



Headteacher's message

As our school year reaches its usual fast pace of the autumn term, we are beginning to gather attainment grades for all of the students that we will share with you very soon. We can already see that the students' learning and development is as impressive as ever as a result of the great support my colleagues give and the superb attitudes your children have.

We are constantly asking what more we can do to support our teachers and support staff, to help your children achieve their very best and you may recall that last year we went to great lengths to consult with the whole community about what we could do to make ICT better at The Blue Coat School. Using everybody's experiences, ideas and views we are to implement the most significant upgrade to ICT that The Blue Coat School has ever seen.

Over the coming year we will be working with our community and our ICT and construction partners to:

- replace our ICT infrastructure
- upgrade the ICT facilities in every classroom
- provide our workforce with more reliable and flexible devices
- move all staff and student files to a more secure and more accessible location
- provide state of the art printing and photocopying solutions
- re-develop and resource all of our computer science suites

We are really excited about these upcoming works, which we know will give your children and our staff the resources they deserve. We will update you as these works progress over the coming months.

M A Pennington
Headteacher

Governing Body Update

The Governing Body is currently making the necessary arrangements for the recruitment of a new Headteacher to take up post in September 2020. It is anticipated that we will look to hold interviews and make an appointment in March 2020.

We are pleased to see that the final part of our major refurbishment project is coming to an end with the completion of Shirley Hall, together with the reinstatement of the Willis Organ. This is now a fantastic space for use by all our students and our thanks should be passed on to all those who have contributed to this major project.

We have recently completed a workforce survey and in the coming weeks will be working with leaders and staff to celebrate our strengths and work together to identifying what we can do to be even better.

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[Term dates](#)

[Online calendar](#)

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[Requests for absence](#)

[Expectations](#)

[Examinations](#)

Key events: November and December 2019

12 November: Y13 Parents' evening

12-14 November: Y11 mock interviews

18 November: GCSE Prizegiving

29 November: Y9 and Y12 progress reports issued

11 December: Christmas lunch, Carol concert and Festive Music

13 December: Y7 & Y8 Progress Reports issued, Parent's Association Christmas raffle draw

20 December: Term ends at 1.40pm



Being prepared

It is always at this point of the year that a timely reminder about equipment is worth mentioning to both students and parents. From a well-stocked student in September, there now possibly seems to be the odd piece of equipment missing. Be it the ruler or the rubber, or indeed the sports sock that has gone missing, these are the items that are required in order for each student to be ready and appropriately prepared for their effective participation in any lesson activity. Using the right equipment clearly encourages our students into good habits, and it will be these habits which allow each of them to get the most out of their learning.

Homework

As a school we are always seeking to improve the experience of attending Blue Coat for all of our students. An important whole school priority this year is to review and develop the homework that your child receives across different subject teams. As a result, we are currently planning a full consultation which will involve investigating the views of staff, students and parents to find out how the School can best ensure that homework provision can more effectively and consistently support your child's learning and personal development.

Key Stage 4 – Student led assemblies

We have challenged Year 9 and Year 10 students this year to lead one assembly per form to their year group. 9BL felt so strongly about their chosen assembly charity - Claire House - that they went above and beyond. Every member of the form participated in both the preparation and delivery of the assembly, presenting it to every year group across a 2 week cycle. A big thank you to Form 9BL and Mrs Heery for their commitment to such a good cause.

Languages

We have had a great half term in Languages! It has been great to see many Year 12 students apply to become Language Prefects through writing a letter of application and we look forward to announcing appointments in the upcoming weeks (and handing out our very exciting Languages Prefect badges)! It will be fantastic to have committed and talented linguists representing the department and supporting clinics, societies and school events. From some of our older students to our youngest, it has been a smooth start for our Year 7s who have embraced learning two Languages with enthusiasm and determination and we look forward to seeing how much progress they make in the next half term.

We are also excited to announce that there are several Languages trips running again this year, thanks to our team of dedicated staff. Year 13 have the opportunity to attend Spanish and French cinema workshops in Manchester, which feeds directly into content on their course of analysing a film in the target language. We also have the widely popular trip to Madrid, Salou and our exchange with San Sebastian all running this year. ¡Qué suerte!

History

In September we participated in the Youth Parliament's 'Make Your Mark' initiative which saw us undertake an extensive consultation with the student body to identify the local and national issues that most concerned them. These results will then help to inform the agenda when the National Youth Parliament is next in session. Students at the Blue Coat identified that the environment, knife crime and homelessness were their chief areas of concern.

In November, eight of our Sixth Form students will be participating in the Liverpool chapter of the Model United Nations at the Town hall. Representing India and the Ukraine they will be debating climate change, digital responsibility and gender equality. In addition, four of our Year 13 students will be participating in the Lessons from Auschwitz project that is run by the Holocaust Education Trust. The students will have the opportunity to hear from a Holocaust survivor and attend a one day, non-residential visit to Poland to see Auschwitz-Birkenau for themselves. They will then act as student ambassadors sharing the lessons they have learned with the wider school community through a project in the spring term.

Art and Design Technology

The Art and Design Technology department are pleased to announce that from next year students will be able to select 'Food Preparation and Nutrition' as an option to study at GCSE.

Students will develop practical cookery skills and techniques as they explore the underlying principles of food science, nutrition, food traditions and food safety. The course will inspire your children to be inquisitive, creative and confident cooks. We expect this to be a highly subscribed option choice; course details, specification and more details is in the options booklet.



Library Lego

As part of our wellbeing initiative, we have introduced some classic Lego sets into the library for students to use outside of lesson time. The Lego has proved extremely popular with students from KS3 and KS4 creating towers, trains, forts and other compounds. One of the comments we have had from a Year 11 student is:-

"Lego is great in school because it is a stress reliever and it provides a chance to be creative."



Chemistry

Study sessions for the Chemistry Olympiad take place Thursdays after school in N10. All Year 13 Chemistry students are welcome to attend if they wish to.

Girls sport

Netball news so far:

- ❖ Year 7 success against St Hilda's (5-0) in their first league game.
- ❖ Year 9 won their first game and look forward to their next match against Broughton Hall.
- ❖ Year 11 and 10 success in a closely fought match against St Hilda's
- ❖ Good Luck to Year 11 competing in the National-Regional round at Wirral Grammar Girls.

Congratulations to two students (Year 9 & Year 10) who have been selected for the Merseyside Netball Team.

Boys Sport

Congratulations to the football teams competing in the ESFA National cup:

- ❖ Year 7 beat Ormiston HS 4-2 in their first fixture
- ❖ Year 8 beat Pensby HS and now play Ripley St Thomas, at home in the next round
- ❖ Year 9 beat Moorside, Salford to progress to round 3
- ❖ 1XI (u18s) were defeated by Upton HS, Chester 3-2

Congratulations also to the senior swimming team on reaching the Northwest finals.

Willis Organ

The return of our rare and historic Father Willis pipe organ was marked by a memorable event with 20 of the original 145-year-old pipes making a repeat journey by horse-drawn dray from the old School buildings (now Bluecoat arts centre) to the Wavertree site. The organ was regarded as being so valuable that, after 36 years in the old school, it was dismantled and brought by horse and dray to the present School in April 1906. For this journey back to our current school, Blue Coat's two leading organists (Y13 students) loaded the 20 restored pipes at Bluecoat arts centre on to a 1908 dray, led by two shire horses and driven by their owner Steve Ledsham. They were met by Joe Wakefield, of Henry Willis & Sons, which undertook the restoration. The event created a great deal of interest, with our students interviewed by BBC North West Tonight and ITV Granada Reports. If you missed ITV's report please click [here](#).

The eight-month restoration at Henry Willis' workshops was sponsored by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The reinstallation of 10,000 parts is now underway. The official unveiling will take place on Wednesday 29 January 2020, with a Celebratory Concert starring Prof Ian Tracey, (Liverpool Anglican Cathedral), and the newly formed [Blue Coat Community Choir](#), which will be combined with the School Choirs to create a joint force of more than 100 voices.

Parents' Association

Our KS4 Halloween disco, which was held on 24 October, was a great success this year. Lots of pupils came in fancy dress and enjoyed themselves immensely, the dance floor was full all night! Thank you to all who attended and to the staff and 6th formers who helped out on the evening. Over £200 was raised at this event.

Science Ceilidh

Using Scottish dancing to teach science is an imaginative combination which was witnessed here in school during October, as devised by Old Blue Lewis Hou (Class of 2008). As a neuro-scientist based in Edinburgh Lewis returned to school to deliver a series of fascinating Science Ceilidh workshops. These were part of our Blue Coat For All organ restoration project. Lewis worked alongside former Physics teacher Mr Caulkin to provide a great insight into the science and physics of sound, demonstrating how sound is created through a pipe organ. The 'slinky orchestra' was a real highlight, creating laser sound effects whilst singing along to the Star Wars theme tune being played on the Chapel organ.

The workshops welcomed 172 pupils from local primary and specialist schools, 40 neighbours from charity Liverpool Cares as well as 50 parents, Old Blues and friends of the School and 50 Year 7 Blue Coat students. In the few spare moments Lewis had he gave time to deliver two careers talks in the fields of psychology and neuro-science to our Sixth Form students.

Parents' Association Christmas Raffle

Our Christmas Raffle prize list is looking impressive and thanks are extended for the generous donations of prizes. Tickets will be sent home with students the week of 18 November so check those school bags and don't miss out. The Raffle draw will take place on Friday 13th December 2019.

Parents' Association family Race Night

The race night was held on Friday 8 November. The night was a huge success and we would like to thank all parents, friends and family who attended or sponsored, to the organisers Exclusive Race Nights, and offer warmest congratulations to all the winning owners.

Parents' Association

This month we are delighted to have donated £150 to the RS department to send Y8 students to an event run by Academy Conferences and £59 to co-fund the History department's 'lessons from Auschwitz' training course for students.

Parents' Association

The next PA meeting will be held on Monday 11 November at 7pm in the meeting room behind reception (main school entrance). Everyone is welcome to come along. We will be making the 100 Club October and November draws at this meeting and will inform winners via email.

