



Headteacher's message

We come to the end of another very busy year where the students have been involved a huge and varied amount of different opportunities. I take this moment to share how proud we are of your children whose participation, attitude and conduct across the year has been fantastic. It is not only impressive that they do so much, but equally impressive that they do it so positively.

As the term closes, it is also a good time to share my thanks to all of the teachers, support staff and leaders at the school whose sustained and significant efforts sit quietly behind the great learning and extra-curricular opportunities we offer to your children. Quite rightly we often remind ourselves how fortunate we are to work with your gifted children, but occasionally it is equally right to appreciate our very talented colleagues too.

Finally, I take the opportunity to thank you as parents. Your daily support of your children and the work of the school is another terrific asset that Blue Coat benefits from. We are particularly grateful for the times that many of you share your appreciation of the individual and collective efforts of our staff to provide a great environment of learning and development we all value.

Mr M A Pennington
Headteacher



General notices

Term Dates 2018-19: The school term dates were shared earlier in the year and can be found [here](#). The autumn term begins again at 8.45am on Wednesday 5 September 2018 for all students.

School calendar 2018-19: The school calendar will be shared with parents and students through the school [website](#). The calendar will be available during the first two weeks of the summer holidays.

School Uniform: A helpful reminder for parents that our main school uniform provider is Trutex schoolwear, London Road, Liverpool and Trutex at Liverpool schoolwear, St Mary's Road, Aigburth. A quick guide to the school uniform is available [here](#).

Quick links

Term dates
Online calendar
Requests for absence
Expectations
Examinations
Key contacts

Key upcoming events for autumn term 2018

Monday 10 September: Parents association meeting
Thursday 20 September: School photographs
Friday 21 September: New Year 7 welcome evening hosted by the Parents association
Monday 8 October: Year 7 Parents' evening with form tutors
Tuesday 9 October: Year 12 Parents' evening with form tutors
Friday 12 October: Parents' association wine tasting evening
Monday 15 October: UCAS early applicants' external deadline



Model United Nations General Assembly

After their success in the regional heats, nine of our Year 12 students recently competed in the national final of the European Youth Parliament event. Students were engaged in intensive committee work before debating a set of complex issues, ranging from the rise of bitcoin to the spread of disinformation to influence elections and everything in between. The students were really put through their paces over the course of the four-day residential and performed admirably with each of them addressing points to the General Assembly and making speeches.

Although our delegation was not one of two schools selected to represent the UK at an international level, one of our current Year 12 students has been asked by the judges to represent the UK at the European Youth Parliament when it meets in Belgium in September; a wonderful achievement for him. The students were all a credit to the school and it is hoped that this will be the start of a long and successful partnership between the Liverpool Blue Coat and the European Youth Parliament.

Student Leadership

The Student Councils have met regularly throughout the year and approached any issues raised in a creative and measured way. We are exploring more effective ways of sharing their work, starting with an assembly in September to reflect on all they have achieved this year. Well done to all members for their commitment and a special thanks to Year 13 who chaired and led the meetings. The Blue Coat Voice has just started to develop as a whole school council and we are looking forward to establishing it and expanding its work throughout 2018-2019. We have appointed the Senior Prefect Team for 2018-2019 and are excited about working with a talented group of students who give up a lot of their time to support the school. These are a few examples of how our students can and do engage with leadership opportunities around the school that make such a difference to our Blue Coat community.

Teaching and Learning

With this academic year drawing to an end and with all year groups receiving their final data collection for the year, this is an excellent opportunity for all parents to sit down with their child and find out what they feel they have done well this year, and what are the areas that they want to try to improve upon in the future. I am sure that all of our Blue Coat students will be able to identify these areas, although in many cases they might be a little hard on themselves as they do set high standards, so bear that in mind when the conversations take place and help to guide them and remind them of their many successes.

Estates development

Our staff and students look forward to starting the academic year with some wonderful new facilities following our extensive construction project this year. Our Sixth Form students have a fantastic new common room and bistro to look forward to and we also have a number of new and remodelled classrooms to create better resourced learning environments in some subject areas.

Data Collection

The school puts a tremendous amount of effort into communicating effectively with parents and it is important we always have the most up to date contact details for you. Data collection exercises take place annually and key dates for specific year groups are outlined below:

Year 13: October
Years 7-12: March

Data collection sheets will be sent via post and parents should sign and return making any amendments if necessary. Whilst it is not possible for a parent to opt out of the school census collection, parents have the right to decline to provide ethnicity, language and service child indicator information.

Progress and Achievement

Many thanks to parents who were able to support our key stage awards afternoons. Both events were a great success, with the achievements of over 400 students being recognised.

One of the most pleasing aspects was seeing the variety of school activities that our students are involved in and we wouldn't have been able to recognise these without parents taking the time to submit the information. Thank you.



New systems and approaches to support students

This last year our new [behaviour](#) and [attendance](#) frameworks have provided the school with even better monitoring processes that have helped raised standards to an even higher level. Blue Coat continues to have the best attendance in the city but we always want to improve even further. Next year we will be introducing even more efficient ways for parents to inform us of unavoidable absence from school and to make requests for specific absence. We are confident that a more streamlined process will benefit both parents and school. Parents will be given guidance and information about this process over the coming weeks.

Chemistry

26 Year 12 students took part in the recent Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. Well done to the 19 who won awards (9 copper awards, 5 silver awards and 4 gold awards). Particular congratulations go to one of our Year 13 students who achieved the first Rontgenium award for the school. He will now be invited to participate in a training session in Cambridge for possible selection for the UK Olympiad team.

English

The English department is looking forward to taking Years 10 & 11 (2018-19) to the Lowry in Salford on 2 October to see the National Theatre's acclaimed production of Macbeth.

The visit, led by Mrs O'Rourke, marks an important opportunity for students to see a live production of one of their GCSE set texts. Full details can be found in the Parent mail sent to current Year 9 & 10 parents.

Music

Summer Recital: The talents of our musicians, supported so well by Mr Emery and Miss Horton, was clear to see in another successful music recital held on the 11 July. The support from the whole Blue Coat community was appreciated and thanks are extended to everyone who was able to attend and enjoy the evening.

Sport

Sports day: The sportsmanship of the students was great to see and the support they received from our PE department and other staff was very much welcomed by the students.

Rugby: Well done to our Year 7 Boys team who entered the National 9'S Rugby Trophy festival through the school's link with Widnes Vikings Rugby League. The boys performed superbly in the Festival Trophy winning 3 out of their 6 games.

Cricket: Our cricket teams have also done themselves proud; Year 7 were Liverpool cup runners-up losing a hard-fought game to St. Margaret's in July and Year 10 won the Liverpool cup final again against St Margaret's in another exciting game - this is their 3rd year in a row as Liverpool Champions.

Development team

Over the past 11 months we have been able to support a diverse collection of projects, from our first Model United Nations event to Sixth Form yoga classes, thanks to our network of Development Fund supporters. We look forward to sharing more details about the impact [Development Fund](#) projects have had on our students this year when we publish our 2018 Giving Report in September.

Each year we highlight a variety of professional and personal milestones achieved in our annual Old Blues magazine. Published in September the spotlight will fall on our exciting new Old Blues portrait gallery and a range of Old Blues living and working overseas – both great sources of inspiration for our current students who look up to the achievements of our Old Blues.

Departing Staff

At the end of this academic year we say goodbye to a number of colleagues who, during their time with us, have each made significant contributions to The Blue Coat School community.

As Mrs Boulton, Mrs Wilkinson and Mr Worrall look forward to a well-earned retirement, Mr Clayton and Mr Kilhams leave to take up posts at new schools. Mr Tyson, Mrs Liu, Miss Kennedy-Goor and Miss Pauline also say farewell as they embark upon new and exciting futures.

We wish all of them the very best and thank them for all they have given to The Blue Coat School.



Parents' Association

Friday 13 July was a lucky day for many of our Blue Coat students. Mr Pennington drew the winning tickets for this year's summer Raffle. There were 24 prizes plus the amazing £300 Liverpool One 'Student Only' voucher. All winners were notified on the day and asked to collect their prizes from the school office before the end of term. The Parents' Association would like to thank all of our wonderful sponsors, who so generously donated prizes this year and announce that over £1700 was raised for the school.

This has been a great year for the Parents' Association, we have reached out to the wider school community via Parent mail and in The Headteacher's Newsletter to keep everyone informed of our fundraising activities and of how we are spending the money raised. We have asked for suggestions and donations, of which we have received many, thank you, and most exciting of all we have had lots of new and energetic parents join our committee.

The future of the PA depends on new people coming in as older members and their children leave the school, so if you are interested in helping us please come along to one of our committee meetings or contact us at parentsassociation@bluecoatschool.org.uk

