



### Headteacher's message

The start of term is always exciting and this year has been even more so as our students returned in September to the largest addition of new facilities the school has seen since 2004. With about £1 million pounds invested in a brand new suite of 8 classrooms, sixth form facilities, corridor remodelling and landscaping we are now fully equipped to provide our growing student population with the excellent resources they need and deserve.

Students have also noticed that we have relocated a number of subject classrooms as part of our work to make the building even more accessible and give each subject the space they need as we continue to grow in the next 3 years. Over this term, we are carefully monitoring how well our new facilities and new corridor arrangements are working so that your children get the very best and safest educational experience.

Mr M A Pennington  
Headteacher

### General notices

Welcome to our new colleagues who have joined The Blue Coat School in September. We welcome Mr Murphy, Mrs Bruce, Miss Pinchin, Miss Roberts, Mr Lewis, Mr Carney, Mr Gale, Mrs Rawlins, Ms Hamilton, Mr Pickering, and Mrs Ingram to our staff team and look forward to seeing the impact of these latest strong appointments to Blue Coat.

**The school calendar:** is available through the school website and a link is provided in the 'quick link's section of the newsletter every month. The calendar will be updated with any new events at the end of each half term.

**School Photographs:** Students in Year 7, 10 and 12 have had their photograph taken on Thursday 20 September 2018. The photographs will be used for our school information management system.

### Absence Procedure update

In July, it was communicated to parents that any student absence and/or medical appointment requests should be made via the [online absence request form](#). I am pleased to report that this is working extremely well at present and the large majority of requests are being made in this way. It is important that we continue to follow this procedure as this enables attendance and punctuality to be managed better and more quickly for everyone. This allows Key Stage teams to be more proactive in supporting students when appropriate. Thank you for your support.

### Morning drop-off and Afternoon pick-up

We are delighted to report the excellent behaviour and conduct of our students during the very busy periods on morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. It is a real pleasure to see the students manage themselves so well in and around the school building.

Thank you also to parents whose courtesy for others and our neighbours is ever present. This really helps us keep your children as safe as possible at all times particularly on the public pavements and highways. Many thanks for your support.

### Quick links

[Term dates](#)

[Online calendar](#)

[Requests for absence](#)

[Expectations](#)

[Examinations](#)

### Key events this term

<b>Thursday 27 September 2018:</b>	Early UCAS applicants' internal deadline
<b>Friday 28 September 2018:</b>	Staff development day
<b>Monday 1 October 2018:</b>	Parents association Annual General Meeting
<b>Monday 8 October 2018:</b>	Y7 Form Tutor information evening for parents
<b>Tuesday 9 October 2018:</b>	Y12 Form Tutor information evening for parents
<b>Friday 12 October 2018:</b>	Parents association Wine tasting evening
<b>Monday 15 October 2018:</b>	UCAS early applicants' external deadline

### Teaching & Learning

One of the key messages that we want to give our students this year is the challenge to all of them each day “are you ready to learn?” By this we mean a mixture of things. It could be something as simple as, do they have all the right equipment with them that enables them to take part in the lesson effectively and get the most out of it. Have they brought their PE kit – all of it? Have they remembered the model that they were asked to design last night? Have they got a ruler so that they can underline their work, or draw straight lines on graphs or tables? But also, did they organise themselves to get their homework done at a sensible time and then get the right amount of sleep? All of these things make each student ‘ready to learn’, and it is together that if we get this right their learning will flourish.

### Art

Our Art department welcome students to attend the extra-curricular sessions within Art, which take place at the following times:

- Monday to Thursday: Lunchtimes
- Tuesday: After school

Entry is offered to all students who want to develop their art work or simply have an experiment with some Art materials.

### Estates development

Our team of estates staff have worked tirelessly over the summer to make sure that all areas of the school are ready for students at the start of the term. This was particularly challenging this year as we approached the end of our 44 week long refurbishment project with the moving of resources and positioning of new furniture etc. However, we are delighted with the results and know that students are very impressed with their new Business Studies and Geography classrooms.

Sixth formers have also settled in well to their new east wing facilities which were made available to them at the start of term. Their new facilities now provide spaces to study, eat and socialise and we are looking forward to working with students over the coming weeks to identify the best ways of using these new resources. We are very pleased to be able to share photographs of the recent developments [here](#)

We are now in early stages of the next phase of our estates strategy with conversations with planning and conservation officers about refurbishment of RS classrooms and Shirley Hall. We look forward to sharing details with you over the coming months.

*“The new sixth form area has many different areas, meaning there is always an opportunity to study and socialise”*  
(Sixth form student)

*“The new facilities are a great new attribute to our day to day life in school. We are all very grateful for the new space and can’t wait to make the most of it”*  
(Sixth form student)

### Assemblies

The beginning of a new academic year is always busy, with new challenges and opportunities from the outset. For many Year groups it is the start of a new journey, whether that be Year 7s as they adapt to secondary school life, Year 9s as they start their GCSE studies, Year 12s beginning A Levels or Year 13s making decisions about their next steps after Blue Coat. In the first few weeks of term assemblies have focused upon encouraging student involvement and embracing the opportunities available to learn new skills.

Over the next few weeks and months there will be a variety of ways students can become more actively involved in school life and experience a wide range of activities. More information will follow via newsletters and the weekly KS bulletins.

### Rewards and recognition framework

This term we will be launching our Rewards & Recognition framework to students, staff and parents. This framework of recognition covers the four main areas of: good behaviour and conduct, attendance and punctuality, academic achievement and achievements beyond the classroom. Across all these areas achievement points will be allocated to individual students who will be working towards gaining bronze, silver and gold badges. Points gained by individual students will contribute to an overall house total within and across the year groups

In the coming weeks we will be informing parents of ways you can submit details of out of school achievements your child has gained which will contribute to their points total and will also help us build a better picture of their overall success.

### A Level outcomes

Our Year 13 Class of 2018 cohort proudly achieved an outstanding set of results, in the first year of the new more challenging A Levels. You can read more about overall outcomes and students’ destinations [here](#).

### GCSE outcomes

Year 11 came through the new style GCSE’s with an excellent set of results. Throughout the last 3 years, our students and teachers have remained quietly focussed on rising to the challenge of these new types of GCSE’s and the new grading system. You can see more about the students’ fantastic achievements [here](#).

### School show

This year we have taken a slightly different approach to the **School Show**. In July we appointed a really strong student creative team who will take significant leadership responsibilities, under staff supervision, for all aspects of the show. The team's first job was to choose a show that would be suitable for this year's production. After much thought and discussion we are pleased to announce that this year's show will be "**The Addams Family Musical**", a musical comedy based upon characters created by Charles Addams for his cartoons in the *New Yorker* between 1938 and 1988. Auditions are currently taking place every lunchtime and rehearsals start in the first week of October. As always, the school show will be a huge production and we would be very interested to hear from any parents who would be interested in helping out in any way with any aspect of the show. This could be anything from helping to make costumes, technical knowledge or helping out with the production of staging and props. If you are able to offer help in any way, no matter how small, then please email Mr Emery on [s.emery@bluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:s.emery@bluecoatschool.org.uk). Finally a big thank you to all parents who contributed to the recent consultation on the school show. This provided us with very valuable feedback.

### Music

Music has got off to an exciting start. Over 50 Year 7 students have joined our instrumental programme and we look forward to seeing them develop their skills over the coming year and working towards joining one of our ensembles. Our **Brass Band**, **Intermediate String Group** and **Senior Choir** have started rehearsals with excellent attendance by all. Other ensembles will start next week and students can view the new music noticeboard outside of N17 to keep up to date with Ensemble lists and rehearsal times. A new, **Baroque String Group** for advanced string players (Grade 5+) has started on Friday lunchtimes through the charity Early Music as Education. We also look forward to the UK debut of our auditioned **Chamber Choir** at the Christmas Carol service this year. Our A Level students are looking forward to working with a string quartet made up from players in the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra to support them in their composition work. A number of students have also successfully auditioned for the **Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Choirs and Orchestra**.

### Development team

We are pleased to share our latest Giving Report with the School community. In 2017/18 we enjoyed the highest level of support that our community has ever been able to offer and we are extremely grateful. You can view the Giving Report [here](#).

Thank you so much for your ongoing support that helps provide such an enriched experience for the students.

### Opening of the East Wing

Thanks to generous support from the Liverpool Blue Coat School Foundation and the Department for Education, the East Wing of the School has been completely refurbished to provide our Sixth Form students with brand new facilities that will support their development into young scholars ready for university and life beyond Blue Coat. The new facilities include the Sir Alan and Ian Tod Common Room, the Robert Styth Study Library and the Bryan Blundell Bistro.

As part of the refurbishment we also look forward to unveiling our Old Blues' Corridor, formerly known as the Shirley Hall Corridor. Over the past few months we have welcomed back a select group of Old Blues to take part in an exciting photography project to create striking portraits that will line the walls of this corridor. The goal of these portraits is to present the stories of our Old Blues in a relevant, modern and aspirational way that challenges convention and that our students can connect with. We are grateful to the Liverpool Blue Coat Old Blues' Association for their generous support of this project.

We look forward to welcoming the Tod family to officially open the East Wing on Thursday 27 September.

### Chess club

This term sees our brand new Chess Team compete in their first competitive game. 13 students from years 8, 9 and 10 have been working hard over the past few months to develop their chess skills and will play in Merseyside Chess Association's Junior League facing, amongst others, teams such as Merchant Taylors. This is the first time in over 10 years that the school has had a competitive chess team and we wish our players the best of luck!



### Parents' Association

The Parents' Association are delighted to announce that our Summer Raffle raised almost £2100, this money will be allocated to bids from school departments in the coming months. We would like to thank all of our donors and everyone who bought tickets. Congratulations to the winners.

We have recently launched our 2018/19 100+ CLUB; this is a monthly lottery draw with cash prizes, full details of which can be found on Parentmail.

#### Dates for your diary:

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| 1 <sup>st</sup> October at 7pm | PA Annual General Meeting, everyone is welcome to come along and join us.   |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> October       | Wine Tasting Evening in association with Oddbins, Allerton Rd and the Liverpool Cheese Company. Tickets are available to purchase via Parentmail. |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> October       | Halloween Disco for Y7 & Y8 students, full details to follow.   |

Thank you to all who came along to the Year 7 Social Evening on 21<sup>st</sup> September, it was lovely to meet so many new people. We hope you enjoyed the evening.