



Headteacher's message

With morning form time consuming nearly two hours of time each week, we have focussed on further strengthening how we use that time over the last two years. We are driven by our aim to ensure that increasingly, all students get a consistently high-quality daily experience that supports their individual academic, personal and social development. Through ongoing improvements to assemblies, class discussions, personal reflection and individual mentoring our Key Stage teams deserve great credit in their efforts to provide students in all year groups with an even better form time experience. All of these improvements have been supported by developments to the students' planners which provide students with regular opportunities to review and talk about their ongoing achievements more holistically.

These improvements have been supported by you as parents too. We are very grateful for everything you do each day to ensure your children can make the most of form time by being on time for school. We also value how you use your sons/daughters' planners to talk to them about their learning and development at school. Sustaining and further strengthening this engagement with you is incredibly important to us. As we look ahead we will be introducing new ways to support your understanding on how we use your son's/daughter's planner to support all aspects of their development.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Mr M A Pennington
Headteacher

General notices

End of half term arrangements: School will finish for the May half term at 3.30pm on Friday 24 May and students in Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will return to school on Monday 3 June.

Study Leave 2019: For your assistance, reminders of the dates for Year 11 and Year 13 are outlined below:

- Year 11 finish at 3.30pm on Thursday 16 May
- Year 13 finish at approximately 1.30pm after celebrating their Leaver's Service and lunch on Friday 17 May.

Parking near school: We are grateful to parents who support the School's request to park safely when picking up or dropping off your children. In the continued interests of students' safety, we offer this helpful reminder to all parents to refrain from parking on the zig-zag road markings outside of school at any time during school hours and also when dropping off for school trips.

Quick links

[Term dates](#)

[Online calendar](#)

[Requests for absence](#)

[Expectations](#)

[Examinations](#)

[Key contacts](#)

Key events summer term 2019

Thursday 9 May:	Y7 Parents' evening
Friday 10 May	Y11 & Y13 Progress Reports issued Parents' Association A Quiz Night
Monday 13 May:	GCSE and A level examinations commence Gold D of E Practice session 2 Parents' Association meeting
Wednesday 15 May:	Y9 Parents' evening
Monday 3 June:	Y7, 8, 9, 10 & 12 Assessment fortnight begins



Business Leaders – Year 8 Apprentice Challenge

The Year 8 Apprentice Challenge, organised by Miss Hutchings (between October and March), involved 18 Year 8 students, and was supported by 9 Year 11 Business students. The competition helped Year 8 students develop their teamwork skills, entrepreneurial skills and their enthusiasm for Business.

The Year 11 Business Leaders planned a range of engaging activities for students on the programme to get involved in. Students dedicated a lot of planning time, including break and lunchtimes and their efforts were very worthwhile to see the development of the Year 8's into the next generation of GCSE Business students.

Everyone's efforts were noticed using a points system. A Dragon's Den Challenge brought the programme to a conclusion with double points available for the pitching of the products designed by the young entrepreneurs. The winners of the 2018/2019 program were **The Wall Street Savages from 8 Tod**, who won chocolates and certificates!

Ready to learn – a timely reminder!

There are many things our students need to in order to be 'ready to learn'. As we progress through the year, it is always good to check whether a new pen or pencil and rubber, or indeed the ruler needs to be replaced. Through no real fault of their own, items do go missing or stop working throughout the year, making it more difficult to either write with the correct equipment, or ensure that work is presented to the very highest standard. Being fully prepared is not always something that comes naturally to all students, but with your help and a quick conversation, they stand a much greater chance of getting there.

Supporting your child's well being

In response to recent staff and parental feedback, the School has organised a parental support evening on Wednesday 8 May for parents of children in Years 8 and 9 on the theme 'Supporting your child's well-being'. The evening will consist of three different workshops led by a number of different practitioners including representatives from The Blue Coat Learning Support Team, CAMHS, Merseyside Youth Association and two current final year medical students, one of whom is an ex Blue Coat student. If you would like to attend, we would be grateful if you would send an email to the learning support team at: learningsupport@bluecoatschool.org.uk

Mobile Phones – Helpful guidance for parents and Students

In response to some parental queries we thought it would be useful to offer parents and students clarity regarding the School's position on the use of mobile phones. We appreciate the need for students to carry mobile phones with them as they travel to and from school and the reassurance this offers parents. We would like to share with parents the updated paragraph below from the School's [Behaviour policy](#):

All mobile phones must be switched off during the school day including break and lunchtime. Phones can only be used by students when it supports a specific learning activity and only when a member of staff gives explicit permission and supervises their use. Mobile phones may be confiscated by staff, and students will need to collect them from the School office at the end of the school day.

If you have any specific queries about the use of mobile phones at school please contact Mrs Yates or Mr Watkins whose contact details can be found [here](#)

Student out of school achievements

We are very grateful to all those parents who were able to submit detail of their son's/daughter's out of school achievements, via the website online form. We received over 200 parental submissions and the information has been added to student profiles and achievement points awarded. Key Stage Leaders will be able to use the information when planning the awards assemblies.

The next opportunity for parents to share their child's achievement information will be the 3 and 4 of June and a helpful reminder will be shared closer the time. We are justifiably proud of all students' achievements and use the information to develop student self-awareness and support them in recognising the skills they are developing for learning, life and the world of work.

Debating

Founder's Week yet again provided an opportunity for students to put their debating skills to the test as they faced each other in some great Key Stage debates. A team of Sixth Formers took the lead in judging and chairing the debates. Students from Year 7 to Year 13 took part and it was great to see so many students come along to support the events. Thank you to everyone who took part, it was fantastic to have the opportunity to see the talented debaters we have in our School.

Student leadership

The Senior Prefect Team plays a crucial and invaluable role in many aspects of school life, from chairing Student Council meetings to organising volunteers for school events. They are excellent role models for others and enjoy developing their skills of leadership.

As the current team stand down from their responsibilities to focus on preparing for external examinations, Year 12 prefects will be taking over to help with the smooth running of the school and support students in different activities. In the summer term, the process for application for a Senior Prefect position will be open and we look forward to working with the new teams as we say a heartfelt 'thank you' to the Year 13's for their conscientious approach.

Year 8: Choosing GCSEs

As a result of the support for students to choose their GCSE subjects through PD lessons, information evening for parents, the School Careers Fair, Student Bulletin and conversations with Form Tutors, it is pleasing to see that all Year 8 students were able to submit their chosen options by the published deadline. With these informed choices, students can look ahead with confidence and enthusiasm, as they move towards beginning their GCSE's in KS4.

Year 11: Next steps

An extensive variety of opportunities has been provided to guide Year 11 as they make their A Level and post-16 choices in the form of Information evenings, mock interviews and feedback from professionals, advisory meetings with the School's independent careers adviser, School Careers Fair, Student Bulletin, competitive university course talk and PD lessons. All Year 11's appreciated the support they have received to confidently meet the deadline for options forms. As they prepare for their GCSEs, Year 11 can look forward to the exciting prospect of specialising in their chosen subjects and courses in KS5.

Year 12: Planning for the future

A significant focus of our KS5 provision is planning for post-18 options. This is covered in CIAG lessons, which allow students to explore the many alternatives available; attendance at the University and Apprenticeship conference, a range of talks from universities and professions (which will continue into the summer term), School Careers Fair, Student Bulletin and post-18 Options Information evening.

Looking ahead to June, all Year 12 will have a mock interview with a professional, receiving both verbal and written feedback. In CIAG lessons, students will be working on their personal statements and UCAS applications so that with bespoke support, they are perfectly placed to process their applications in September. In advance of then, any Year 12 student can request an advisory meeting with Karen Meagher, the School's independent careers adviser: karen.meagher@careerconnect.org.uk.

Personal Development

Students from across the School have had the opportunity to engage with a range of exciting opportunities within Personal Development this term. Year 7 enjoyed a session discovering what a day in the life of a Blue Coat student would have involved over the last 200 years. A surprise discovery was that young people often sold their urine to the Yorkshire Wool Trade for a small profit! The session concluded with a poetry writing activity which allowed students to develop both their knowledge and skills – a key priority within Personal Development.

A group of Year 10 students enjoyed two trips, hosted by Oxford University Outreach, with the aim of inspiring and motivating young people to apply to competitive Universities. The students' behaviour and engagement were exemplary. Student feedback highlighted their appreciation for 'opening up options' for their future. This will be a key priority in Personal Development as we move towards the summer term.

Student participation and developing key skills

Many staff and students continue to support and develop [Clubs and Societies](#) for students. Being part of this helps develop skills of organisation, planning, working with others, building confidence, making friends and sharing a common interest.

Students can now apply to set up a new club or present an assembly by downloading the forms on the VLE and sending them to Ms Holland at: l.holland@bluecoatschool.org.uk

Year 7 Biology Competition

Year 7 students produced a 'Flanimals' poster last half-term, in which they creatively tied together key ideas they had learned about adaptations and habitats. From the entries, 1 winner for each form was chosen, and out of the 6 form winners, 1 overall Year group winner was chosen. These students have been awarded achievement points and a selection of the excellent work produced across Year 7 is now on display in the Biology corridor. Congratulations to this year's winners.



Physics Olympiad

Congratulations to the 51 students who entered the GCSE Physics Challenge. Achievement awards were: 3 Gold, 11 Silver, 13 Bronze I, 12 Bronze II and 12 Commendations.

In the AS competition Year 12 gained 2 Gold, 9 Silver, 3 Bronze 1, 3 Bronze II and 6 Commendation awards. The competition requires students to complete questions which are well above the difficulty level set for GCSE and A level and requires a deep understanding of physical principles.

Overall, a very formidable achievement by our able Physics' students whose understanding of Physics has been greatly enhanced by them entering these national competitions. Our hearty congratulations go to all of them! Well done indeed!

United Kingdom Mathematics Challenge

UKMT Team Challenge: Congratulations to our Junior Maths team who won the Regional Final on 26 March. It was a competitive event; the team beat off strong competition to secure the win. They will now go to London to represent The Blue Coat School in the National Final on 17 June.

Intermediate Maths Challenge: on Thursday 7 February Blue Coat students gave an impressive performance achieving 36 Gold, 67 Silver and 71 Bronze certificates. Particular congratulations go to one Year 11 (Best in School) and the student who was 'Best in Year 10' who have both qualified for the Intermediate Mathematical Olympiad. Additionally, the 'Best in Year 9' student along with 33 other students have qualified for the Intermediate Kangaroo. Well done to all of the students.

Other Mathematics competitions

IMOK: The follow-on rounds to the IMC, the Intermediate Maths Olympiad and the European Kangaroo, were held on 21 March. Blue Coat students' achievements were once again fantastic, with merits and a distinction being awarded across the competitions. Additionally one Year 11 student's remarkable achievement placed him in the top 100 in the country.

Pangea Maths competition: During the week of 18 March, Years 7 – 10 took part in an online Maths competition. The students had 20 problems to solve within a time of 35 minutes. The highest scorers are invited to attend a final round in London. Blue Coat students performed admirably in this competition resulting in 39 students being invited to London on Saturday 4 May. We wish them well.

MEM Challenges: Over February half-term several students produced solutions to the Mathematical Education on Merseyside Challenges with some notable successes. A range of prizes were awarded to students across Years 7 - 13.

TCSOCC Challenge: Following on from the successes in the first round of the Bebras competition in November, Blue Coat students once again performed exceptionally well. Certificates were achieved in each of the three age categories entered as follows:

Junior (Year 7): 10 Distinctions and 17 Merits

Intermediate (Year 8/9): 13 Distinctions and 34 Merits

Senior (Year 10): 7 Distinctions and 6 Merits

In addition, 2 Year 8 students and 1 Year 10 student made it through to the final round.

Raspberry Pi: Six Year 10 students have been working hard on an entry to the Raspberry Pi competition. Their brief was 'how can you use your ingenuity to transform the way we travel?' and their solution has involved creating a facial recognition system that can be used to replace travel passes. As a result of their commitment and expertise the team have been invited to the National Final to be held in London on 30 April. The judges of the initial round commented on their project: 'Good idea, very well delivered. Amazing teamwork, we could see the team passion in the video as well. Well done!' Good luck to the students in the Final.

Development Team Spring School Community E-newsletter

Our latest school community e-newsletter is now available online. Highlights from this edition include:

- Celebrations marking our 311th Founders' anniversary
- An insight into the competitive world of fencing courtesy of Year 8 student
- Old Blue Edward Lynch, from the Class of 2013, discussing his new organisation which seeks to quash the stigma surrounding mental health

To access our newsletter please click [here](#).

Blue Coat for All

The first in our series of Blue Coat for All films is available to watch on our website. Each film will provide you with an insight into the project, from our GCSE organ workshop visits to our community engagement activities.

To view our first instalment please click [here](#)



Pipe Up

We are very pleased to report that our new Pipe Up campaign to raise money to fund our new Blue Coat Organ Scholarship has so far reached £10,000.

Our grateful thanks to those who have sponsored some of the 1,224 pipes of our historic Father Willis organ.

If you would like to support our Pipe Up campaign our online donation form can be accessed [here](#).

April Giving Update

A Year 8 activity day and GCSE English Literature workshop are just some of the latest projects to receive funding from the Development Fund and Parents Association.

More information about the impact of our School community's generosity can be found in our [April Giving Update](#).

Parents' Association

Tickets to the popular PA Quiz Night on Friday 10 May are still on sale via Parentmail. This fun filled evening includes questions to suit all ages and abilities, plus 2 children's rounds and a picture round with extra prizes. We are even including a 'stand up Bingo' round this year! There will be a bar selling wine, lager, soft drinks and snacks.

Can your team win the cash prize and have its name engraved on the Blue Coat Quiz Night trophy?

A huge thank you to everyone who comes along to our fundraising events, but did you know there are many ways in which parents and friends of The Blue Coat can support us and help raise money for the School?

- ❖ Our Summer Raffle is fast approaching and if you, or your company can donate anything to add to our list of fantastic prizes, please get in touch.
- ❖ Do you work for a company who offers £ for £ Match Funding? (Banks and Insurance Companies do), please contact us to discuss how you may be able to help us.
- ❖ If you shop online please consider using [Easyfundraising](#) to raise money every time you buy.
- ❖ Come along to one of our PA meetings and share your ideas. Meeting dates can be found on the School website in the Parents' Association section.

We can also be contacted at parentsassociation@bluecoatschool.org.uk or [@bluecoatPA](https://twitter.com/bluecoatPA) on Twitter.

