



# The Blue Coat School

## Parent newsletter – February 2020

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### Headteacher

Again we have had a very busy few weeks here at Blue Coat and we hope the updates in this newsletter give you a good flavour of this.

The photo to the left of the school show features the school show cast, one of the main highlights of February. This was an impressive production and huge team effort from staff and students. It was a key opportunity for students to take key leadership roles and develop their talents which produced a wonderful show. Continuing the same theme of extra-curricular opportunities during February half term staff led 4 overseas trips; History trip to Paris, Business trip to New York, Football tour to the Netherlands and a ski trip to Italy. These were fantastic experiences for our students.

Talking about Italy.....I am grateful for the support given and the sensible approach by parents as we all try and manage the evolving situation regarding the Coronavirus. I would like to reiterate that we have the students' safety and learning needs at the forefront of our attention and preparations.

Ms Scilla Yates  
**Headteacher**



### Trustee Update:

We are pleased to be able to share the latest summary from the Trustee Board, which provides you with an overview of the things that we are considering at our meetings and what our current priorities are. The update is available on our [school website](#).

### General:

**Corona Virus Updates:** These will be shared via parentmail and a link to the latest update will be available on the [school website homepage](#).

**Sport Relief 2020:** To support this year's Sport Relief Day, Friday 13 March will be a non-uniform day. The students are asked to make a voluntary contribution of £2.00 each, with all monies raised going to Sport Relief. You are welcome to find out more about what the fundraising monies help toward [here](#).

**Options Forms deadline:** A helpful reminder that completed Option forms for all Year 8 and Year 11 students are to be returned to Form Tutors by Thursday 26 March.

**Spring term:** The last day of spring term is Friday 3 April and all students return for the summer term on Monday 20 April.

#### Quick links

[Term dates](#)

[Online calendar](#)

[Clubs and Societies](#)

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#### Key events: March 2020

Wednesday 11 March  
Friday 13 March

Monday 16 – Friday 27 March  
Thursday 19 March  
Friday 20 March  
Sunday 22 – Monday 23 March  
Thursday 26 March

Friday 27 March

Y11 Parents' evening  
Sport Relief non-uniform day  
Y11 Physics Olympiad  
Y12 progress reports and Y13 full reports issued  
Founders' fortnight  
Intermediate Maths Challenge follow on round  
Y11 English visiting theatre  
European Youth Parliament  
Maths Relays  
Tod Scholarship interviews for Y12 applicants  
Y8 and Y11 options form return deadline  
Blue Coat students depart for San Sebastian  
Y10 progress reports issued

### Duke of Edinburgh

The DofE season is upon us. Bronze Y9 expeditions start this term, followed by Silver Y10 and Gold Y12 expeditions. At the beginning of term, all Y9 bronze participants took part in a full training day. Students covered essential camp craft techniques, first aid and route planning in preparation for their first expedition. On the expedition, students have to carry their rucksack, navigate to a certain point, and take responsibility for their cooking, water and most importantly: themselves. Independence is a great life skill to achieve. Working as a team is also an important part of DofE. Navigating, pitching a tent and looking after each other all involve working together as a team. Developing these skills might just give students the edge over other applicants for University and employment. Employers highly respect the Award. It demonstrates a rounded, confident individual who can work independently and as part of a team. The award will give students an extra step ahead for the chance of success. The key dates to remember are:

PRACTICE	QUALIFIER
Bronze: 21 <sup>st</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Bronze: 25 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> April
Silver: 5 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Silver: 26 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> June
Gold: 1 <sup>st</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Gold: 21 <sup>st</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> May

Should you have any queries regarding any level of the award please contact Mrs Baker on [j.baker@bluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:j.baker@bluecoatschool.org.uk)

### Eswatini World Challenge

52 Y10, 11 and 12 students are undergoing their final preparations for their once in a life time trip to Eswatini (formally Swaziland) in July. All students took part in a training weekend in November where they met their World Challenge leader and got to know their team and itinerary. Students have been meeting up weekly to plan their expedition and delegate tasks. They will engage in the community where they will immerse themselves in the unique opportunity to support the growing number of orphaned and vulnerable children through a community project. The students will then trek through the Ngwempisi Gorge and will take part in the Malotoja Canopy tour. To relax and rest, they will go on safari through the Hlane Royal National Park. Upon return, this experience will inspire our students to continue the pursuit of positive global citizenship as well as holistically, socially and morally developing the students.

### Languages

We've had a busy term so far in Languages! It has been really pleasing to see how Y11 and Y13 students have engaged with their mock exams. With speaking mocks nearly finished, it'll be time to start preparing for the real thing! Our staff have been working extremely hard to support all students as best they can, offering lunch time sessions each week, and we are really grateful for all their hard work! We are also really looking forward to our exchange trip to San Sebastien for Y12 students run by Mr O'Brien. This has been a trip that has run for many years and has been exceedingly successful, we've already had the Spanish students stay with us, so now it's our students' turn to practice their Language skills, try new cuisine and enjoy a very different climate!

### Biology Olympiad

The Biology department entered several students into the Biology Olympiad last half term where they competed with 9520 students from around the world. The competition allows them to expand and extend their talents in the subject away from the confines of A Level. Congratulations to 9 of our Year 13 students who achieved gold, silver and bronze awards.

Thank you to all students who competed and special thanks to Mrs Bruce for her efforts in supporting the competition.

### Geography: Iceland Trip

The Geography department have organised an exciting opportunity for current Year 8 students (who intend on studying geography GCSE) and Year 9 GCSE geography students to visit Iceland in the summer of 2021.

The tour will include a Golden Circle Day including a visit to the famous Gullfoss waterfall, Strokkur geyser, a visit to Hellisheidi Power Plant and Kerid volcano. This will give students a greater understanding of key geographical features studied at GCSE. It will provide an insight into the ability of Iceland which sits on a plume of magma to harness the natural energy within the earth to power the entire country. The South Shore Day will include a visit to Skógafoss & Seljalandsfoss waterfalls and to see the dramatic Reynishverf & Dyrhólaey coasts. The highlight will be a swim in the geo-thermally heated blue lagoon and the chance to carry out a glacier walk, this will highlight to students the power of ice to shape the earth.



### Football tour to Holland

During February half term, members of our Year 8 football team took to the road for their first Football tour. Their 3 day tour included a training session like no other, after the final session on the Monday, former PSV, Manchester United and Holland international player Ruud van Nistelrooy shared advice and support to our talented players at PSV Eindhoven's training ground and was kind enough to take a photo with the students.

The trip was a fantastic experience for both students and staff. The 5-day trip was extremely busy, but equally rewarding for the boys as they experienced 4 training sessions with elite coaches at De Herdgang, PSV's state of the art training facility. The team played two U13 fixtures against local clubs with fantastic facilities and great heritage. One 9-a-side match against 'Quick 1888' and one 11-a-side against 'SC Woezik'. We are pleased to say that both Blue Coat teams won their games; 3-2 and 2-1 respectively.

The boys were also lucky enough to go on an all-access tour of the Philips Stadion, PSV museum and attended a league fixture in the Eredivisie, Den Haag v PSV at the Cars Jeans Stadion. The HUP hotel provided the students with an excellent platform to call home, the hotel facilities included; indoor football courts, tennis & basketball courts, gym, indoor bowling alley and swimming pool; they had plenty to keep them entertained. Overall the students have not only developed their footballing skills but have enjoyed a once in a lifetime experience and created memories which will last a lifetime.

### Intermediate Maths Challenge

The Intermediate Maths Challenge for Years 9-11 took place on Thursday 6 February and Blue Coat students gave an impressive and record breaking performance achieving 56 Gold, 83 Silver and 81 Bronze certificates; an amazing 220 certificates.

In addition, a phenomenal 73 students qualified for the follow-on rounds; 9 for the Intermediate Olympiad (a 2 hour paper consisting of 6 maths problems requiring full written solutions) and 64 for the Intermediate Kangaroo (a 1 hour paper consisting of 25 multiple choice maths problems). Both the competitions take place on Thursday 19 March. Particular congratulations go to the 2 students (Y11 & 9) who were 'Best in School' and the Y10 student who was 'Best in Year'.

Special mention must also go to our Year 8 student who not only achieved a Gold certificate but also qualified for the Intermediate Olympiad, and to a Year 7 who achieved a Bronze certificate.

*Well done to all students and good luck for the follow-on rounds!*

### Senior Maths Team Challenge

On Tuesday 4 February, the Senior Mathematics Team Challenge Final was held at the Royal Horticultural Halls, Westminster, London. Over 80 teams were present on the day representing a variety of state and independent schools. The school team comprised of two Y13 students and two Y12 students. They had an early start at Lime Street and spent the journey to Euston productively putting the final touches to their entry for the Poster Competition! After four gruelling rounds, the team finished in 58th place.

*Congratulations to all four students, and thanks to Mr York for accompanying the team.*

### British Maths Olympiad Round 2

On Thursday 30 January a Year 12 student sat the British Maths Olympiad Round 2. This is a 3½ hour paper consisting of 4 maths problems requiring full written solutions sat by only 100 students nationally. He is the first Blue Coat Student in recent times to qualify for this round and is congratulated on achieving an impressive Certificate of Merit.

### Key Stage 3 Reading Club

A reading club is up and running for Key Stage 3. Students who wish to participate should see Holly Hunter in Year 12. Suggestions for books that the group could read in the future would be most welcome. World Book Day on Thursday 5 March, featured a form-time quiz and a shared read, where students read a section of a short story at the start of each lesson.

On Friday 13th March, Year 7 will enjoy a visit from renowned author Matthew Dryzmala who will work with the students to enhance their creative writing skills. Later this month we are hoping to welcome Ginificent, a theatre group who will perform "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" for Year 11 students. Year 11 will also benefit from the visit of two Old Blues who will address them about careers with English A Level or degree level study.



### Upcoming Art Practical Examinations – A helpful reminder

GCSE Art students will be completing their 10 hour exam piece, the culmination of many weeks of research and development, and worth 40% of the final grade awarded. Students will produce their final response over 2 full days when they will be off timetable from their usual lessons. Students will be grouped and advised of their specific days in the coming weeks, but please note this will be in the week beginning 20 April. If you have any questions, please contact Mr Cain at [m.cain@bluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:m.cain@bluecoatschool.org.uk)

#### Exam dates

Tuesday 21 April:	GCSE Art
Friday 24 April:	GCSE Art
Monday 4 May:	A Level Art
Tuesday 5 May:	A Level Art
Wednesday 6 May:	A Level Art

### Parents' Association

The Parents' Association is a registered charity and all funds raised are spent solely on extras to enhance the students' time at The Blue Coat. At the moment we are looking for ideas and bids from the whole school community including student councils, 6th form and school departments and welcome all suggestions. Please feel free to email us at:

[parentsassociation@bluecoatbluecoatschool.org.uk](mailto:parentsassociation@bluecoatbluecoatschool.org.uk)

or come along to our next meeting on Monday 23 March at 7pm in the meeting room behind the school office.

### Parents' Association 100 Club

The March and April 100 club draws will be made at our next meeting and lucky winners will be contacted via email.

### Parents' Association Donations

This month we have donated funds towards the World Book Day Murder Mystery event and recently donated £500 to the 2021 School show.

