



Communication with Parents
Working closely with you

We value close partnerships with you to ensure that your child's experience at School is always safe, positive and enjoyable. We are committed to high-quality, two-way communication to keep you informed about what is happening in our School community and to be able to respond to any questions or concerns that you may have. We will circulate this helpful summary to all parents regularly to support your quick access to guidance about how you can get in touch with us.

How we will keep you updated...	How you can get in touch with us...
We will call you directly if we need to talk to you about a matter that is specific to your child.	You can quickly find all of the information you need to contact us on our website .
We use parent mail as the primary direct means to send you emails that are relevant to your child's Key Stage, Year Group, Subject or participation in a specific event.	You can contact the school office for any general queries or if you do not know who the best person to contact is.
We will send all parents a monthly newsletter with helpful links to key information on our website and news articles about what has been happening at School.	You can contact any senior leader, head of department, key stage leader or support team leader if you have a particular query or concern about a matter in a specific team.
We will share a community newsletter every term to keep you informed about how all parts of our community are working together to create the outstanding Blue Coat experience our students enjoy.	You can contact the development team if you want to find out more about how you can support our School.
We keep our website updated with key information about the School, school life, open days and how you can support us.	You can contact the headteacher if you have a particular query or concern that you feel only the headteacher can assist you with.
We publish regular updates about School events and achievements on our Twitter account.	You can contact the Governing Body if after contacting the headteacher , you have a particular query or concern that you feel only the governing body can assist you with.

Headteacher's message

It was a pleasure to welcome your children back to school at the start of September and of course to welcome new Year 7 and Year 12 students. Very quickly we have all settled in to daily life and working together to help your children aspire to the fantastic outcomes and personal development that we saw recently in our [GCSE and A Level results](#).

Our success is always borne out of working together. Of course, this starts with our aim to quickly establish great relationships between your children and my colleagues to help set our culture of learning characterised by enjoyment and wider development. It is equally important that these great relationships involve you and we are always grateful for the support you give to your children, our teaching teams and support teams.

To promote, sustain and support the very best relationships with you, we constantly challenge ourselves to listen to your views and continually refine our approaches. This year, as a result of your feedback we have already provided a helpful summary to assist your understanding of how you can best get in touch with us and how we try to keep you well informed. We look forward to working closely again with you this year.

Mr M A Pennington
Headteacher

Governing Body Update

The governing body are delighted to congratulate our students, staff and leaders for the magnificent GCSE and A Level outcomes achieved in August. You can read more about them [here](#).

Thank you to parents who shared their thoughts over the summer about how governors can work and consult with parents even more closely. We will be taking your ideas and developing some new approaches that we hope you will find useful. One of the suggestions was to give our community a better insight into the work of the governing body and as a result, we will be updating our website to include a short summary of the items we consider in our monthly governing body meetings. Ahead of the planned update, please find the summary for the September meeting attached.

We also want to raise the profile of all members of the governing body by increasing our attendance and engagement with you at school events. We look forward to putting this in place very quickly at the start of this term.

General notices

All parents are politely reminded of the schools un-changed expectations for students school uniform, behaviour and conduct. You can read these below using our quick links section. Many thanks in advance for your support towards each of these which help contribute to the very positive, cohesive and supportive community we all enjoy for your children.

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

Key events: first Autumn half term 2019

Mon 7 Oct:	Y7 Form tutor evening for Parents
Tue 8 Oct:	Y12 Form tutor evening for Parents
Fri 11 – 12 Oct & Fri 18 – 19 Oct:	Y7 residential to York
Tue 15 Oct:	UCAS early applicants' external deadline
Mon 21 – Wed 23 Oct:	Blue Coat for All Science Ceilidh event
Thu 24 Oct:	PA Halloween Disco
Fri 25 Oct:	Y12 Progress reports issued

Welcome to new colleagues

We are delighted to welcome our new colleagues at the start of the academic year. A warm welcome goes to Miss Smith, (English Subject coordinator), Miss Lowsley and Dr Wainwright (History and Politics), Miss Bermejo-Albinana (Languages), Mr Ashton, (Maths), Mr Giblin (Computing) Miss Bakstad (KS4 leader & Teacher of PE), Miss Conway (KS3 leader & Teacher of English), Mrs Gregson (receptionist), Mrs Brown (Chemistry technician), Miss Hayes (Art & DT technician), Mrs White (Catering) and Miss Williams (Learning Support).

We look forward to what we know will be great contributions to help our students, staff and community to aspire to and attain fresh, new and even higher achievements in the coming months and years.

Improving safety at school

At Blue Coat School we place utmost importance on keeping your your child safe at school. We have invested in CCTV, secure internal and external building access controls, automatic gates and safer on-site routes for cyclists.

It is pleasing to note an increase in the number of students who ride their bikes to school and making good use of the relocated bike sheds near to the Prince Alfred Road gate entrance. As well as being an enjoyable and sustainable way of travelling, we also recognise the benefits of cycling to school as a way to keep students fit and healthy. However, like many roads in Liverpool there is a great deal of traffic in the surrounding areas and we encourage you to talk to your child about road safety and general safe cycling.

To support parents, a charity called Sustrans has developed a 'Top Tips' guide for parents and offer a variety of safety updates that you may find helpful, including safety clothing and how to ride in winter weather conditions. Further information is available [here](#)

Free School Meals

We understand that a small number of parents may have experienced difficulty accessing free school meal authorisations from their local authority.

If you believe your child is entitled to a free school meal and you have not yet received confirmation, we encourage you to contact your local authority benefits office. To help you, we have provided links for our neighbouring authorities, Liverpool, Knowsley, Halton and Sefton.

<https://liverpool.gov.uk/benefits/free-school-meals/>

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/schools-learning/grants-and-funding/free-school-meals.aspx>

<https://www.knowsley.gov.uk/residents/education-and-schools/school-meals-and-menus>

<https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/EducationandFamilies/Schools/FreeSchoolMeals.aspx>

New challenges and new opportunities

A new academic year always brings new excitement and new challenges for all of our students and we are looking forward supporting all age groups as they respond to those challenges. Students in Year 7 and 12 that are new to the school particularly face the challenge of being in new surroundings, with new teachers and trying to make new friends; all of which can seem a daunting task in the first few weeks.

While our pastoral teams will be working closely with your children over the coming weeks, we know from experience that it also makes a real difference when students have the courage to take part and experience the additional opportunities that we offer. Our list of additional opportunities is published on [our website](#) and will be updated further in the coming weeks.

Supporting students in Key Stage 4

With support from the development fund, all KS4 students this year have been provided with CGP revision skills books. Through Year 9, 10 and 11, the books will support activities in form time that have been specifically designed to hone students' general study skills, which was an area that our students fed back last year they wanted to improve. We look forward to seeing the positive impact that this new programme has on our students and welcome feedback to help us further improve it.



Physics opportunity

We were pleased to welcome Old Blue Prof. Roger Jones in the summer term. Professor Jones is the Head of Physics at Lancaster University and Chair of the Worldwide LHC Computing Grid Collaboration. He gave a fascinating presentation to Year 12 physicists which covered his own career from being at Bluecoat to becoming an eminent professor. He discussed Physics topics relevant to the sixth form studies in particle Physics. It was an informative lecture which encouraged those considering a career in pure research and helped expand the students' understanding of the syllabus.

Business entrepreneurs supporting charity

Business department have recently launched an exciting new project in conjunction with Old Blue and former banker Mike Deriaz. Mike recently came into school to speak with Year 9 who will be running a range of businesses in order to raise money for the charity 'Friends of Kipkelion'. Mike is the patron of the charity which helps to support disadvantaged people in some of the poorest parts of Kenya.

We look forward to seeing these budding entrepreneurs in action.

Team building in Key Stage 5

Friday 6 September saw our Year 12 Students attend a Team building event provided by "Mountain Monkeys". The purpose of this was to build a strong team, as Henry Ford stated *"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success."*

Our Aim is to work with our students to take ownership of sustaining a strong community of peers who support each other to achieve great success and we hope the day cemented these foundations. Students engaged in problem solving activities, running, rock climbing, caving, archery and other activities. All students got involved and encouraged each other out of their 'comfort zones' and into their 'stretch zones'. Well done to the students for demonstrating their great attitudes, ambition and aspiration on this day and in the early weeks of this year.

Supporting students with information and advice about careers

Student across Key Stages 3 and 4 are set to receive an exciting range of Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance opportunities this year, a large portion of which will take place within Personal Development lessons.

Our Year 8 students are embarking on a comprehensive programme designed to prepare them for selecting GCSE options in the spring term. They are introduced to the idea of 'life after Blue Coat', considering higher education options and the range of career routes available to them. Students are encouraged to take the lead here, researching their options and creating their own plans with guidance from their Personal Development teacher. Y9 students will be working on creating their own CVs, considering the value of a part time job. Students will complete an audit of their transferable skills, determining which skills they would like to develop as they move through the school. In preparation for careers interviews with our school careers advisor, Y11 students will be further developing their CVs and drafting a university personal statement, which is invaluable in preparing them for the university application process and beyond.

These experiences in Key Stages 3 and 4 prepare your children for the programme we offer in Key Stage 5, which builds towards preparing your children to have the confidence and independence to make the most of up-to-date and relevant information.

Girls sport

The Netball league has started for Year 10 & 11 who have won against St Hildas, Bellerive and Liverpool College. We are also continuing with Year 7 netball and hockey trials over the coming weeks and look forward to selecting 20 netballers for the Netball tour to PGL taking place in March 2020.

We are delighted for and congratulate two students (Year 9 & Year 10) who have been successful in the U15's Merseyside Netball trials and have gained a place on the U15's team.

Dance show

Following the great participation of students and their success in the Dance Show in 2018/19, we are pleased to announce that work is already underway to plan for this year's show.

The Dance show prep is due to start on 2 October and all students who are interested in performing or supporting are invited to attend.

Boys Sport

Good luck to those who recently attended the U13 Liverpool schoolboy's trials and the U14 Merseyside Boys' trials.

A busy schedule of extra-curricular opportunities has begun with boys competing in the ESFA National Cup, the Merseyside cup and the Liverpool cup and Year 8 are looking forward to their Football tour to PSV Eindhoven in Holland during February half term.



I am reading....

For some time now, staff at the Blue Coat School have been encouraged to add details of the book they are currently reading for pleasure as an "email signature" at the end of the emails they send, in addition to their regular sign-off. Often, they simply use the formula "I am reading" followed by the title and author of the book they are currently enjoying. Perhaps parents and carers might like to do the same? It helps to show our young people that adults are readers too and can also act as a valuable way of stimulating interest in a wide range of books.

If you want to support this, simply click on settings on your email home page, search for "email signature" and then complete as suggested above. Just remember that all recipients will see your choice and to refresh your email signature regularly as you read new books!

Your generosity in 2018/19

Thanks to the generosity of you and our growing community of supporters, 2018/19 was our most successful fundraising year to date, with a tremendous £281,998 raised in total! Support from our Development Fund supporters enabled us to fund 70 different projects and activities, from new Lego Mindstorms equipment for Maths and Computing to a 3D printer, which will support our new Design and Technology Drone Club.

To find out more the impact that our supporters' giving has on our students please click [here](#) to view our 2018/19 Giving Report. If you would like to get involved and support our Development Fund or Bright Minds Bright Futures campaign, please click [here](#) to donate online.

Blue Coat School Heritage Open Days 2019

The Heritage Open Days – England's largest heritage festival – proved to be our most successful yet with a constant stream of parents, Old Blues and members of the public exploring the building over two weekends in September.

Our mini organ recitals, led by two talented Year 13 students and supported by Old Blues Harry Spain (Class of 2016), and Tim Harvey (Class of 1983), proved to be one of the most popular features of the event. Visitors also had an opportunity to gain an insight into the School's 311 year history thanks to a series of illustrated presentations delivered by Blue Coat for All Project Manager Peter Elson, held in the splendidly restored Shirley Hall. The School's history was also on display with an eclectic display of Archive items, which is being collated and digitised for the first time as part of Blue Coat for All.

We take this opportunity to thank friends of the school who volunteered to support the School in hosting this very positive event to celebrate the many aspects of heritage that we are so proud of.

The Blue Coat Community Choir

Parents, Old Blues, friends of the School and the wider community are invited to join our new Choir which is being launched as part of our Blue Coat for All project. The choir promises to be an enjoyable experience, musically and socially, and enthusiasm is the key, rather than ability! Choir leader will be Dr Chris McElroy, Director of Music at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral and Old Blue from the Class of '96, with one of our talented Year 13 students as accompanist.

There will be 12 rehearsals ahead of the Celebratory Concert taking place on Wednesday 29 January 2020 to unveil the newly restored historic Father Willis organ in Shirley Hall. Rehearsals will take place on Wednesdays (7pm - 8.30pm) in the School Chapel, (2 October to 27 November 2019). No rehearsals will take place in December as we appreciate it's a busy month for everyone. Rehearsals will resume in January and run weekly in the run up to the concert.

The music will be familiar pieces like Jerusalem, Zadok the Priest and the Hallelujah Chorus.

To sign up to become a member or for further information please contact Peter Elson on 0151 733 1407 ext 207 or at p.elson@bluecoatschool.org.uk

Chess club

This year Chess Club is aiming high! With plans to enter 4 teams into the Merseyside Chess Association Junior Leagues and 2 teams into the English Chess Federation National Schools Championship we are set for a busy year! Students will be given the chance to take part in the Delancey School's competition, attend sessions with International Master Malcolm Pein, and join in with our very own school league. 4 new team captains have been appointed and an online captain to help support our adventures. Some students are also being given the opportunity to play for the County.

We are currently looking for eager students to join our teams so if you are interested in playing chess please speak to Miss Long or check out the Chess Club board in the library for more information.



Helping Year 7 to settle in

The new Year 7 students have made a fantastic and impressive start to Blue Coat. They have engaged positively with a brilliant and thought-provoking production given by a drama company, exploring positive and safe ways in which to use social media. Staff members have been impressed with their enthusiasm to rise to the new challenges of secondary school. Keep it up, Year 7!

Thanks to all parents who were able to attend the newly designed Welcome evenings for Year 7. The evenings were designed in the light of parent feedback from last year and we are grateful for the very positive feedback you have already given us.

Thanks to our students

September always feels like the busiest school month especially as students settle into new routines.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all year groups for how quickly they have supported our canteen queuing arrangements. Unlike many schools, our approach to queuing is designed to provide students with the maximum flexibility we can to allow them to fit their lunch around other activities they want to enjoy at lunch and to attend lunch with friends from other year groups if they wish.

Your children deserve great praise for how quickly they have supported our simple queuing systems. It is with this style and level of cooperation that we are able to sustain the unique culture of Blue Coat where intelligent actions and courtesy avoid the need for unnecessary over management. Well done and thank you to all students.

Parents' Association

Members of The Parents' Association were delighted to meet so many new parents at the Year 7 social evenings at the beginning of this term. We hope everyone enjoyed our presentation and the refreshments supplied, as well as meeting fellow parents and having your questions answered by us. Thank you to all who joined our mailing list on the night. We will keep in touch and let you know what the PA plans are throughout the school year.

A reminder that the PA 100 Club lottery numbers are still on sale until Sunday 13 October via Parentmail, priced at £12 each. There are 3 prizes every month with a double draw in December.

We are busy planning a Halloween disco for Years' 7 and 8 on 24 October, tickets will be on sale soon, via Parentmail.

There will be a tuck shop on the night selling drinks and sweets, so don't forget to bring some change as well as your dancing shoes!

Parents' Association Fun Family Race Night

Friday 8 November brings a new event for the Parents' Association. We will be holding a Fun Family Race Night to raise funds to pay for the little extras that enhance school life for our students.

Tickets for entry are only £2 for adults or children, you could also become a horse owner for £5 or sponsor a race for £20. Full details can be found on Parentmail.

Parents' Association AGM

Our AGM will be held on Monday 7th October at 7pm in the meeting room behind the school office. All committee roles are up for election and everyone is welcome to join us.

Christmas Raffle

Details of our Christmas Raffle appeal for prizes will be coming soon!

