



The Blue Coat School

An Academy 'Leaders in Science and Mathematics'

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Thursday 4th March 2021

Re: The Blundell Review

Dear School community,

I would like to update you with the significant progress that has been made these past few months regarding 'The Blundell Review'. Following on from the Discussion Group Meeting which took place in November 2020 with various representatives from the School community, an [update](#) was sent out to give an overview of the recommendations made by the Discussion Group in terms of next steps.

Below you will find a list of these recommendations, followed by an overview of progress made to date against each of these.

1. *Remove Bryan Blundell's name from the Bistro so that the bistro will now be known as 'The Bistro' and the signage will be changed to reflect this.*

Progress: The bistro is now known as 'The Bistro' and the signage has been replaced to reflect this.

2. *Retain the portrait of Blundell in the Robert Styth Study Library and the Memorial Stone in the Chapel, but add further information in the form of a plaque to provide further information on Blundell so that they can be used as an educational tool.*

Progress: A plaque will be placed alongside the portrait and memorial stone. The wording of this will be agreed upon when recommendation no. 4 has been completed.

3. *Regarding house names, the group was mostly in agreement with the petitioners and students in the call to rename the Blundell house. A review of all the house names will now take place and it is our intention that this complex project be student-led.*

Progress: A working group of Year 13 students, led by myself and history teacher Ms Holland, have made significant progress regarding the house name review. We are pleased to confirm that Tod house, the most recent house to be named in 2017, will remain. The Tod family have supported the School since the 1950s and the family remain

committed to the School today, and we are delighted they continue to be recognised for their ongoing support through the naming of Tod house.

With regards to the remaining five houses, as an initial step the group has been working to identify key attributes and values that personify Blue Coat, and all of our staff and students have inputted on what these key attributes and values should be. The next step in the process will now be for our students to make recommendations on individuals that represent these attributes and values. Recommendations will be made against key criteria and we are looking forward to involving all of our students in this process. We are working towards a timescale of having the new house names agreed by the summer term to enable us to prepare to start the new academic year from September 2021 with the new house names.

4. *Create an agreed way for the School to talk about Blundell moving forwards, in terms of educating students and talking about the School's heritage with the School community and wider community. This requires significant research and the compilation of a variety of sources and again we hope that our students will lead on this initiative.*

Progress: History and politics teacher Dr Paul Wainwright is leading a rigorous research project with our Sixth Form History Society students. The society are working through different research phases, looking at Bryan Blundell in the wider context of the history of Liverpool. The group are also benefiting from expertise provided by several members of the Blundell Discussion Group, including Bryan Biggs from the Bluecoat art centre, as the School and art centre look to work together on the key messages that can be shared about the origin of the School. The Society are also looking forward to meeting with local academic Michelle Girvan, who is doing a collaborative doctoral award with University of Liverpool and the Bluecoat art centre looking at Liverpool's eighteenth-century mercantile environment during which the school was founded and grew.

The outcome of this research project will be an agreed way of telling the history of the School and its founders, the agreed text for the plaques to go alongside Bryan Blundell's portrait and memorial stone, and a plan to support recommendation no.5 as below.

5. *Ensure that all students of the School are more aware of the School's history, through the induction process and teaching on the history curriculum.*

Progress: We are currently exploring how we can integrate the history of the School more in to our student and staff inductions, curriculum and enrichment. We plan to implement these from September 2021 onwards, drawing on the research project being led by Dr Wainwright and the History Society.

6. *Continue Founders Week as an educational opportunity for students to learn about the heritage of the School, so that the School is not 'celebrating' our Founder but teaching our students about our history in an open and honest way. We will be exploring with our students how this week could be improved to focus more on the wider heritage of the School with a possible change in name.*

Progress: We would usually celebrate Founders Week during March each year but have postponed this to the Summer Term for this academic year. This will give us the chance to



look at how we can utilise the research carried out by the History Society to engage all of our students in the history of the School and its founders, in a more open and honest way.

As you will see, we have made some great progress with the recommendations made by the Discussion Group in November, despite the challenges and restrictions of the ongoing pandemic! It has been wonderful to see our students be so actively involved in the process. I will, as ever, ensure that I continue to update the School community as the review progresses.

Yours sincerely,



Scilla Yates
Headteacher

