



# The Blue Coat School

Parent newsletter – January 2020

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## Acting Headteacher

As this newsletter demonstrates, in true Blue Coat style this first month of the Spring term has been a very busy one across many parts of the school community. Importantly our Year 11 and Year 13 students have completed their mock exams and for many their hard work has been rewarded in pleasing outcomes. Our pastoral and learning support teams have done a fantastic job of supporting students through this period if anxiety levels have risen. The photos to the right give you a flavour of the spectacular Celebratory Concert for the installation of the restored Father Willis Organ that took place on Wednesday 29 January. It was a wonderful concert with outside expert musicians contributing alongside our expert students, our excellent school choir and the newly formed community choir. A real showcase of talent.

There have been many other highlights from this month, and I hope you enjoy reading our updates as we recognise the continued hard work and commitment of staff, parents and governors as we work to provide excellent provision for our students.

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Acting Headteacher



## Governing Body Update

At the January meeting, all Governors were updated and provided with information on the following areas:

- ❖ a very informative Curriculum & T & L outcomes presentation by Miss Wilson (Head of Maths and Computing)
- ❖ consideration of the next Admissions Process 2021
- ❖ termly report on Student Welfare, Attendance and Behaviour
- ❖ relevant School Policy updates and approvals
- ❖ update on the recruitment process of a new Head Teacher; of which the application closing date is 30 January
- ❖ updated on the current position relating to the Articles of Association and approved the necessary actions

## General Reminders

**Morning drop-off and Afternoon pick-up:** We kindly ask all parents to continue to show courtesy to local residents in the school neighbourhood, during drop off and pick up at the start and end of the school day and during after-school events. Your continued support and awareness of other road users helps us in keeping your children as safe as possible at all times and shows courtesy by not parking across driveways or in 'no parking' bays. Please be assured that although the School has no power to monitor or control traffic on public highways, we continue to actively encourage our Blue Coat School community to show due consideration to our neighbours and other road users.

### Quick links

[Term dates](#)

[Online calendar](#)

[Clubs and Societies](#)

[Requests for absence](#)

[Expectations](#)

[Examinations](#)

[Key contacts](#)

## Key events: Spring term 2020

Monday 10 – Thursday 13 February	School show
Wednesday 12 February	Y9 HPV booster
Friday 14 February	Staff Development day – school closed to students
Thursday 27 February	Y12 Post-18 Options' evening 6.00pm
Friday 28 February	Y12 Progress reports issued
Monday 2 March	World Book Day   7pm PA meeting
Thursday 5 March	Careers' Fair 5pm – 7pm
Friday 6 March	Y8 full reports issued
Wednesday 11 March	Y11 Parents' evening 4.15pm
Friday 13 March	Y12 progress reports and Y13 full reports issued
Monday 16 – Friday 27 March	Founders' fortnight
Thursday 19 March	Intermediate Maths Challenge follow on round
Friday 20 March	Y11 English visiting theatre
Sunday 22 – Monday 23 March	European Youth Parliament
Thursday 26 March	Maths Relays
Friday 27 March	PA Quiz Night



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### Examination reflection

Over the last few weeks a lot of our students have been doing either a mock examination, or indeed some type of subject assessment. Although the build up to the test can often be challenging for the students, the greater challenge takes place after the test, and that is in the reflection of what areas they did well on and what they need to improve upon. Please encourage your child to take time and do this part of the examination process thoroughly, as it will be this that will benefit themselves most of all in the future.

### Intervention Strategies – supporting students

Students in Year 11 and Year 13 have recently sat their mock exams. In addition to providing our students with the opportunity to practice effective revision strategies and familiarising themselves with the challenge of external examinations, these mock exams also provide our teachers with useful information about progress and can highlight any misconceptions in students' understanding, allowing teachers to plan appropriate intervention strategies.

Over the coming months, we look forward to supporting our students to enable them all to achieve their potential.

### KS3 Achievement Assemblies

Key Stage 3 have recently had their first achievement assembly of the year, with many students being awarded badges for their excellent achievements so far; with over 75 badges being handed out across the Key Stage. These awards are for a combination of form academic awards from subject teachers and other sources such as recognition for good student habits, good attendance, behaviour and punctuality. Also awarded was the coveted 'Form of the Term' award, which this term went to 7Bi and 8SH. This award is for the form in each year group that has achieved the most points over the last term.

The Key Stage 3 Leadership team would like to congratulate all individuals that received badges and the two forms that were recognised as "Form of the Term"

### KS4 Achievement Assemblies

Key Stage 4 have held their termly achievement assemblies to recognise students across a variety of areas, including academic progress, good student habits, extra-curricular activities, subject nominations, and form tutor nominations.

Many thanks to all of the parents who submitted extra-curricular information which supports these assemblies. Both individual and form prizes were awarded, and we were pleased to give out 47 bronze badges, 24 silver, and 2 gold. Congratulations to 11BL, 10SH, and 9SH for winning the 'Form of the Term' prize for each year group.

### KS5 – Year 12 Cyber Champions

Our Year 12 students who have signed up to be Cyber Champions have recently received their official training which was provided by our local PCSO. This training will enable them to guide our younger students with safe use of social media, the internet and computers in general.

### CIAG in Years 8, 11, 12 and 13

A high number of students are focussing on what they need to support their future plans; Year 8 are researching and choosing their GCSEs, Year 11 their post-16 plans and Year 12 are working on their post-18 options.

Congratulations goes to all those involved in the UCAS process for 2020: 171 applications were processed, including current Year 13 students and those from previous years who had taken a gap year. This was an amazing team effort in which many parts of the school community worked together to support Year 13 in their choices. We look forward to celebrating Year 13 offers!

### Learning Support

The School was delighted to welcome Margie Kelly from the ASD Training Team for an informal question and answer coffee afternoon this month. The session offered parents of children who may be exploring, undergoing assessment or have a confirmed diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Condition, the chance to seek advice and guidance from the ASD Training Team, as well as come together to share in their experiences. We were delighted to be able to organise and host this event; parents found the session to be a really positive experience, with many requesting further events, addressing a variety of areas. Learning Support are keen to develop more regular opportunities for both school and families to work together in supporting students and are already planning our next event.

If you have any questions or queries regarding your child and Autism, or might be interested in future events, please do not hesitate to get in contact with Charlie Cobain: [c.cobain@bluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:c.cobain@bluecoatschool.org.uk).



### **Celebratory Concert, 29 January**

The 115 combined voices of the new Blue Coat School Community Choir and the School Choir raised the roof of Shirley Hall with Handel's Hallelujah Chorus to celebrate the restoration of our historic Father Willis organ. An enthusiastic audience enjoyed this once-in-a-lifetime occasion to mark our 145-year-old organ's first full restoration, which was undertaken by its original builder, Henry Willis & Sons, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

This was central part of the Blue Coat for All project and the concert, hosted by BBC Radio Merseyside's Roger Phillips, featured the School's top two organists, Daniel Greenway and Simon Cheung and Liverpool Anglican Cathedral Director of Music, Lee Ward. Top of the solo organists' bill was the internationally renowned City of Liverpool organist Ian Tracey, who was also tutored on our Father Willis organ. The new School Community Choir (part of the Blue Coat for All project), was trained and conducted by Metropolitan Cathedral Director of Music Christopher McElroy. The Blue Coat Senior Choir, conducted by Mr Emery, performed two pieces and also performed with the Community choir to get the concert off to a flying start with Jerusalem. Our first two Blue Coat Organ Scholars, George Ke and Olivia Stone were also introduced; each having received a 5-year scholarship funded by the Young Organ Scholars' Trust, thanks to the generosity of Liverpool businessman Keith Simpson.

We hope this will herald a new era of many public organ and choral concerts in Shirley Hall and the School Chapel, using our other Walker pipe organ.

#### **First Lego League**

On Tuesday 14 January a team of seven Year 8 students went to UCLAN, Preston to take part in the First Lego League competition. This is the first time we have entered the competition, aimed at ages 9-16, and students had to design, build and program a Lego robot to complete a series of missions.

The team were judged on the three areas of Core Values, Innovation, and Robot Design. Overall the team came a very creditable third, with older teams taking the top two places. However, they were awarded first place in the Core Values section which judged their teamwork, inclusion and impact. Well done to the team.

#### **Ritangle / Maths Bombe**

Ritangle is a maths competition aimed at teams of Sixth form students, running over approximately 10 weeks in the Autumn term. It's made up of 25 questions which unlock clues necessary to solve the final multi-part question. Year 12 Further Mathematicians spent a lot of time working collaboratively on their answers to this competition, completing all 25 problems and a final multi-part question from November to January. The students were one of only 45 teams to successfully answer all questions and the final tiebreaker correctly. Congratulations to all students involved.

Students have been enrolling in teams of 4 for the Maths Bombe competition run by Manchester University which started on 29 January.

#### **Senior Kangaroo**

On Friday 1 December, 21 students sat the Senior Kangaroo Maths competition, a follow-on round from the SMC. Congratulations to all students who qualified for this round and particularly to those 6 students across Year 11 – Year 13 who achieved a Merit in this competition.

#### **British Maths Olympiad Round 1**

On Friday 1 December a record 5 Blue Coat students from Year 11 – Year 13 sat the BMO round 1. One Year 11 and two Year 13 gained Merits with a Year 12 and a Year 13 each gaining a Distinction. Congratulations to all students and particularly our Year 12 student who qualified for the British Maths Olympiad Round 2 held on Thursday 30 January.

#### **Sport**

The U14 Boys Football team have reached the last 16 of the ESFA National Football competition and will play Turton school away this coming Friday 7 February – Good luck to the team!

Good luck also goes to our Year 7, 8 and 9 Girls Netball teams who have all reached the semi-finals of the Liverpool Netball League.



### Languages

In Languages, over the past week, we have had around 40 French sixth form students visit The Blue Coat School from Le lycée Frédéric Bazille-Agropolis in Montpellier. They have been shadowing some of our lovely Year 12 students, who have kindly allowed them to spend their lessons and study periods, as well as lunchtime together. Our younger pupils were also able to benefit from this excellent opportunity, as some French students attended their lessons to share with them about life in France and give them an extra helping hand with their grammar and pronunciation. It has been amazing to see our students chat about life in both French and English, learning about each other's cultures and the similarities and differences between school life in France and in England. It was especially pleasing to hear about our French students being taken to sample some proper northern fish and chips at lunchtime by our sixth formers! Délicieux!

#### National Cipher Challenge / Alan Turing Cryptography Competition

During the autumn term, Year 7 and Year 8 Maths and Computing students were regularly engaged in the Cipher Club, cracking codes set as part of the National Cipher Challenge.

This was excellent preparation for the Alan Turing Competition which started on Monday 27 January. Students have organised their teams and registered for this competition.

#### Cyberfirst Girls Competition

This competition is for Year 8 girls and ran for one week in January. Teams of four students competed to solve a number of problems in the field of Cyber Security. High scoring teams will be invited to attend the semi-finals in February.

#### Raspberry Pi Competition

After their success of last year, Year 11 students are once again entering a team for the Raspberry Pi competition. We look forward to what they will produce in response to this year's challenge.

#### Christmas Markets – Monday 16 December 2019

Around 30 Year 9 students supported by staff, immersed themselves in helping to raise money for the worthy charity [Friends of Kipkelion](#). The students set up and ran a range of festive stalls in Shirley Hall to raise money for the charity which helps and supports underprivileged people in Kenya. The event enabled the students to develop some excellent enterprise skills whilst raising a fantastic £800. Well done to all students involved.

#### Trips and Opportunities

Over the February half term students across different year groups, accompanied by members of staff, will enjoy trips to Holland, Italy, Paris and New York. We wish all students and staff safe journeys and look forward to hearing about their experiences after half term.

#### Parents' Association

The Parents' Association are looking forward to lending a hand at this year's highly anticipated school performance of Legally Blonde. We will be in The Old Blues Corridor on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, serving refreshments in exchange for a donation, and once again selling freshly made popcorn. Popcorn will also be available to buy on Monday's 'Student Only' night.

This month the PA has donated funds to the Art Department to buy a Visualiser, enabling practical demonstrations in lessons. We have also given to the English Department to pay for a visiting author workshop. These initiatives were co-funded with the Development Office.

#### Parents' Association Quiz Night *Save the Date* Friday 27 March 2020

We are currently organising a Quiz night for later this term and look forward to sharing details of the event soon.

#### Parents' Association Meetings

Our next PA meetings are this evening, 3 February and after that; 2 March, both starting at 7pm in the school meeting room (behind the school office). Everyone is very welcome to join us.

The PA appreciates the support of all parents and we welcome your comments and ideas. Please note you can contact us at [parentsassociation@bluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:parentsassociation@bluecoatschool.org.uk) or on Twitter [@bluecoatPA](#).

