



Headteacher's message

As A level and GCSE exams are coming to an end for Year 11 and 13, so too is our summer assessment for students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12. We are really pleased that as a result of our careful planning and great support from our professional staff, our peak assessment period has remained totally uninterrupted by the significant estates development that are currently in progress.

For the majority of our Year 11 and 13 students, this year has seen them working towards new A-level and GCSE qualifications with new assessment challenges and even new grading systems. Supported by our team of expert teachers, they have tackled these admirably and we look forward with optimism to their outcomes in August.

As other year groups continue the summer term, we are preparing to report their end of year attainment and progress to you soon. In the mean time we appreciate your support in ensuring students attend well throughout the rest of the term so that they benefit from the further learning and development opportunities that are planned in June and July.

Many thanks in anticipation of your support

Mr M A Pennington
Headteacher

General notices

Contacting you: We receive and handle a large volume of communications with parents as we work together to support and develop your children. Very occasionally, we sometimes receive queries or concerns from parents who have not provided enough information for us to contact them so that we can work together successfully. As a minimum, it is most helpful if correspondence between parents and school would include your child's name, your name and further contact details such as an address, phone number or email address. Thank you for your continued support.

School uniform standards: We would like to remind all parents that our provider of school branded uniform is Trutex schoolwear, London Road, Liverpool. For your convenience, Trutex hold stock of all items of school uniform. If you require clarification on any aspect of uniform please refer to the Information detailed [here](#). Thank you for your support in helping our students maintain high standards at all times.

Quick links

[Term dates](#)

[Online calendar](#)

[Requests for absence](#)

[Expectations](#)

[Examinations](#)

[Key contacts](#)

Key upcoming events

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



Sports day

Sports Day will take place on Friday 29 June at Wavertree Athletics centre, from 12.30pm – 3.30pm.

Lunch arrangements will be:

Years 7-10: 11.10am – 12.00pm

Year 12: 11.10am – 12.30pm

After lunch, Year 7-10 will be registered, then taken to the venue by school staff. Year 12 will remain in school for CIAG. Students can be dismissed from either the sports venue or they can return to school with staff.

Model United Nations General Assembly

MUNGA is taking place on the afternoon of 13 July. Years 7-10 (working in their form groups) have been given a country to research and will be assisted by a Year 12 'ambassador'. On the afternoon of 13 July the general assembly will be held in the school chapel. This opportunity will be a fun way of engaging the students in a worthwhile event that will cause them to reflect on things that are bigger than their own immediate or local concerns and it will provide an opportunity for our Year 12 students to develop their leadership skills.

Assessment Fortnight

Following our new assessment fortnight we are very pleased about the positive feedback we have received in consultations with our students and parents. The students spoke of how much less stressful it has been for them this year, as the assessment opportunities have been a little more varied and more spread out than before. This has enabled them to be better prepared and challenged in a variety of ways. Many have indicated it was much better for them to be in their normal routine and indeed classrooms, as they felt that a familiar environment helped them focus more on the assessment than other external factors.

We also value the view of some students and parents who would have liked to be in the more stressful formal examination style conditions. Students and parents can be reassured that there will be opportunities to practice this during Year 11 and Year 11 mock examinations in the autumn term. For younger students, we remain committed to our aim that assessment should be a careful balance between appropriate academic challenge and students' personal welfare, and it would seem that this year we have certainly made great strides into getting it right for them.

Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance



As part of the provision for CIAG (Careers Information, Advice and Guidance) Year 10 students attended a skills fair at the Liverpool Exhibition Centre on 18 June. This was a great opportunity to meet employers from key growth areas, to learn about the world of work and talk to professionals and apprentices in a wide variety of occupations.

Applying for an apprenticeship scheme is becoming an increasingly attractive option for students at post-16 and post-18, especially as companies offer highly valued sponsored degrees. It is a competitive field but worth the time and effort involved if successful. More and more, many students in KS5 are now exploring applications to both universities and for apprenticeship with companies such as Airbus and Grant Thornton to maximise future career opportunities.

Enrichment

This term we have launched the exciting 2 week expedition to Swaziland (eSwatini) through World Challenge. Students will engage in the community where they will immerse themselves in the unique opportunity to support the growing number of orphaned and vulnerable children in Swaziland through a community project. The students will then trek through the Ngwempisi Gorge will take part in the Malotoja Canopy tour. To relax and rest students will then go on safari through the Hlane Royal National Park. So far over 60 students have signed up to take part in the once in a lifetime opportunity in the summer of 2020. The students will begin their journey with a launch expedition before the end of term where they will discuss their fundraising ideas and plans.

Promoting the healthy use of social media

Over the last few months we have been working with Merseyside Youth Association (MYA) to support our students' healthy use of social media. We are very conscious that misuse or unhealthy use of these platforms can cause the individual harm to themselves or harm to others. Our colleagues have led small group workshops with our students and carried out both student and parent surveys to see what the specific usage is within the Blue Coat community.

On Tuesday 19 June we held a very helpful parent workshop here at school that not only raised parental awareness of some key issues but provided helpful advice and guidance of how to engage with and support your own child's healthy approach. Working in partnership with MYA has been tremendously worthwhile and we are grateful for their time and expertise to help us offer appropriate support care and guidance to our students with this very pertinent issue.

Progress and Achievement

To celebrate the end of GCSE and A-Level exams, Year 11 and Year 13 students will enjoy an evening of celebrations at their respective proms on Wednesday 27 June 2018.

Year 11 prom is taking place at the Palm House, Sefton Park and the Year 13 event is at the Isla Gladstone, Stanley Park. Full details have been shared with all of the students.

Key stage awards afternoons

Years 7 and 8 awards afternoon takes place on Monday 2 July and for Years 9 and 10 on Monday 9 July 2018.

The respective celebrations will take place at 2.00pm in the School chapel and we welcome your arrival from 1.30pm. The event should conclude by 3.15pm and refreshments will be available in the Dining hall for all students and their parents.

Estates development

We are pleased to let parents know that the construction project has remained on-track for completion and hand-over before the start of the new academic year. The project has been successfully managed to ensure that there is little impact on the day to day organisation of the school and the highest levels of safety maintained. For the majority of times, the presence of contractors has gone unnoticed by both staff and students. We are delighted with progress and reassured that all areas of work have been completed to the high standard that our school community deserves.

We look forward to our students and staff being able to make use of the improved spaces in September. We are able to share more detail of the construction work on the [school website](#), which maps the progress being made.

International trips and opportunities

Our language exchange programme continues to flourish at Blue Coat. In April this year, our Year 12 Spanish students spent a week in San Sebastián, perfecting their language skills. Visits included the Guggenheim in Bilbao and the peace museum in Guernica. In June, we welcomed 20 students from our partner school in Bordeaux. On our return visit Blue Coat students are currently enjoying a bike tour of the city and a trip to the Dune du Pyla, the highest sand dune in Europe!

Trading day and Non-uniform day

Trading day and non-uniform day will take place on Friday 20 July. Year 10 students will be hosting the event with various activities, stalls and cuisines on offer across the day. Year 7, 8, 9 & 12 students will be able to take part in various activities or purchase a variety of items at set times of the day. Proceeds from the event will go to the school library appeal.

Students are also welcome to wear non-uniform on this date and will be asked to donate £1.00 for this privilege. Money raised from the non-uniform aspect will be donated to charities chosen by our KS4 students. Details of all monies raised will be shared in the end of term newsletter in July.

Summer recital

This year's summer recital will take place on Wednesday 11 July at 7.00pm in the Chapel and Shirley Hall. The programme will include performances by many of the school's musical ensembles including orchestra, concert band, choir and jazz band along with a selection of soloists.

Tickets will be available to purchase through parentmail from Wednesday 27 June. We look forward to welcoming you to the evening.

Development team

As part of our Heritage Lottery Funded project Blue Coat: For All, the Liverpool History Society made its first tour of the School and members informally awarded us the accolade of being one of their best visits ever. This was in no small way due to the superb organ playing skills of one of our Year 11 organist's, who took a break from his GCSE revision, to show the calibre of the Willis organ in Shirley Hall and the Walker organ in the School Chapel. Also at the organ keyboards was renowned Liverpool organist Andrew Sharples, who kindly made a special effort to join the event and also expertly play the two instruments.

We may be rapidly approaching the end of term but this month we have received a flurry of applications for Development Fund funding. Successful applications include new netball dresses, competition fees for the European Youth Parliament national final, expedition equipment for our Duke of Edinburgh programme and new water fountains. As part of the Facilities and Services project each child will be provided with a reusable house coloured water bottle. We would like to thank all of our Development Fund supporters for their ongoing support!



Staff news

The best schools are places of learning and development for children and adults. It is great when students can see that our staff value their own development and achieve new things.

In recent months we have been pleased to see the appointment of Mr Watkins to Assistant Headteacher, Mr Farrell to Head of SMSC, Miss Nock to Head of Personal Development and Mr Cain to the position of Art Co-ordinator. Each of these appointments are a demonstration of the positive learning and development attitude that our colleagues role model to the children and adults around them.

We are also pleased to announce the recent achievements of two of our support team leaders. Mrs Hayburn (Curriculum and Admin) has recently achieved a Diploma in school business management and Mr Melia (Finance) has completed his professional certificate in Educational finance (CIPFA). Both achievements add great strength to our ever developing support teams and the work they do to contribute to an excellent Blue Coat experience for students.

We are also pleased to recognise the recent success of one of our PE teachers, Miss Jenny Fitchie, who has recently won North West Netball Teacher of the year 2018. She will attend the national finals in London in September to represent the North West and we wish her the very best of luck.

Parents' Association

In May the PA members were, once again, on hand to serve refreshments at the amazing 'Dancing through the Decades' show. Thank you to those people who donated towards their drinks on the night, raising £96 towards PA funds. Congratulations to all involved in the show, it was a very enjoyable evening and we look forward to next year.

We are happy to announce a donation of £250 to the Geography department to enable them to purchase a Drone to aid with physical geography and mapping techniques (and to play a little), have fun!

Our Summer Raffle tickets will be coming home with students the week of 15th June. We hope you will be impressed by the fantastic list of prizes we have to offer and would like to thank all our generous donors; a full list of whom will be included with the tickets. If you would like extra chances to win you can collect additional tickets at the school office.

Just a reminder that every penny raised is donated back to the school, so don't forget to return completed raffle ticket stubs and money as soon as possible. Good Luck.

