



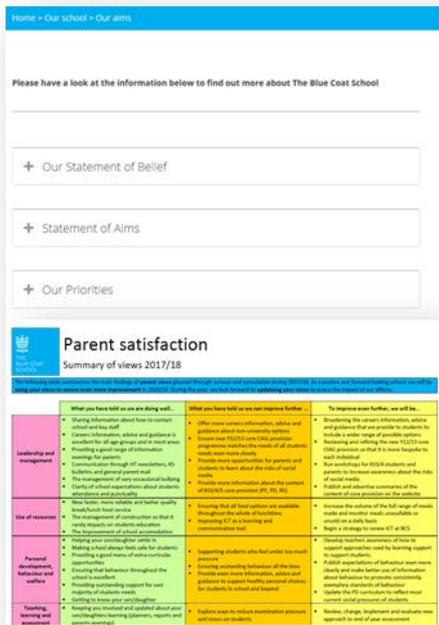
Headteacher's message

Over the course of the year, we take every opportunity to listen to the students and your views about what it is like to be a student and parent of The Blue Coat School. This includes listening to students' individual perspectives and their collective views through key stage council. For parents, we often use your individual feedback to refine our approaches and also gather your views on key topics through the regular parent surveys we hold on the run up to each Parent's evening.

Though we are always delighted to get overwhelmingly positive feedback from our community, yours and the students' views still play a very significant role in defining our ongoing improvement priorities for the school. As well as ensuring that throughout the year we respond to your views as they arise, we also collate and review them as a bigger picture so that we can be sure that your priorities are ours too. You can read these summaries on our school [website](#) as seen in the picture on the left. We are looking forward to updating this information with you in the autumn term alongside a student and parent friendly version of our main priorities for 2019-20.

In the meantime, may I offer my thanks for your very positive support of the school and my colleagues throughout this year. We hope the students, you and your families enjoy a relaxing and restful summer and look forward to welcoming the students back on Wednesday 4 September 2019.

Mr M A Pennington
Headteacher



Governing Body – Update from the Chair of Governors

Improved contact with parents is also one of the Governing Body's priorities for the coming year. We will be sending out details of some new arrangements in the new school year. In the meantime you will also recall that we are looking to refresh membership of the Governing Body. Parents play a vital role in many aspects of school life and we welcome any expressions of interest from parents in becoming a governor. This is not a representative role but rather individuals who are parents of current students who can bring their skills to the governing body. We will be inviting expressions of interest for new parent governors in the Autumn Term.

General notices

Term Dates 2019-2020: The school term dates can be found [here](#). The autumn term starts on Wednesday 4 September 2019 for all students.

School calendar 2019-2020: The school calendar will be shared with parents and students through the school website. The calendar will be available to view during August, prior to the start of the 2019-2020 academic year.

Quick links

- [Term dates](#)
- [Online calendar](#)
- [Clubs and Societies](#)
- [Requests for absence](#)
- [Expectations](#)
- [Examinations](#)
- [Key contacts](#)

Key events: First half term: Autumn 2019

- Mon 9 Sept: Parents' Association meeting
- Tue 10 – Thu 12 Sept: New Y7 welcome evenings (10th: Bi & BL, 11th: Gr & Sh, 12th: St & Td)
- Wed 18 Sept: School Photographs
- Sat 28 Sept: Entrance test
- Mon 30 Sept: KS3 HPV vaccinations
- Mon 7 Oct: Y7 Form tutor evening for Parents
- Tue 8 Oct: Y12 Form tutor evening for Parents
- Fri 25 Oct: Y12 Progress reports issued



Departing Staff

At the end of this academic year we say goodbye and thank you to a number of colleagues who look forward to new opportunities beyond Blue Coat. During their time with us, have each made significant contributions to The Blue Coat School community. Sincere thanks and best wishes are extended to:

Miss J Shaw: Teacher of Chemistry
Ms M Hill: Teacher of Languages
Mr I Burgess: Teacher of Computing
Mr N Langton-Miller: Science Technician
Miss E Conway: Art & DT Technician

Shirley Hall refurbishments

We are pleased to let you know that the refurbishments of Shirley Hall are progressing as planned and we anticipate the entire project finishing at the end of August, ready for the start of term.

As you would expect, our students have responded positively to the occasional inconvenience caused by the closure of the hall. We are delighted with the quality of work and level of craftsmanship involved in the completion of the project so far.

We look forward to welcoming you to future events in the hall so that we can proudly share with you the hall's wonderful and historic features that have been carefully protected and enhanced to a high standard for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations of students.



Students' reports

At the end of an academic year it is always a good idea for all of our students to 'reflect' upon what went well and then consider and 'refine' how things could be even better if they improved on what they did. Making small changes for our students is essential if they are going to get the most out of their learning.

All year groups will have had a final report or data collection at this time in the term, and so this is an ideal opportunity to sit down with your child and go through the process of 'reflection and refinement'. Our students are superb, we know that, but small considered changes will make them even better.

Progress and Achievement

Thank you very much to the parents who were able to support our recent key stage 3 and 4 awards afternoons. All three of the events were a huge success, with the achievements of over 250 students being recognised.

One of the most pleasing aspects was seeing the variety of out 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 these achievements. Thank you for your support.

Blue Coat goes green!

The increased awareness and concerns for the environment and our world have captured the support of many of our School Community. Working with a committed group of Y10 students, we have registered as an Eco-school and are following a seven step programme that aims to extend awareness about how our actions can make a difference, how we can improve the School's carbon footprint and how we can develop our School to become more environmentally friendly. More information will follow about the next steps of this exciting initiative, led and planned by the student body with guidance from members of staff. A bid for funding from MBNA was successful and we are delighted to say that have been given £5250 to support our project. The Development Office is also supporting this great opportunity for students and we look forward to exploring opportunities to make a difference to our environment and our community.

Year 13 and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

This was the first year that almost every Year 13 student produced an EPQ, as part of The Blue Coat Baccalaureate. The EPQ enables students to develop high levels of research, time management, organisation, presentations, independent thinking and reflection: all significant skills in future study and employment. For some, a high EPQ grade can lead to lower offers from a range of Universities: it is regarded in high esteem by Admissions Tutors and employers and an indication of quality, disciplined academic work. This should be an inspiration to Year 12 as they look ahead to next year!



Year 13 Leavers Prom

Thursday 25 June marked the final event of the year for our Year 13 students, as they attended their prom at the Isla Gladstone. The students all looked fabulous as they experienced an evening of great food, excellent company and beautiful weather. It was great to see the students reflect their personalities through their unique styles and dance moves, with prizes being awarded during the evening in a range of categories. Staff and students enjoyed a memorable evening together that celebrated Year 13's achievements and the next steps in their journey beyond Blue Coat.

Year 12 Mock Interviews

In order to help prepare our students for further education or employment, our Year 12 students recently took part in mock interviews. For a lot of students, this was the first time that they had experienced a formal interview and in many cases we were able to match the employer to the student's future interests, ensuring a more bespoke experience. Each student received verbal and written feedback to help them with the development of their skills as they consider their next steps after A Levels. The interviews were conducted by Old Blues or friends of the school, who generously donated their time to help guide and support our students. The students found the experience to be incredibly useful, as well as being inspired by the Old Blues that they met with.

Request for absences

As the academic year draws to a close, I would like to thank parents for the way that they have engaged this year with using the online absence request form to inform the School about known student absences. This has allowed attendance recording and monitoring to be far more efficient and effective within school.

Moving forwards, it is essential that all known absence requests continue to be made via the online form with an ideal notice period being 10 days. Access to the online form can always be found in the 'Quick Links' section on the first page of this newsletter.

Year 8 Carousel

On Monday 15 July all of Year 8 engaged in a creative workshop to promote team building and build resilience. All students thoroughly enjoyed the successful event with students being split into groups of 10. Students undertook activities such as pouring water into tubes only using ropes, and races where 5 students were using the same set of skis at once! Special commendation goes to Team 8 for being awarded the champion team cup, for being the team that worked best on the day!

Book Folding in the Library

This term the Librarians decorated the Library with some vases and flowers made from folded books for the Bright Minds, Bright Futures event and this led to other students asking if they could make them too.

Over the last two weeks more than 60 students have been making hedgehogs, vases, pineapples and their own creations from recycled books at lunchtime. As well as making our Library a more creative environment this has helped many students with their well-being due to the mindfulness element of the project.



Languages

In Languages, we have been running a project across the summer term to encourage creativity and independent learning amongst our KS3 students. To compete, students were asked to produce a project which met a specific success criteria; in Year 7 to design a French town and display its festivals, traditions and culinary delights and in Year 8 to design a restaurant, including a three course menu, a blueprint of the restaurant in the target language and a meal which would be a hit there.

It was extremely pleasing to see a wide range of students participate in these, creating some impressive projects which demonstrate both artistic prowess and an ability to research in a foreign language; a skill which is needed for KS4 and 5. We were pleased to announce that the overall winner of the Languages Project Competition was a student from 8Tod who created a beautiful project which we were delighted to display at our Open Evening.

We have also been encouraging students to consider CIAG within Languages, and as a result, students have participated in the "Why learn languages" competition organised by Miss Sanchez, where some particularly informative and eye-catching posters have been submitted. The winners are to be announced later this month and we look forward to displaying these in the Languages corridor for all to see!

English

We are pleased to share the last update for book club for this year, which has been a resounding success. All the attendees enjoy the relaxed, chatty atmosphere and, as an added bonus, new friendships have been forged across classes through their mutual love of books. Members are also privy to new class readers and are given an opportunity to voice their opinions and create some student led ideas/activities on the books, which can be utilised in the classroom – imagine that – your own ideas being used to teach others!

So, as an enjoyable un-wind towards the weekend, why not encourage your children to come along and have some fun chatting about settings, characters and action in exciting plot lines and unfolding events of some brand new novels? This is the perfect opportunity for them to share their thoughts and ideas about their favourite books and stories. Every single member always has something to say, which often creates a fun and lively debate.

Book club is open to all KS3 students and new faces are always welcome!

Business Studies

The Business team have recently started work on an exciting new project working with 'Old Blue' and investment banker, Mike Deriaz. From September our Year 9 students will be working with the charity Friends of Kipkelion, which helps people in a remote area of Kenya. Our students will be fundraising through an enterprise scheme where teams of pupils will be provided with £10 by the Charity and will be challenged to turn it into £100. This will involve making a business plan, drawing up a budget, team work, thinking about marketing and meeting deadlines.

Parents' Association

The Summer Raffle was drawn by Mr Pennington on 12 July. The lucky winner of the 'Student Only' prize, a £250 Liverpool One voucher, came from Year 7. Congratulations to all 19 winners. Please ensure you collect your prizes from school reception before the end of term. Thank you to everyone who has supported the PA by buying tickets or donating prizes. The Summer Raffle raised over £1700.

This month we have enjoyed meeting lots of new parents at both the new Year 7 and new Year 12 information evenings as well as prospective parents at the very busy Open Evening. Members of the PA were also extremely happy to support the school's talented students at the Dance Show and Summer Recital.

The July double draw of the **PA 100 Club** was made earlier this month with the 3 lucky winners receiving £204.28, £102.38 and £34.12. Congratulations to all of this year's winners. A new 100 Club will be available to join via Parentmail in September.

Donations this month have been to the English Department; £75 towards a video camera and £250 towards a visit from The Ginificent Theatre group's performance of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde for GCSE students. Also £498 to part fund purchasing GCSE CDP 'How to revise' guides. These items were jointly funded with the Development Office.

Don't forget, if you shop online go via www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bluecoatschool and raise money for the school.

Next term our first meeting is on Monday 9 September, and our AGM is on 10 October. Everyone is welcome to come and join us. Have a wonderful summer holiday, see you in September.

