and The Atlantic Magazine.

Our GCSE English students were provided with an opportunity to develop a greater understanding of Edward Hyde's Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, thanks to a visit from a local theatre company. As well as delivering an engaging performance students had a chance to discuss the performance and the text during a Q&A session with the actors.

In order to help our students manage their stress and anxiety associated with exams, our Sixth Form students have been attending yoga and mediation classes this month thanks to support from the Development Fund.

We would like to thank all of our Development Fund supporters for their ongoing support. The range and number of projects we have been able to deliver this year would not be possible without their kind generosity.



Parents' Association

The Parents' Association was delighted to lend a hand at the school show last term; refreshments, popcorn and raffle sales made over £860. (Thank you to Booker Ave Primary School for generously loaning us their popcorn machine). We have made a donation of £500 towards the staging for the 2019 Blue Coat school show and are ready to support the school in other ways.

Last term we were happy to donate £732.83 to the Chess club for giant outdoor chess pieces and extra chess clocks to enable more students to enjoy the game at lunchtime, also £112 to the Maths department for Gyroscopes and flywheels and £1000 towards the Development office purchase of Lego Mindstorms core and expansion kits.

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Quiz night on 9 March and congratulations to all of the winners on the night. We will be announcing how much was raised on the evening very soon.

Save the date: 20 April 2018. We are busy organising a wine tasting evening in conjunction with Oddbins and The Liverpool Cheese Company. Invitations to join us for this fun, informative, social event will be sent via Parentmail towards the middle of March.

The next PA meeting will be held on Monday 30th April at 7pm, everyone is welcome to come along, we always need volunteers to help at school and PA events. If you would like to get involved contact us at:

parentsassociation@bluecoatschool.org.uk

or follow us on [Twitter @BluecoatPA](https://twitter.com/BluecoatPA).

