



Founded 1708

## The Blue Coat School

An Academy 'Leaders in Science and Mathematics'

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Chair of the Foundation  
The Trust Board and the Members Group  
Liverpool Blue Coat Old Blues' Association  
Old Blues  
Parents  
Students  
Staff

10 June 2020

Dear All,

We are writing to you in the light of recent events and issues that have been brought to the forefront through the *Black Lives Matter* campaign.

The *Black Lives Matter* campaign calls for all organisations of every kind to challenge themselves to reflect upon and review behaviours, cultures and practices within them. The Blue Coat School has a responsibility to do this too.

Specifically, we have become aware of a petition that has been launched in relation to the background and history of one of the founders of The Blue Coat School, Bryan Blundell.

For your information, here is the link:

<https://bit.ly/2MN2VuF>

Additionally, we have received an open letter from Old Blues and current students of the school, which further raises concerns that people have regarding the background of our co-founder, Blundell. The letter is available to you on the link below:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1p5TNSdh4uGAGLvJgZTwhfj9THCYdK6T9V8Y6I-MSe60/mobilebasic>

Bryan Blundell was naval captain and Mayor of Liverpool, a slave trader and philanthropist. It is clear from historical documents that he made money during the early part of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, as part of the transatlantic slave trade activity. Following this, he founded the original Blue Coat School for poor and orphaned children in Liverpool city centre. This is the origins of the Liverpool Blue Coat School as we know it today.

The Blue Coat School today recalls Blundell's memory in a number of ways. We have a House and a Suite named after him; his memorial stone lies in the School Chapel, and once a year, the school gathers to celebrate its founders and heritage in what is called "Founders' Fortnight".

We therefore believe it is right to lead a consultation with all stakeholder groups on the removal of the name *Blundell* as one of our House names and for other uses.

The Blue Coat community is wide and includes many groups of people and we wish to consult as widely as possible.

We will be in touch with parents, students, staff, past students and supporters of the school in the near future regarding your views as part of the consultation.

We are very proud of the rich diversity of culture and background that exists amongst our student body and of the positive way students embrace difference in each other. Nevertheless, as a school we believe we can do much better in promoting equality and celebrating diversity of all kinds.

To that end the Headteacher has already communicated to all students and staff that she would like to take further steps within the school itself. The senior leaders and other staff will be exploring ways of reviewing current practices, behaviours and cultures and how we present our history and heritage. In addition they will be considering how we can educate students more specifically about all aspects of diversity, with a particular focus on the key issues surrounding the *Black Lives Matter* movement.

This exploration will be carried out with representatives of the student body over the next few weeks. It is well known that our students' passion and leadership has the ability to make positive changes to the school community and beyond. It is important therefore that staff work closely with the students to secure these important changes.

Yours faithfully,

Martin Hill  
Chair of the Trust Board

Scilla Yates  
Head Teacher

