



### Headteacher's message

At Blue Coat, one of the many strengths we enjoy is how supportive our community is. Across Parents, Staff, Governors and Old Blues we are always grateful for the positivity that all sections of our community bring to help us sustain the extremely high standards we are so proud of at The Blue Coat School.

We never underestimate the contribution you make as attentive and supportive parents who work closely with us to ensure your children aspire for and reach the highest standards in all they do. For example, because of the support you have given to school systems and processes, students of The Blue Coat School are currently benefitting from some of the best outcomes, attendance, punctuality and behaviour in the school's history and closely competing with some of the highest outcomes in the country. We know this is truly a joint effort between your children, you as parents and school staff.

It is a great affirmation that standards and outcomes at The Blue Coat School are as high as they have ever been, particularly as we reach the final stages of our increased student numbers. As we offer a Blue Coat experience to more students, we can be proud that by working together it continues to grow from strength to strength.

Mr M A Pennington  
**Headteacher**

### General notices

**School calendar:** The school calendar has been updated and is available to view on the [school website](#) and throughout the year by using the quick link below.

**School show:** Rehearsals are well underway and excitement is mounting as we move closer to opening night. The cast and musicians are doing a fantastic job, putting in lots of hours of rehearsal time and preparation. The set is being constructed and painted, costumes are being designed, and the technical teams are coming together to plan lighting and sound. The students are very much looking forward to showcasing their talents and welcoming family and friends to the show. Tickets are available through Parentmail.

**February half term:** Students finish for half term on Thursday 14 February and return to school on Monday 25 February 2019.

#### Quick links

[Term dates](#)

[Online calendar](#)

[Requests for absence](#)

[Expectations](#)

[Examinations](#)

[Key contacts](#)

#### Key events Spring term 2019

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Wed 30 January:</b>           | Blue Coat for All Gala Organ Concert, 7.00 – 8.00pm, Liverpool Anglican Cathedral. Free public entry – everyone welcome. |
| <b>Thu 31 January:</b>           | Year 8 HPV vaccination and Year 9 HPV vaccination (2)  |
| <b>Tue 5 February:</b>           | Year 13 Finance and UCAS advice event, 6.00pm  |
| <b>Thu 7 February:</b>           | Year 10 Parents' evening, 4.15pm   |
| <b>Fri 8 February:</b>           | Sixth Form admissions application closing date   |
| <b>Mon 11 – Thu 14 February:</b> | School show  |
| <b>Fri 15 February:</b>          | Staff Development Day, school closed to students   |
| <b>Wed 27 February:</b>          | Year 12 Post-18 Options' evening, 6.00pm   |



## Student facilities and services

Our support teams play a vital role in providing a high-quality experience for your children. As part of our determination to ensure that your children have access to the very best services at school we use systems that provide information to inform the work of our support teams so that they can continually improve the way in which their service meets the needs of students. For example, we have:

- Routine monitoring of how and when students make use of study, catering and recreational spaces to ensure that adequate spaces are provided and available
- Electronic systems that provide quick analysis of sold/unsold food, dining room footfall and bistro footfall so that we can be sure we are providing a high-quality lunch-time experience for all students

We continue to engage student focus groups and school councils and are proud of the sensible and mature way they share their views on how we can work together to improve these and other aspects of school life.

## Mental Health Awareness

The Sixth Form have recently benefitted from an assembly about Mental Health Awareness led by an Edward Lynch, an Old Blue who is a 5th year medical student at Liverpool University. The students were introduced to some basic techniques and steps that they can take to be proactive in looking after their mental health. Edward is kindly running weekly lunchtime sessions that our Year 12 and Year 13 students are free to attend if they wish to learn more about taking care of their emotional and mental well-being. These sessions will run for a number of weeks and there will also be additional opportunities in the near future for students with aspirations of studying medicine at university, to hear first-hand experiences from this current medical student.

## Student Choices

As our students make great progress in their studies, they face important choices about the next steps of their education and their aspirations for the future.

With Year 8 considering their GCSE options, Year 11 exploring their post-16 routes and the Sixth Form mapping out their future education or employment, we are working hard to ensure that through our Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance programme, we provide them with the right information, at the right time in order for them to make the best and right choice for them.

We know that by placing an appropriate level of ownership with the students, they will be as best informed as possible and confident to make the best choice. If you want any more information about Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance at The Blue Coat School please contact:

Year 8 & Year 11: Mrs O'Rourke:  
[s.orourke@bluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:s.orourke@bluecoatschool.org.uk)

Year 12: Ms Holland:  
[l.holland@bluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:l.holland@bluecoatschool.org.uk)

## Learning Support

As students navigate their way through the challenges of school and teenage life, a helping hand or listening ear can be needed. Last term, our Senior Prefect Team successfully set up a mentoring program with a team of keen Sixth Form mentors who are available every lunchtime (12:30-1:30pm) in W03. This dedicated team are always on hand to support students in Key Stage 3 and 4 who can drop in when they feel that they need someone to talk to.

As current Sixth Form students themselves, the mentors are well aware of the challenges faced by the younger students and are happy to offer advice and guidance on a wide range of issues from friendship problems to study skills. This term they are continuing to offer support and form a valuable component of our student support structure.

## Key Stage 3 Reading Club

The Key Stage 3 Reading Club led by Mrs. Warren, has been meeting at lunchtime each Friday in the English department. The club has been running for three weeks now and the response from students has been most positive.

Presently, there are 15 students attending and enjoying our first read together, *Where the World Ends* by Geraldine McCaughrean (winner of the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2018). It is a terrific adventure story about a group of boys left stranded on the island of St. Kilda in the Scottish Hebrides and how they survive on their own. We are delighted that there is a mix of Year 7 and 8 students who have joined, so the word is getting about!

## Languages department welcome Montpellier students

We have been fortunate enough to have been linked with the Lycee Frederic Bazille for the past 5 years. In January, 45 students visited Blue Coat and were paired up with our Sixth Form students. Our staff were extremely welcoming to our visitors and we were very proud of our students who were great ambassadors for The Blue Coat School.

Our French A level students embraced the opportunity to meet French students and it was particularly enjoyable to see how well they interacted in school and on a joint trip to a local restaurant as part of the visit. The Montpellier students also joined some Year 7, 9 and A level lessons, giving Blue Coat students a chance to practise their French speaking skills and learn about the cultural contrasts between our countries. We are hoping to visit Montpellier in the near future and develop this link even further.

### HPV Vaccination

Year 8 girls will be having the first of their HPV vaccination on Thursday 31 January. If there are any concerns about this, students can speak to the medical staff on the day of the injections or check [www.hpvwise.co.uk](http://www.hpvwise.co.uk)

### Key Stage 3 Achievement assembly

KS3 had their first achievement assembly of the term, with "Form of the Term" awards being handed out. 7SH and 8BL each won form of the term for the respective year groups. The award is for a combination from academic awards from subject teachers and heads of department, good student habits awards from key stage leaders, attendance, behaviour and lates - all of these are taken into account using the achievements framework and a form is chosen. Congratulations to all of the students in both forms!

### Sixth Form

Although it is early in the new year, Sixth Form students have a very busy schedule ahead of them. Many Year 13 students are attending interviews and receiving offers for university places and courses, whilst they are all focusing on final preparations for their A level examinations. Year 12 students are continuing to establish solid foundations to build upon during their sixth form experience and look forward to exploring their post-18 options at the UK University & Apprenticeship Career event in Manchester in February. We look forward to continuing to support the students as they progress this year.

### Key Stage 5 Progress and Achievement

With the successful introduction of our whole school Rewards and Recognition framework, it has been a delight to acknowledge the outstanding achievements this term of so many of our Key Stage 5 students in our recent achievement assemblies.

We also congratulate both Miss Pinchin L6B and Mrs Derringer U6C for achieving the prestigious title of 'Form of the Term' and wish to say a huge congratulations to all students who contributed in making this achievement possible.

As we continue our drive to recognise student achievement across all areas of academic study, we welcome the submission of out of school achievements so that we may include these in our future Spring Achievements assembly.

### Blue Coat for All – Gala Organ Concert

To celebrate the launch of our exciting and innovative Blue Coat for All project we will be hosting a free Gala Organ Concert on Wednesday 30 January, at the iconic Liverpool Cathedral, from 7-8pm.

The concert, hosted by BBC Radio Merseyside's Roger Phillips, will be a truly Blue Coat affair with former Director of Music Mr David Houlder performing alongside a number of Old Blues; Lee Ward and Dr Christopher McElroy, Directors of Music at Liverpool Cathedral and Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral respectively; freelance organist Alan McGuinness; and Tim Harvey, Director of Music at The King's School Chester. Our very talented organists and students in the Senior and Chamber Choirs will also be performing under the leadership of Director of Music Mr Simon Emery.

Entry to this event, which starts at 7pm, is free and open to all!

For more information about this event and our Blue Coat for All project please click [here](#).



## Old Blues Magazine

Our 2018/19 Old Blues magazine is now available to [download](#). Our biggest edition to date features 50 Old Blues from across the country and around the world. We catch up with Liverpool's answer to Banksy, Paul Curtis from the Class of 1997, follow in the footsteps of Mo Salah with BBC journalist Nick Garnett from the Class of 1983, introduce you to Lark Lane's newest restaurant owner Tim Haggis from the Class of 2009, and take to Shirley Hall stage with former art teacher Mr "Jake" Preston.

Many of our parents are also Old Blues of the School. Please do get in touch if you are not already listed on our Old Blues database. If you would like to share any personal or professional milestones with our international network of Old Blues, please contact the Development Team at [development-team@bluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:development-team@bluecoatschool.org.uk).

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## Annual Skiing Trip

In February half term 26 students will fly to Italy to spend a week skiing in the resort of Folgarida.

Opportunities for students to go in February 2020 will shortly be sent out to parents via Parentmail as we approach this coming half term.

## Sports update

All sports teams continue to make excellent progress in a variety of activities. Year 10 netball were winners in a city tournament, whilst our Year 8 and 9 teams remain unbeaten this season. The Netball city championships will commence after February half term. In Hockey we are currently competing in the Merseyside tournaments with Years 7, 8 and 9 competitions to come. In Football our Year 7s continue to excel and are in the quarter finals of the Liverpool and Merseyside cup competitions. Years 8, 10 and 11 are still in the Liverpool cup, whilst Year 8 play Ridgeway in the Merseyside cup on the 4 February. In the England Basketball National competitions Years 7, 8, 10 and 11 are in the process of completing pool games.

## Development Board

A big thank you from the PE department to the Development board for the recent new equipment that was purchased for the fitness suite. New to the suite are a running machine, 4 spin bikes, a smith machine, bike and a dip frame machine. This will greatly benefit not only the curriculum and extra-curricular activities but our drive to ensure students and staff follow an active healthy lifestyle and continue to maintain a positive approach to mental health through health-related exercise.

## Chess Club

This term kicks off our brand new school league. Over 30 students have signed up and they'll spend the next few months playing other students, completing puzzles, attending themed lessons and earning points through a variety of chess related challenges. There are great prizes to be won to encourage everyone to enjoy participating. The standard of chess has really improved since September and we are confident that this league will get to showcase some of the amazing talent we have in The Blue Coat. A Year 8 student has created this great *mate in 2* puzzle for you. It's white to move, can you find the unstoppable win?



We hope you like it!

## Parents' Association

We are currently busy organising a Quiz night for later this term and look forward to sharing details of the event soon. In support of the school performance of Addams Family Values we will be serving refreshments and popcorn each night and encourage you to share your thoughts with us about new fundraising events. Alternatively, you can contact us through our email address: [parentsassociation@bluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:parentsassociation@bluecoatschool.org.uk)

Our meetings take place on a Monday evening, 7.00pm in the school meeting room (entry via the main school office entrance) and list of dates are below, for reference:

4 February 4 March 1 April 13 May 17 June

We look forward to welcoming new members.