



Headteacher's message

Thank you to all parents who have been able to contribute to our consultation about ICT at The Blue Coat School. In the coming weeks we will be using your views to shape a new vision for ICT that makes the experiences of students, parents and staff even better.

Whenever we make significant improvements to school systems, resources or accommodation, they are always driven by our priority to support each section of our community as best we can. Our focus on giving your children the best care, learning and development is supported by the significant investments we make in our staff in the form of excellent spaces to teach, high quality resources, easier processes, better development and more pro-active care for their well-being.

As we continue to secure improvements to each of these it is helpful to hear your views about the impact of our efforts on your children's learning. Thank you for your ongoing positive and constructive views and opinions.

Mr M A Pennington
Headteacher

General notices

Term dates 2019-2020: will be available very soon from the school website and will also be shared via Parentmail.

Student wellbeing: A helpful reminder that all students are encouraged and welcome to wear extra layers for PE during the colder months. If students do not have a school hooded top, plain sweatshirts or hooded tops can be worn instead.

School security: The school is currently implementing a range of improvements to the systems we use to keep our students, staff and visitors safe and secure. Upgrades to CCTV and door access systems are underway to ensure that we sustain our excellent record of good health, safety and well-being across all parts of the buildings and estates.

Farewell to staff

We say farewell to a number of staff who have left the school over the course of this term. After significant periods of service of to the school Mrs Jackson and Ms Papworth take up new teaching posts. We also say goodbye to Mr Burke (Facilities and Estates Manager) who leaves to take up an attractive promotion following his huge contribution to the recent estates development at The Blue Coat School.

We are extremely grateful to each of these colleagues for their respective contributions to The Blue Coat School.

Quick links

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[Online calendar](#)

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Key events: December 2018

Mon 3 Dec 18:	Y13 internal exam week
Fri 7 Dec 18:	Y8 and Y12 progress reports issued Y10 full reports issued
Wed 12 Dec 18:	Christmas lunch available for all students
Thu 13 Dec 18:	Carol concert and festive music and festive drinks for supporters of Development team
Fri 14 Dec 18:	Non-uniform day (Christmas jumper day) Y7 progress reports and Y9 progress reports issued
Thu 20 Dec 18:	Short day: school finishes at 1.40pm for Christmas break





Library Poppy Display

As 2018 was the Centenary of the end of World War One the Librarians set about creating a display commemorating the 83 Old Blues who gave their lives for our country. Using the Memorial in the Chapel as inspiration the Librarians decided to make a poppy for each person, adding a leaf with their name on it. Information about the 83 Old Blues was collated and forms part of the display for students to reflect on.

Remembrance Services



On Friday 9 November our students and staff remembered Old Blues who gave their life in service of their country, during remembrance assemblies held in school.

We were also pleased to be invited to attend this year's Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph on St George's Plateau on Sunday 11 November, to mark the 100th year since the end of the 1st World War. We were very proud to take part in one of the city's important calendar events and it was a privilege to join other community representatives from across Merseyside in a moving ceremony that was a fitting tribute to those who lost their lives fighting for peace. Photographed is our Head boy and Head girl signing a specially commissioned artwork.

Biology

Year 7 students have recently taken part in a Biology challenge in which they have created a model cell to demonstrate the knowledge they have gained in lessons. Models have been to an incredible standard this year with some models being made from cakes and jelly and others from paper-mache and card. Well done to all who took part.

Chemistry

KS3 Chemistry club have just finished a project on emulsions led by the Chemistry prefects with Miss Shaw and Mr Lewis, culminating in a practical session making mayonnaise and potato wedges in food technology. Well done to those teams who managed to make some tasty mayonnaise!

Physics

24 Year 13 students took part in the Physics A2 Challenge, 11 have qualified to compete in the Physics Olympiad; a national competition by the Institute of Physics, held in high regard by all British universities and other related institutions. It requires the completion of a rigorous two hour exam with questions which are guaranteed to challenge even the most able A Level physicists.

Prescribing a medical career

Dr Muhammad Khan, co-founder of an award-winning children's social initiative project based at Aintree Hospital, gave Sixth form students an inspirational talk about applying to medical school and the basic questions they all should consider first. His visit follows the School's decision to fund the Health Careers Passports for medical school applicants (worth £45 each), via the Development Office. He said it was a "fantastic offer" for this quick reference and portfolio tracker which students shouldn't ignore.

EPQ opportunities



50 Year 12 students were fortunate to take part in a seminar ran by Consultant Cardiac Surgeon Mr Bill Kairmani. They were given the opportunity to get hands on with surgical equipment and mannequins; opening the chest of a patient who had gone into cardiac arrest after heart surgery and performing internal massage and defibrillation. They enjoyed finding out more about the profession; the perks and the pitfalls and everything in-between. The students found this an invaluable experience. Many thanks to Mr Bill Kairmani for sharing his expertise and giving the students insight into the profession. Our thanks also go to Old Blue Matthew Back for making this possible.



Student Voice

As part of our drive to constantly improve the provision that we are able to offer to the students, each department undertakes a Subject Self Review twice a year that focuses on key areas of improvement that we want to have more impact in. We like to ask students their views on the different areas of focus, as it is the student that we want to most benefit from an improved provision. We ask only one thing of students who take part; that they are thoughtful and honest in their answers so that we can get a truthful picture of their views. Because our students are not only thoughtful and honest, but also intelligent and astute, they always help teams across the school form a very clear view of what we do well and what we can develop further.

Psychology journeys into KS3

The Year 12 Psychology prefects are engaging KS3 with the world of Psychology through the "Big Memory Quiz". The Prefects have been testing Year 7 and 8 memories and providing them with a visual imagery task to help them improve their memory. This will be used to re-do the memory quiz and prizes awarded for the highest scores and the best visual images. Thanks to the Prefects who are making this possible.

Year 7 residential to York

Year 7, supported by Blue Coat staff, thoroughly enjoyed their visits to York over 2 consecutive weekends, where they engaged in a variety of exciting and educational activities; visiting the Castle Museum, experiencing the York Dungeons and enjoying the delights at the York Chocolate Story. The trip was very successful, with students getting time to enhance existing friendships and begin to create new friendships. We look forward to Year 7 taking part in more school residential trips in the future!

Senior Maths Challenge Achievements

Senior Maths Challenge 2018 for Years 11, 12 and 13 took place on Tuesday 6 November and students gave an excellent performance achieving 15 Gold, 34 Silver and 60 Bronze certificates. In addition 15 students qualified for the follow-on round. Congratulations to all students but particularly to one of our Year 13 students and a Year 11 student who qualified for the British Maths Olympiad Round 1. 6 Year 13 students, 6 Year 12 students and 1 Year 11 student all qualified for the Senior Kangaroo. Both these competitions will be held on Friday 30 November.

Senior Maths team Challenge 2018 took place on Wednesday 14 November with 4 students successfully representing Blue Coat School at the Regional Final. 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 school at the National Final on Tuesday 5 February 2019. Congratulations to all students.

Boys sporting success

The Year 7 football teams have made a very strong start; winning all three of their opening games across the ESFA, Merseyside and Liverpool Cup's. U12 - U16 are all through to the next rounds of the Merseyside and Liverpool cup competitions and U18's are still in the ESFA National cup and Everton Shield. Again, we recognise some fantastic individual achievements; a number of KS3 and KS4 boys selected for U13, U14 and U15 Liverpool schoolboys and Merseyside. In gymnastics (trampolining) one of our Year 7 boys has recently competed for Britain in the 2018 World age group championships in Russia finishing in an impressive 7th place and has also achieved 3rd place in a synchronised event in Lancashire in November.

Girls sporting success

Our teams have got off to a great start with Year 10 & Year 11 netball winning their tournaments in October and our Year 8 & Year 9 Netball are currently undefeated. Year 7 'A' are also doing well, only losing one match so far. All of our hockey teams have had a fantastic season winning the majority of their games in the local league. As well as team successes, we offer individual congratulations to two KS4 girls who have gained places in the Merseyside Netball Squad and a Year 9 who has achieved a place on the England Lacrosse Pathway for U15's. Congratulations to all of students for these great achievements.

English department opportunities

We are holding a KS3 writing competition: Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat! Years 7 and 8 students are warmly invited to make their holiday season that little bit more festive by entering our Christmas competition. They may write in any form they wish in response to our competition title: ***The Best Christmas***. It could be a short story, a poem, song lyrics, a letter or perhaps an article. The choice is theirs. Prose entries should be no more than 250 words long, whilst poetry (including song lyrics) should be no more than 20 lines in total. Prizes and awards are to be announced.



Christmas Cards

Thank you to everyone who has so far purchased our 2018 School Christmas Cards, kindly designed by Old Blue Anna Elcock from the Class of 2018. Anna, currently on a gap year, created a beautiful card depicting the annual Candlelit Carol Service in the School Chapel. So far a fantastic £600 has been raised for the Development Fund, funding the extras for our students.

A limited number of cards are still available so please do visit the Parentmail Christmas Card shop should you wish to purchase some. Cards are available in packs of 10 and are A6 in size with an inside greeting that reads 'Season's Greetings'.

Old Blue Graham Hughes inspires Year 12 students at GCSE Prizegiving

On Monday 5 November we welcomed Old Blue Graham Hughes to the school as Guest Speaker at our GCSE Prizegiving. Graham, from the Class of 1997 read Politics and Modern History at Manchester University before setting up a video production business in Liverpool in 2001. He then travelled the world making videos, one of which caught the attention of Lonely Planet and with their help Graham visited every country in the world without flying, entering the Guinness World Records in 2013. That same year Graham won a tropical island in the Caribbean off the coast of Panama in an American survivor-style show and lived off-grid for three years which then led to him writing his memoirs published to great acclaim earlier this year.

Delivering an inspiring talk to the Year 12 students, Graham said "You're all young and eminently capable, with your whole life ahead of you, but remember to make time for fun, adventure and romance. We don't know what's ahead, so we must enjoy the journey."

Parents' Association fund raising

The Parents' Association **Christmas Raffle** tickets have been sent home with students. Prizes include an iPad, a Luxury Christmas food & drink hamper and concert tickets, as well as various restaurant and experience vouchers. For those Everton supporters there is a signed photo of Gylfi Sigurdsson, and we also have a £100 Shiverpool voucher. A full list of all our wonderful prizes will be included with the Raffle tickets and available on Twitter @bluecoatPA. Don't forget that every book of tickets your child sells will give them 1 entry into the 'Student Only' draw for a **£500 Liverpool One voucher**. (Sell two books and get 3 chances to win).

We would like to thank our supporters who have most generously donated prizes this year. The Raffle will be drawn by Mr Pennington on 14 December and all winners will be notified that day.

Parents' Association support

The Parents' Association continues to support a wider range of opportunities for the students to enjoy.

Recent support includes donations of £300 to the Development Office to co-fund desk easels for the Art Department and £150 to co fund materials for KS3 Chemistry Club.

