



Headteacher's message

As you know, we place great importance on listening to what students and parents think about the work of the school. For example, we talk to student council every month about things that would improve the students' experience and capture parents' views about current matters through the surveys we undertake at Parents' evenings. The feedback we receive is used to identify and implement actions for improvement such as the current re-developments to the West front that students asked for, and the new plans for assessment week that took account of parents' views shared last year.

Over the next six months we are undertaking a large-scale consultation with students, parents and staff about ICT at The Blue Coat School. We hope to use this consultation to develop an exciting new vision for ICT which supports students learning and parental engagement at an even higher level than ever before. As this consultation progresses, we are really grateful for your engagement and views which will help us set course to a new and exciting future for everybody in the Blue Coat School Community.

Mr M A Pennington
Headteacher

General notices

School library: Exam preparation: After listening to requests from our Year 11 students regarding space for revision at break and lunch times, the school library now has designated areas specifically available to Year 11 so that they are better supported in preparing for their forthcoming GCSE examinations.

Study Leave: For your assistance, reminders of the dates for Year 11 and Year 13 are outlined below:
Year 11 finish at 3.30pm on Friday 18 May 2018 and Year 13 finish after celebrating their Leaver's Service and lunch on Friday 25 May 2018.

End of half term arrangements: School will finish for the May half term at 3.30pm on Friday 25 May 2018 and students in Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 students will return to school on Monday 4 June 2018.

Quick links

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[Key contacts](#)

Key upcoming events

Year 7 Parents evening:	Wednesday 9 May, 4.15pm
External examinations commence:	Monday 14 May
Dance Show:	Wednesday 23 May, 6.30pm
Year 13 Leavers' service:	Friday 25 May, 11.30am
Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12 Assessments:	Monday 4 June – Friday 15 June
Year 11 book return:	Monday 25 June
Year 11 and Year 13 Proms:	Wednesday 27 June
Sports day:	Friday 29 June
Key stage awards afternoons:	KS3: Monday 2 July, KS4: Monday 9 July
Open Evening:	Thursday 5 July, 6.00pm – 8.30pm
Summer recital:	Wednesday 11 July



English

Our English department, in conjunction with the school library, have recently asked our Key Stage 3 students to write a book review. Some students will be selected to present their reviews in their forms, and for this they will receive an achievement point and a certificate.

The aim is to create an enthusiastic buzz about reading and promote the use of the school library. Staff have also been encouraged to share what books they are currently reading with the students and we encourage parents to also get involved.

Art and DT

New facilities: Students and staff are excited about the upcoming move into the new and fully refurbished Art rooms. These rooms will support Blue Coat students in reaching their full potential in Art at all Key Stages.

Year 9 Art and DT trip: At the end of the year, Year 9 Art and DT students will have the opportunity to enjoy a trip to London where they will visit Art and Design museums, see a West End show and end the trip with an educational experience in the Harry Potter studios looking at both design and costume production. Further information will be shared with parents and students soon.

Sport

PGL Netball tour: Students from Years 7-10 enjoyed participating in a netball tour to Shropshire in March. Five teams took part in the competitive tournament as well as enjoying outdoor adventure activities. The teams played a range of schools and clubs from all over the country and performed admirably, achieving four 1st places, and one 2nd place. The success has continued in the Netball league and city championships for Years 7 -11 with results as follows:

Yr7: 2nd in City finals Yr8: League winners Yr9: City champions Yr10: League winners Yr11: League & City champions

The Year 7 Football team reached the finals of the Liverpool cup; a fantastic achievement and a great experience for the students. It has been over 20 years since Blue Coat reached this Year 7 final. After securing their place in the final, having beat SFX, they were narrowly defeated 3-1 by Cardinal Heenan. Congratulations to the whole team and to our PE staff who have supported the boys throughout the competition.

Latin

UK CICERO Latin translation competition: Five schools from the North West took part in the regional section of the CICERO Latin translation and classical cultural competitions held in Blue Coat. In the final UK event, one of our Year 13 students achieved 2nd place overall, while another of our Year 13 students achieved commended.

Latin trip to Rome: 15 Latin students enjoyed a Latin trip to Rome over the Easter holidays. They visited the Colosseum, the Forum, Trevi Fountain, St Peter's and the Vatican, Ostia Antica, and the Catacombs. Students were supported on the trip by Dr Lawell and Miss Nock

UK ARLT Latin reading competition: Several Blue Coat students sent recordings of themselves reciting in Latin; either a piece of Virgil's poetry or a story from the Cambridge Latin Course. One of our Year 12 students secured second place overall in the senior reading competition, and three KS4 students achieved commendations.

European Youth Parliament UK: Nine of our sixth form students, led by Dr Lawell, won the North West section of the European Youth Parliament. They impressed with their knowledge of European current affairs as well as their debating skills. They can now go forward to participate in the national finals in June.

Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance

The Post-18 options information evening gave an opportunity for parents and students to learn more about how the school provides CIAG and what students need to be doing to ensure they can make the most competitive application they can.

KS5 Enrichment lessons are enabling Year 12 students to make excellent progress in their planning and preparation for their next steps after Blue Coat. They are working on their presentations for the EPQ, which will serve to strengthen their skills and application as well as honing their personal statements in CIAG for UCAS applications, which can be amended for other types of applications e.g. apprenticeships. We look forward to working with them to support their aspirations.

Progress and Achievement

We had a really encouraging response from parents who submitted details of their son/daughter's out of school achievements through our school website. The information is enabling us to build on sharing students' successes within the school community. We recently used this information at our end of term Key Stage achievement assemblies which took place just before Easter. A large number of students were recognised for their involvement in sporting, musical and artistic activities and for charity fundraising efforts.

It is impressive to hear about how multi-skilled our students are, combining their school work with many extra-curricular activities. Thank you.

Teaching and Learning

This year we have taken a close look at how we use assessment to support students' learning. As a school we have pushed ourselves to use a wider range of assessment opportunities throughout the year in order to create a broader and more reliable picture of your child's attainment and progress over time.

In June, we look forward to our new [assessment fortnight](#). Departments are selecting and planning assessment opportunities that are most appropriate to the learning that is taking place in specific subject areas and will add valuable information to what we already know about your child's attainment and progress. Many departments are taking the opportunity to create assessments that don't necessarily involve a written test, but instead might be an important written or practical exercise that focusses on other important knowledge, understanding and skills in each subject. We are currently talking to the students about what they can do to prepare for the upcoming assessments and we hope that the 'assessment fortnight' is no-longer the intense time for the students that recent feedback has indicated.

Students' welfare

As our Year 11 and Year 13 students approach the exam season the school staff are operating an extra high vigilance in order to support those who are finding this period particularly challenging. This can lead to increased levels of stress and anxiety for some that can seem overwhelming at times.

Our Learning Support department has recently provided our form tutors with a tool kit of resources that they can use to guide and support our students to manage the stress and pressure they may be experiencing as well as offering one to one bespoke support for individuals. We appreciate that individual students respond differently to the pressure of high aspirations to achieve and we continue to strive to ensure our pastoral provision supports them well.

Development office

This month we have welcomed back a number of international Old Blues; Dr David Marsh from the Class of 2005. David is based at the University of Gottingen in Germany and returned to deliver a fascinating talk entitled *Cosmology: from the Hot Bang to Cold Dark Matter*, to members of our Physics Society. He was recently awarded the Sofja Kovalevskaja Award, a research grant of up to €1.65 million which will allow him to develop his own research group which will seek to unravel one of the greatest puzzles of physics, dark matter.

Organ restoration

In April, 40 members of the Liverpool Organists' Association visited Blue Coat to enjoy the sounds of our two fine organs, which were played by LOA member and former parent Andrew Sharples. The association were keen to hear our 1874 Father Willis organ in Shirley Hall, before its major restoration off-site. Joining the group were two Old Blues and renowned organists: Lee Ward, Director of Music (Liverpool Cathedral) and Dr Chris McElroy, Director of Music (Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral). We are delighted that news of our organ restoration and plans for an organ scholarship were featured in an April edition of *The Times*.

Music

A Level Music recital: Once again, Blue Coat students showcased their impressive array of musical talents at the recital evening on Wednesday 18 April. The superb concert was held on a beautiful day in our equally beautiful Chapel. From 17th century Baroque concertos to renditions of songs from contemporary musicals, the audience was treated to a whirlwind of musical genres and instruments. It isn't easy to perform as a soloist and we congratulate all the performers for having the confidence to do so. Thank you to Mr Emery and to our guest pianist, Caroline Smith, for giving up her time to accompany some of the musicians.

Summer Recital: We look forward to welcoming you to the summer recital on Wednesday 11 July. Further detail will be detail to be shared later in the term.

Duke of Edinburgh

For assistance, we have outlined below the Duke of Edinburgh training and expedition dates for the rest of this academic year.

- Bronze qualifying expedition (2): Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 May
- Silver qualifying expedition: Friday 6 – Sunday 8 July
- Gold practice expedition: Friday 11 – Sunday 13 May
- Gold qualifying expedition: Thursday 28 June – Sunday 1 July

All of the students involved in our Duke of Edinburgh programmes have worked hard to achieve their goals in their respective awards and have thoroughly enjoyed their experiences along the way, supported by our dedicated staff Miss J Baker, Miss J Long, Mr A Owens, Mrs S Heath and associates Mr Lennon and Mrs Preston.



Chemistry

Chemistry competitions: Our Chemistry students have recently been successful in three competitions; the Chemistry Olympiad, the Young Analyst competition and the School Chemistry challenge. In the Olympiad our Year 13 participants achieved four Bronze awards, eight Silver awards, and two gold awards. In the Young Analyst competition three Year 12 students achieved an admirable 2nd place in the regional round. The School Chemistry challenge involved 8 teams of Year 12 students using a range of problem solving and practical skills to develop a solution to the questions asked, congratulations to all of the teams for showing excellent creative thinking

The Uncover Copper Competition 2018. This is a poster competition open to UK students aged 11–16. Details of the competition can be found on this [website](#) and students can speak to their Chemistry teacher if they would like to enter.

Mathematics house relays

Each of Years 7-11 were involved in the relays in March 2018. Teams worked together to complete as many maths problems as possible. Sixth form students acted as markers and the event was enjoyed by students and staff alike. We are pleased to share the results below:

	1 st place	2 nd place	3 rd place	4 th place	5 th place	6 th place
Year 7	Shirley	Tod	Graham	Blundell & Styth		Bingham
Year 8	Shirley	Bingham	Blundell, Graham & Styth			
Year 9	Shirley	Bingham	Styth	Graham	Blundell	
Year 10	Bingham	Blundell	Graham	Shirley		
Year 11	Bingham	Blundell	Graham	Shirley		

United Kingdom Mathematics Challenge

UKMT Team Challenge: Congratulations to our Junior Maths team who won the regional final of the UKMT Team Challenge held in March. It was a competitive event and the team beat off strong competition to secure the win. They will now go to London to represent The Blue Coat School in the national final in June.

Intermediate Maths Challenge, February 2018: The Challenge involved Years 9, 10 and 11. Students gave an excellent performance, achieving 39 Gold, 49 Silver and 57 Bronze certificates, with 40 students qualifying for further rounds. Congratulations to all of the students who performed so impressively and particularly to our students who have qualified for the Intermediate Maths Olympiad and the European Kangaroo and to one student who has been invited to attend the 50th National Mathematics summer school in August.

Other mathematics competitions

IMOK: The follow-on rounds to the IMC, the Intermediate Maths Olympiad and the European Kangaroo, were held on 15 March. Again, the achievements of our students was excellent, with Merit awards in the Olympiad and the European Kangaroo.

MEM Challenges: Over February half-term, several students produced solutions to the Mathematical Education on Merseyside Challenges. Many prizes were awarded to students across Years 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Pangea Maths competition: During the week of 26 February Years 7-10 took part in an online maths competition. The students had 20 problems to solve within 35 minutes. The highest scorers are invited to attend a final round in London. Blue Coat students performed admirably in this competition resulting in 70 students being invited to London on Saturday 12 May. We wish them the very best of luck.

Computing

Bebras follow-on: Following on from the successes in the first round November, Blue Coat once again performed exceptionally well. Students achieved certificates in each of the three age categories entered: Junior (Yr7): 8 Distinctions and 17 Merits, Intermediate (Yrs 8/9): 22 Distinctions and 30 Merits and Senior (Yr10): 2 Distinctions and 18 Merits. In addition, 2 Year 7 students and 1 Year 9 student have made it through to the final round.

Cyber First (January/February): 10 teams of Year 8 girls competed in the CyberFirst Girls competition. The teams worked together to answer a variety of problems in the field of cyber security. Well done to all of the girls involved.

Raspberry Pi: 5 teams of Year 9 / 10 students competed in this competition. The theme was 'sustainability' and the teams were challenged to use a Raspberry Pi to create something that would 'save the planet'. They worked during the course of the competition creating an automatic plant watering system, a recycling unit to determine whether an item could be recycled as well as a solar panel. Congratulations to all students for their commitment and creativity.

Estates Development

Our construction work is well underway and after many weeks of waiting we are now readying ourselves to handover phase 1, the newly refurbished art studios for student use after half-term. Both staff and students have waited patiently for this phase of the project to come to an end and we have been grateful for their co-operation. We think they will be delighted with the end result.

Work in the east wing is starting to take shape and we can now clearly see progress with the creation of a new sixth form common room and bistro. We have worked hard to achieve the right balance in retaining many of the building's wonderful heritage features whilst providing a modern facility for students.

We are able to share more detail of the construction work on the [school website](#), which map the progress being made.

Our students' views are very important to us and they are always willing to give us a mature view about estates development and wherever possible we will incorporate them into our plans. A recent example was student council's observation about the use of outdoor social spaces. In response we made a decision to develop the grassed area to the west wing so that students can benefit from a paved outdoor seating zone in a quiet, relaxed area of school. Now all we need is the fine weather and a little bit of sunshine.

Parents' Association

The PA Quiz night in March was a huge success, raising over £1000. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended, all our helpers, and of course, our Quiz Master Mr Keith Caulkin MBE, for a wonderful fun filled evening. Congratulations to the night's winning team, Burnham FC.

This month we have donated £508.56 to the Biology department towards the purchase of an Electrophoresis set, to use for testing DNA samples and to illustrate genetic fingerprinting techniques. We are also happy to announce a donation of £333.21 for props and costumes for use at the PE department's dance show taking place on 23 May. These items will also be used for future dance events and school shows.

With our summer raffle fast approaching, the Parents' Association would gratefully welcome any donations of raffle prizes or pledges of services from our school community. If you have any ideas or donations, please contact us at parentsassociation@bluecoatschool.org.uk. Raffle tickets will be sent out in June.

Did you know that money raised by the Parents' Association can be doubled by £ for £ fund matching? This month we are reaching out to parents who work for companies that have Charity Fund Matching schemes. (Barclays, Yorkshire Bank, Cable & Wireless to name a few). If you think you can help, please get in touch.

Our next meeting is on Monday 4 June at 7pm, everyone is welcome to come along.

