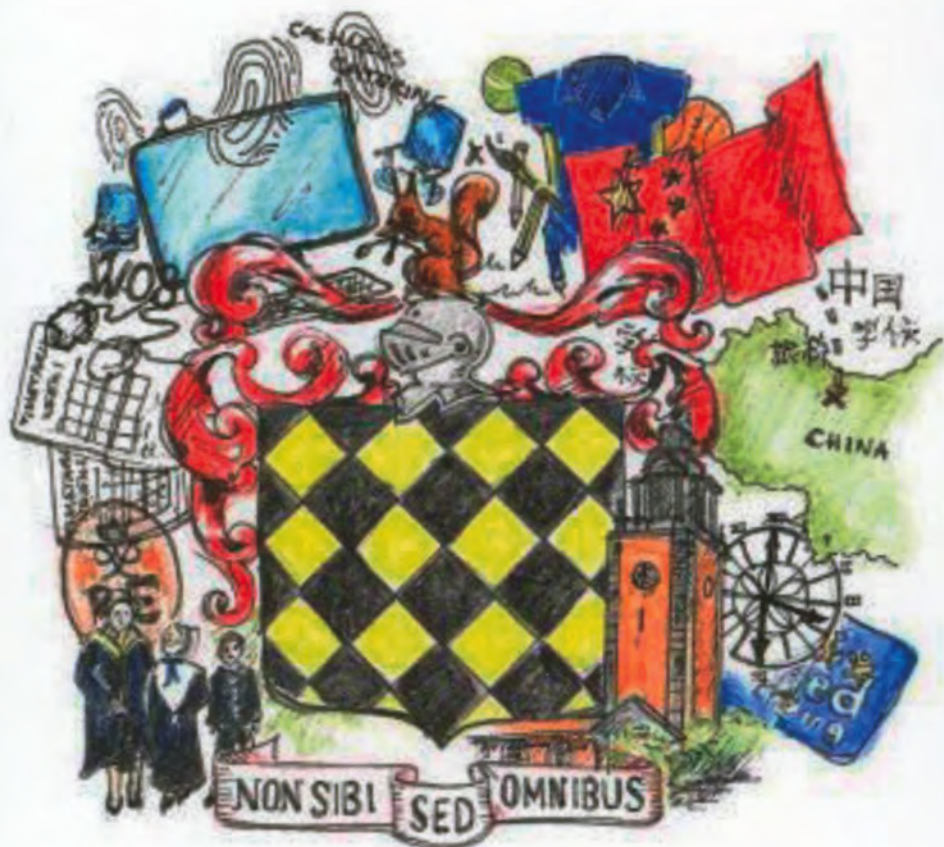


The Squirrel



2014/2015
The Liverpool Blue Coat School

The Team

Our Editorial Team includes students from a range of Year Groups. Whilst the whole team meets to discuss layout and content, each member is also responsible for an aspect of the magazine. We hope you enjoy the magazine and look forward to your ideas and suggestions for the next edition.

Front Cover Design Concept

This design concept looks at and celebrates the array of developments and changes that Mrs Silcock has overseen during her time at Blue Coat. Many of these achievements have benefitted staff and students past and present, and will continue to impact the lives of the Blue Coat community in the future. From the editorial team of The Squirrel 2015, we wish Mrs Silcock the very best of luck in her future endeavours.

Thank You to:

Squirrel Magazine Artwork courtesy of Helena Beese

Squirrel Magazine Photography and Articles courtesy of the
Staff and Students of The Blue Coat School

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Editorial

This edition of The Squirrel has been eventful to say the least with new members, new ideas and the return of some familiar faces. We have had our ups and downs with complications but we finally made it through and here it is! As last year's edition set the standard high, we had big shoes to fill but with a new editorial team and the return of the Squirrel's most prestigious member, we managed to create a magazine that we are all proud of. We decided to change a few things this year which included having a Fun Stuff section, which incorporates many amusing anecdotes of our teachers and a variety of other fun games. The editorial team this year started off with not enough seats for everyone in the 'Wow' room but as time progressed this was no longer an issue. Nevertheless the team ploughed through and with the addition of new squirrel badges and an official squirrel mascot, The Squirrel 2015 was complete. Our time management skills were pushed to the maximum when we had to juggle editing the school magazine with hosting a full school production of the X-Factor, which included some divas who would give Simon Cowell a run for his money.

It was great to see everyone working together to produce this edition of The Squirrel, even though members began to drop like flies as exam season approached. We have thoroughly enjoyed editing The Squirrel this year and we look forward to producing another one next year.

We hope that you have enjoyed reading this edition as much as we have enjoyed making it

This year's Squirrel Magazine in numbers...

36 members at the start.



7 times Mrs O'Rourke
changed her hair.



3 ideas for next years' Squirrel
before finishing this one.



2 month mental block



1 new badge
and mascot.



89 emails sent to the
Squirrel Email.



27 trips to Home & Bargain

home **bargains**

A new record of **36** members
present at one meeting.

12 'Final Versions'
folders created on
Dropbox



1 Squirrel Veteran
returning.

3
Remain



What difficulties did you face as first female head teacher?

Quite honestly it didn't occur to me at the time that I was the first female head teacher, although quite a bit was made of it in the press, as it hadn't occurred to me so I don't think I faced any more difficulties than any other head teacher – which is a difficult enough task in itself.

How has your life changed since you became head?

I am incredibly busy, but at different times of the day; quite often, I'll have an ordinary day at school, and then I have a series of meetings from 4:30 onwards, which is quite normal. If I have 2 meetings, I will try to slip another one in the middle to make it more efficient, so the days can be quite long sometimes.

What was your first impression of Blue Coat when you first came?

I came for interview in April 2003 to become the Deputy Head, and I was working in a grammar school in West Kirby which was a mixture of old and new, similar to here. At that point, Blue Coat was different because it was having brand new areas built, so some of it looked a bit like a building site. The old parts were looking a little decrepit and it was planned for refurbishment, so it was easy to see things improving, but I could also see things that needed improving too. I really liked the people I met here – the Head Boy and Head Girl showed me around and they were just delightful. I recognised the type of students they were because I'd had a similar type of student in my previous school, which was predominantly a boys' school with girls in the sixth form; similar to how Blue Coat was at that time, as the girls were just being integrated into Years 7 and 8.

What roles have you had since you started?

I came in 2003 and started as Deputy Head. My job at that point here was curriculum, so I learnt to timetable, and the model that is in action now is the one that I introduced – having been refined and improved by Mr Shipgood since! I learnt a lot about different types of people here too, and I learnt that Liverpool children are very different to Wirral children. They've got much more to say for themselves, and the children in Blue Coat are all very accommodating and good, yet they've always got to have something to say! I love that, I absolutely love the banter, I think it's brilliant. So I learnt a lot about putting curriculum changes through as part of being Deputy Head, and I suppose it was my responsibility for implementing the two-year Key Stage 3 and three-year Key Stage 4 that we have now. Also, the two-week timetable and hour-long lessons were all my responsibility as well, and I taught a few students at A-level Maths too. I really enjoyed it, and I think that having that knowledge enabled me to apply for the Headship – I think without it, I probably wouldn't have applied.

An Interview with Mrs Silcock Continued

What's your favourite film and why?

I have what I would call my "feel-good" film, so if I'm feeling tired or a bit lazy, it's the one that always lifts my spirits, and that's "Pretty Woman", which is ridiculous! In the end though, it's a feel-good film. At the time, I really enjoyed "Star Wars" – the trilogy, because that's all it was at the time! I like thrillers, and I really liked "Pride" as well, which I watched recently on a plane. I liked it because I have a Welsh background and basically I could see exactly how it worked – I could genuinely associate with the 70/80s and the people. I like things that make me feel good, basically.

What's your ideal holiday destination?

Okay, I really like travelling, and I suppose holidays are my number one indulgence. At that point, I'd like to go to Australia and see all the different aspects of it. I'm equally fascinated about India too. I've read a lot of novels to do with India so there's part of me that knows that visiting there would be a great experience; yet not all parts would be enjoyable. I do like places that make me think.

What else do you like to do in your spare time?

I'm quite a social person, so I have a group of friends that I go walking with every Sunday. I like to go to the theatre, and I recently enjoyed the show based on the Kinks when I saw it at the West End, which shows how old I am! I obviously have my family as well. I like to be sociable, and I don't like sitting still – in fact I'm not very good at sitting still – so I prefer to be active and doing things with people. In my quiet time however, I always want to read. I'm going to be predictable and say that my favourite books are books that make me think. I loved "Pride and Prejudice" and "Great Expectations". I also enjoy history novels, and I enjoy Hilary Mantel and CJ Sansom. Interestingly though, the thing that I think I've grown to appreciate more than anything in this school is music. I haven't got a musical bone in my body, and I think I can sing but I can't, but I do like music, and I've really learnt to enjoy and appreciate music while being here. In fact, I've also learnt to enjoy opera, because it's active, lively, edgy music!

If you were on Stars in Your Eyes, who would you like to be and why?

Okay, just bear in mind my earlier comment of "I haven't got a musical bone in my body", but I quite like the big showy numbers, so someone like Shirley Bassey or Gloria Gaynor who really gives it all that!



Having worked with Mrs Silcock since 2006, both when she was a Deputy Headteacher here, and as Headteacher, I suppose that I am in as good a position as anyone to say what her qualities are. I will have to keep this brief because, above all, she hates people praising her, and really doesn't appreciate time being applied to such things about her when it could be applied to others!

The key things that many of you don't know about Mrs Silcock include the fact that she has a phenomenal and precise memory which leaves me astounded. She knows almost all of the students, both past and present, and can remember details about their achievements, what they said and did, that never ceases to be amazing. Her unfailing optimism and encouragement of children and colleagues has been a feature of her leadership, and she has used all her wisdom and energy for the service of this School community in an admirable way. I have never yet worked with anyone who works so long so patiently, so methodically and so hard. Above all else Mrs Silcock is a remarkably disciplined, kind, generous and dedicated professional who has used her many talents, often quietly, to advance the status, reputation and quality of the many aspects of this School and the education it provides in ways far too numerous to mention.

Mrs Silcock loves to travel, and there is much of the world that she wants to see and learn about. That brain of hers will relish constant new learning, new projects, new experiences and ideas. On behalf of all of the Squirrel's readers, I wish her a very interesting, long, happy, healthy and above all well deserved retirement after 35 years' dedicated service to improving the education of young people both here and elsewhere.

Fond farewells...



How long have been at Blue Coat and what posts have you occupied?

I was the citizenship teacher for the KS3 and KS4 classes over the last school year and I also taught French at KS3.

How did you find your time at Blue Coat?

Absolutely great! I enjoyed every minute.

What are your favourite memories of Blue Coat that you hold?

Highly focused, able and curious pupils that are a pleasure to teach and pleasant staff who are very approachable, helpful and fun to talk to.

What is your favourite thing about Blue Coat?

Teachers and pupils are treated like responsible individuals which helps creativity bloom and allows them to teach and learn at their best.

Is there anything (within reason) that you don't miss about Blue Coat?

I gave up on my packed lunches in the last two weeks to try the canteen food. I found it a little dull at times, with the vegetables being sometimes overcooked and the food lacking in seasoning. Now being French with a strong preference for healthy Mediterranean food... I think we need bring in Jamie Oliver.

What is your funniest memory of Blue Coat?

After I just met the previous citizenship teacher, she told me she needed the box with the pair of balls (you read it correctly) and that she would give them back to me at a later stage. I wasn't quite sure what to think. Eventually it all became reassuring clear for everyone once she delivered her speech at the leavers' meeting.

Do you have any final words of advice for those at Blue Coat?

I will quote Steve Maraboli : " Sometimes the greatest thing to come out of all your hard work isn't what you get for it, but what you become for it. Shake things up today! Be you... Be free... Share."

How long have been at Blue Coat and what posts have you occupied?

I was at Blue Coat for one year but I can honestly say it was one of the best teaching years of my career so far. I was a year 8 form teacher to 8 Bingham who were a fantastic form, and I was a PE teacher.

How did you find your time at Blue Coat?

Blue Coat is one of a kind. The students are amazing, always challenging you to give them more. The staff are also what makes the Blue Coat community special. It is the staff and students who I miss a lot, and I made some excellent friends who I know will be there for a long time. The opportunities that the students are given and the commitment shown shows what special students there are at Blue Coat.

What are your favourite memories of Blue Coat that you hold?

My favourite memory at Blue Coat; where do I start? The numerous sports fixtures with the girls winning the Liverpool netball league. And of course, the annual ski trip.

What is your funniest memory of Blue Coat?

There are so many to choose from, like I said it was one of the best years that I have experienced in teaching so far. I always had such fun competing with the P.E students during Insanity work outs (and some members of staff). My form were quite mischievous (in a good way) and could always made me smile. Staff nights out and just general 'banter' in the staffroom was always hysterical.....I could go on forever!!

Do you have any final words of advice for those at Blue Coat?

To both the staff and students at Blue Coat, thank you so much for an amazing year! Your support, hard work and friendship have made a lasting imprint on my memory and I will be sure never to forget you all! To all of the pupils be true to yourself, live for every moment and grasp as many opportunities as you can! I'm sure you will all be extremely successful in the future.

Top 10 Questions...



...with our new staff

What is your role in Blue Coat?

My title is Director of Resources and what that means is I have a responsibility for Human Resources, finances and estates among other things.

What is your favourite film?

Grease, who doesn't like Grease? It was one of the first cinema films I went to see. The music, costumes, actors and John Travolta

Who is your favourite sports personality?

An Italian guy called Valentino Rossi, he's a motorcyclist and has won 9 grand prix. I've got a signed photograph of him.

**What are your best achievements?**

Back in 2000 I ran the Liverpool Women's 10K run. That was a huge achievement, I trained hard and raised money for a charity too. I couldn't walk for a week afterwards but it was great and I got a medal.

If you didn't work in a school, what would you do?

I would write for travel blogs and travel guides, staying in expensive hotels and visiting lots of different places.

What are your first impressions of Blue Coat?

The buildings are amazing with the combination of new and old. Students are very lucky to be in this environment. The staff are very friendly and I'm impressed with the behavior of the students.

What is the most unusual job you've ever had?

I worked for an aerospace company but I was once bought a cup of hot chocolate to sing at the Christmas tree in Chapel Street

Where did you grow up? And If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?

Locally. I was born and I grew up in Huyton. I would love to live in Canada. Their states are so different, but Alberta is the most beautiful part of the country, it is breathtaking.

If you could spend the day with a celebrity, who would you choose?

I'd get dancing lessons from Justin Timberlake.

What is your favourite film?

Grease or the Notebook.

What is the best music concert you have ever been to?

Probably Steps.

(How ironic as Miss Fitchie was part of the Steps2Success tribute group in Xmas Factor!?!)

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Hang out with friends, go shopping, go to the gym and play sport.

What are your best achievements?

Playing for England's under 16 and under 18 teams.

What would you do if you won the lottery?

Go shopping! And I would go abroad, travel the world and never work again!

If you were doing karaoke, who would you be?

Mariah Carey or The Spice Girls

If you weren't a teacher, what would you be?

A personal trainer

What are your first impressions of Blue Coat?

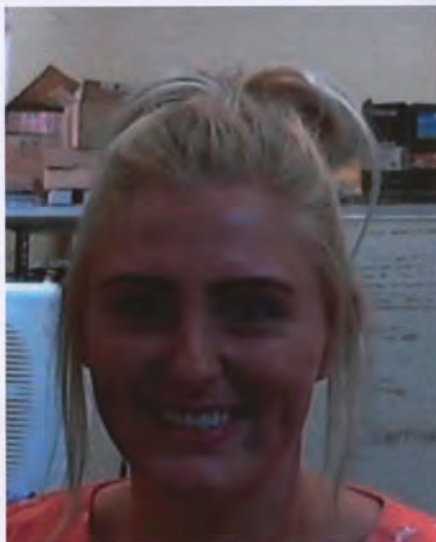
The students are friendly, clever and in the sports department it is quite chilled out and fun.

What would be your ideal holiday?

Going to somewhere really hot and just chill out, getting a tan and going to the markets to try and haggle.

What music do you enjoy?

A bit of everything, apart from hard rock and heavy metal.



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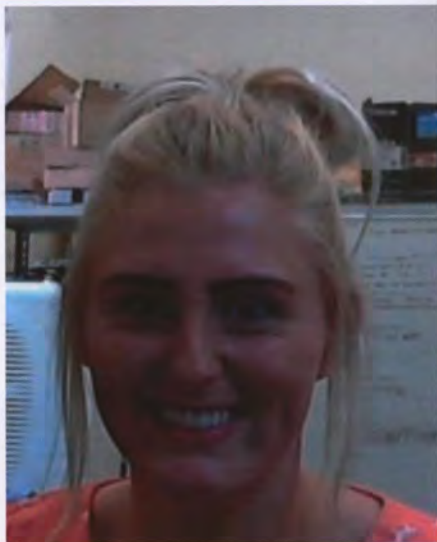
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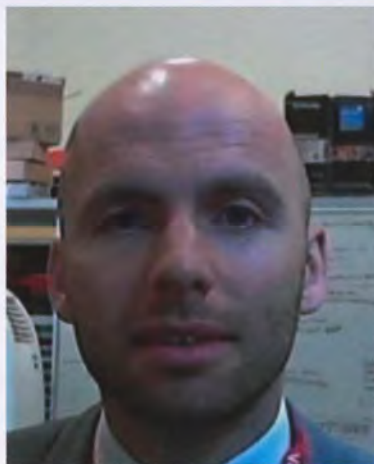
Stone Roses at Heaton Park in Manchester

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Play football, watch football and spend time with my little boy.

Have you visited many countries?

I've been to a few, mostly in Europe. I've also been to Dubai, New York and Vancouver too.



What are your best achievements?

Learning to iron my own shirt!

If you were doing karaoke, who would you be?

Liam Gallagher.

If you weren't a teacher, what would you be?

A football agent.

What are your first impressions of Blue Coat?

Bright and hardworking students and outstanding colleagues.

What is the most unusual job you've ever done?

Probably working as a lifeguard at a leisure centre.

If you could spend the day with a celebrity, who would you choose?

I'd probably say Liam Gallagher, just to get a better insight into what goes on in his mind. And I'm a massive Oasis fan.

What is your favourite film?

I watch a lot of children's films now, like Toy Story. If I was going to pick one from ages ago, it would be The Breakfast Club. But I like Avatar too. I like any film with Leonardo Di Caprio in too, he's very good and easy on the eye.

What is the best music concert you have ever been to?

I've been to loads, Coldplay are good, I've seen Oasis, Robbie Williams, Take That, Girls Aloud, Westlife and all the cheesy ones like Dolly Parton. The best was probably Robbie Williams or maybe Coldplay.



What do you like to do in your spare time?

I have children and we go to the park and on days out. I also bake professional cakes and make clothing for weddings.

Have you visited many countries?

Australia was my favourite, I've been to New York and most of the Canary Islands. I've been to Ibiza, Portugal and Cyprus. I've been to Disneyland too.

Who are favourite sports people?

Probably David Beckham. I'm not a big sports fan and I don't watch a lot of sport though I do like tennis.

What are your best achievements?

My children or teaching.

What would you do if you won the lottery?

Go back to Australia. I'd take my children and travel to places I mightn't have seen if I didn't win the lottery. I'd obviously give to charity, I already give to Barnardos.

What is your favourite film?

Home alone. Is that weird?

What is the best music concert you have ever been to?

Foo Fighters, in Milton Keynes.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I really like going to gigs and seeing live music. I do a lot of running and I like hanging out with my friends.

Who are favourite sports people?

Jamie Carragher because he's loyal and Jessica Ennis because she's a bit of an inspiration.

What are your best achievements?

When I did research for the National Trust I survived living in a barn for three months.

What would be your ideal holiday?

It would be renting a car and driving across North America particularly Route 66.

If you could spend the day with a celebrity, who would you choose?

Dave Grohl

What would be your dream job?

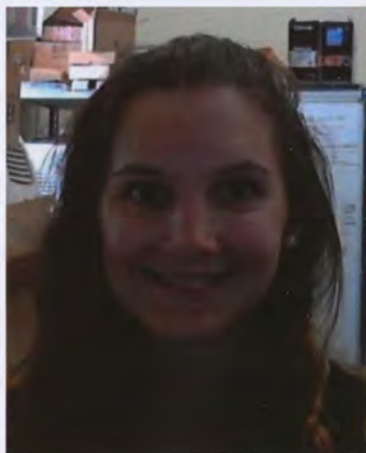
I would be an ecologist in the Great Barrier Reef.

What the best holiday you have ever been on?

When I went to New York with the band that I was in and we played in Central Park.

What languages can you speak?

Only English, but I did French and Spanish in school. I wish I could speak another language.



What is your favourite film?

I do love Mamma Mia, as cheesy as it is. I went to see it on Broadway and I loved it.

What is the best music concert you have ever been to?

I think it is probably T in the park when I went to see the Strokes. That was ages ago, in 2004. I've been to other festivals and concerts since, like Coldplay.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I go swimming with my son, I've got a bike, though I wouldn't call myself a cyclist, I mostly go round the park. But I've got a seat on the back and I take my son with me, except he is about three stone now so it's getting more difficult to do that.

What would you do if you won the lottery?

I'd help everybody pay off their mortgages. I'd travel for at least a year and I'd probably buy a holiday home in Italy or Spain.

If you were doing karaoke, who would you be?

I love karaoke! It would have to be Whitney Houston, she was great!

Do you have a party trick?

Not really, only my karaoke skills which are really bad, the trick is that everybody leaves!

What are your first impressions of Blue Coat?

It's a lovely place to be. Everybody is so friendly and professional!

What would be your ideal holiday?

An expedition of some sort, incorporating exploring real cultures but with a bit of luxury too.



What is your favourite film?

Probably Dirty Dancing.

What is the best music concert you have ever been to?

U2.

What are your best achievements?

Having a trial for England's netball team in sixth form.

If you were doing karaoke, who would you be?

Definitely Kylie. I like a bit of Kylie.

If you weren't a teacher, what would you be?

I'd be a lady of leisure

What is the most unusual job you've ever done?

I've worked in a potato field once, picking potatoes.

Where did you grow up?

In a little village called Shifnal in Shropshire.

If you could spend the day with a celebrity, who would you choose?

Angelina Jolie, just to see how the other half live. And obviously because she's married to Brad Pitt.

What's the best holiday you have ever been on?

Disney in Florida with my little girl, it was magical.



What's your favourite film?

The Bridges of Madison County

What's the best music concert you've been to?

Tom Jones

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy going to the gym.

Have you visited many countries?

Yes I have. The ones that stand out are St. Kites and Barbados

Who are favourite sports people?

Beth Tweddle

What are your best achievements?

I ran a marathon. I am proud of the fact that I didn't stop.

What would you do if you won the lottery?

I would go to university to get a degree in History and Art.

If you were doing karaoke, who would you be?

Kate Bush

If you weren't a receptionist, what would you be?

I would be spending the money I won from the lottery.



What's your favourite film?

There are lots of them! I especially like films by Spanish director Pedro Almodovar (such as 'Talk to Her' and 'Volver') and Wes Anderson ('Moonrise Kingdom'). 'Dogville', by Lars Von Trier, and the French film 'Amélie' are among my favourites too!

**What's the best music concert you've been to?**

Two years ago I went to a music & culture festival called Pirineo Sur, in the middle of the mountains in the north of Spain. I went to see one of my favourite musicians, Manu Chao, and it was amazing! I think I've never danced and sung so much in my whole life!

What do you like to do in your spare time?

In my free time I enjoy taking pictures, watching good films, writing, going to exhibitions... I love art! But I also love going out with my friends, singing and dancing, doing silly things... I used to sing in a choir and I took guitar lessons ages ago, but I feel I have no more free time anymore to be honest!

Have you visited many countries?

When I was 12 I won a creative writing national contest and the prize was a trip to South Africa! After that, I took part in an Art and Performance European Project and I had the chance to travel to Finland, Germany, Italy and Belgium, which was a great experience. Apart from that, I was born and brought up in Spain, I've been in France a couple of times, and I've also been in Tunisia on holidays.

What are your best achievements?

Completing my postgraduate degree with honours in my second language and working in the best high school in Liverpool are some of the achievements I feel the most proud of!

If you were doing karaoke, who would you be?

Nino Bravo, Karen Carpenter or Shakira... depending on my mood, the company and how many beers I had first.

Whole School



Events

Spring Concert 2014

by Chloe Wilson

On Thursday 27th March, the Blue Coat School Music Department collaborated with the Choral Society in their annual Spring Concert. After months of rehearsals; after school and at lunchtimes, the musicians delivered an outstanding concert.

The first act of the evening included performances from Concert and Jazz bands, Orchestra, the String and Brass Ensembles (with the addition of some excellent soloists) performing iconic pieces including Poet and Peasant Overture and Abba Gold.

After the interval, the School Choir arrived on stage joined by the Choral Society to

perform Faure's Requiem accompanied by members of the School Orchestra and professional musicians. The performance demonstrated the talents of the excellent soloists and the ensemble's overall talent; especially following the success of the school's production of "Into The Woods". Overall, the concert was a fantastic evening which was thoroughly enjoyed both by those involved and those in attendance.

Winged Words 2014

by Yasmin Hasan

In the last couple of months before the end of the school year, the annual event, Winged Words, began to take shape. Last year, I performed the 'Phobias Sketch', along with Sophia Wong, Magda Przybylak, and Natalia Barton. After hearing various poems, dramas and monologues, it was finally our turn. Despite being quite nervous, we were given the prize of Best Drama

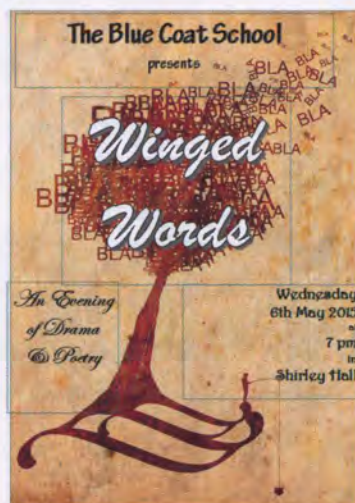
Act (partly because we were the only drama act) - gaining us a £10 Amazon voucher! Overall, we had a thoroughly enjoyable evening (as well as free biscuits in the interval) and I would definitely recommend to students and staff that they participate in Winged Words next year.

On the 6th May 2015, the annual night of Poetry and Drama, Winged Words, took place in Shirley Hall. Guests in the audience were met with gifts of classic poems by the Poetry Waiters on the door as they entered, and they were given just enough time to digest them before Miss Tyers introduced the show. The theme of this year's event was "World Poetry", and the programme for the night certainly reflected this, with performances of poems in many different languages from many different parts of the world. The night showcased poems in Polish, Catalan and French, read by our two language assistants and talented multilingual students (with a translation on screen, of course!), as well as a wide range of English poems from different eras. Poems ranged from happy to sad, upbeat to dark, and some simply took a downright unexpected direction, but the quality of the readings was consistently high. Some of the poems read were even written by Blue Coat students and teachers, and hearing the talent of our school's writers was definitely a highlight of the night.

Winged Words isn't solely dedicated to poetry, however, and there was a number of drama acts interspersed between the poetry readings. These again covered a wide variety of genres, from Shakespeare's "Macbeth" to a screenplay called "The Exposition Chair", written by Blue Coat student Jacob Stillings.

The actors were all incredible, and I'm sure that anyone in the audience would agree that some of our performers would fit right in on a West End stage. Music also featured throughout the night, with Spanish assistant Irene Solé Canet giving a beautiful vocal performance to close the show, with French assistant Mathieu Boccou accompanying on guitar. In addition, Sam Elcock provided an intriguing choice of background music for some of the acts, and I played piano during the interval.

The night closed with awards being offered to the best poem, best drama act, best group performance and the best individual performance, with the winners all being more than worthy of their prizes. The event also raised over £100 for the Nepal appeal, so all in all, the night was a complete success.



Choir Tour To Austria

By Maisher Tin-U & Jonathan Chan

Jonathan: The most highly anticipated event on the school calendar during the last academic year was quite possibly the long-awaited Choir Tour to Austria. Where shall we start then, Maisher?

Maisher: The 11th of July at 3.30pm when we left the school gates on our double decker luxury coach.

Jonathan: Of course. I think it's fair to say that a few of us were somewhat apprehensive about the so-called 'luxury coach', but I must admit that I was most pleasantly surprised when we discovered that it was actually incredibly comfortable inside. What do you remember of the journey?

Maisher: We drove down to Dover where our two main coach drivers for the rest of the tour were waiting. Fortunately, the ferry that we were meant to board was late so we had to wait a couple of hours for the next one. When we finally got the ferry and arrived at Calais, a long drive through Europe awaited us. It was a 27-hour journey. I'm sure you could imagine how exhausted we were by the end.

Jonathan: Indeed. I remember that some students were experiencing their first ever trip across the Channel in a ferry, but considering that it was 1:30am after ten hours of travelling, I wouldn't be surprised if they didn't enjoy it very much. Nevertheless, I can also recall that the breakfast we had in a French service station 'était vraiment délicieux' if I may say so myself. When did we arrive at our destination in the end?

Maisher: We finally arrived in Hüttau, where we were staying, at around 7:00pm and we were served dinner by the hotel. We had to get up at 6:00am the next morning so that we could sing at a mass at St Michael's Church in Mondsee, which is where Maria Von Trapp got married in the Sound of Music.

Jonathan: Now that was incredible. The church itself is beautiful. I think it's fair to say that our performance was less than perfect.

Maisher: It wasn't perfect but our performances got better and better as the week went on.

Jonathan: That's true. We'll come back to our subsequent



performances later on. What else did we do on that frenetic first day?

Maisher: We went to the Musical Instrument Museum which was much better than I expected. We were shown many weird and wonderful instruments which were all played by the man who owned the museum.

Jonathan: Some of the sounds resonating from his various instruments were rather staggering, weren't they? He was most impressive to say the least. We also went on a boat excursion around Wolfgangsee which provided us with stunning views of the Austrian scenery and our rendition of 'Bridge Over Troubled Water' led enthusiastically by Sam Elcock was delivered with aplomb and it was much appreciated by the other tourists on-board I believe. Personally I think that our performance at the Evangelische Kirche in Bad Reichenhall was the greatest of



the tour - a standing-ovation from the German audience is something which we certainly won't be forgetting in a hurry. Where else did we perform?

Maisher: In total we did four performances, including busking in Zell Am See where we sang on a bandstand in

Choir Tour To Austria cont.

front of the famous dancing fountains which were on the lake, with the mountains behind that. Whilst we were there, we were also able to go out on the lake in pedal boats which we hired for half an hour.



Jonathan: Provisional driving licenses were being whipped out in order to rent motor boats if I remember correctly. It has to be said that there was never a dull moment during our free time away from rehearsing and performing.

Maisher: On days when we weren't performing, or if we had a free morning or evening, we would do activities like visiting the Berchtesgaden Salt Mines, going on the Liechtensteinklamm Gorge Walk or going around the city of Salzburg in our own groups. We also had a swimming pool which, however, was freezing cold. We did things in the evenings like Table Tennis competitions, Sectional Football and Rounders competitions, or just playing football for fun.

Jonathan: 22 Sopranos vs 8 Tenors playing football against each other will remain fresh in the memory for a long time



to come as one of the most hilarious things I have ever witnessed. Our match, Altos vs Bases, was entertaining

too.

Maisher: I did however get tackled by Dominic Chandler a couple of times.

Jonathan: And one of our star players received the alleged compliment that he played football 'like a ballerina'...

Maisher: Also, Mr Pearson was not at all happy when Rebecca Nimmo in my year scored a goal past him; if you ever bring it up he will always deny it. We also made many new friends, not just in our school but also from another school from Sunderland who were staying in the same hotel as us, but on an orchestral trip instead of a choir trip.

Jonathan: It was pleasing to see several new friendships developing between people who had never met each other before. However, unfortunately it all had to end eventually.

Maisher: On our last full day in Austria, which also happened to be Ishbel's birthday, we had a free morning



the hotel which gave us time for a little celebration for her. In the afternoon, we left the hotel to go to Hellbrunn Palace which was a gorgeous place; however it was filled with lots of hidden trick fountains! I was lucky to have escaped without getting too wet, although many others weren't as fortunate as I...

Jonathan: Many others including myself in fact! The palace gardens also played host to the Sound of Music Gazebo which featured in the 1965 classic during 'Sixteen Going On Seventeen'. Being sixteen years old, it was fitting to visit it at this point in my life and was therefore truly once in a lifetime opportunity.

Choir Tour To Austria cont.

Maisher: After spending the afternoon at Hellbrunn Palace we went to Strobl which was the destination of our final performance of the tour, and in some people's cases, their final performance with the Blue Coat Choir. It was a very emotional evening and many people were in floods of tears after the performance was over. To celebrate the final performance, some of the older boys jumped into the lake at sunset. We also managed to get a picture of just the Altos ourselves to commemorate the 3 leavers from our section. We got back to Hütttau late that night and went to bed to rest up for our departure from the hotel the next day.

Jonathan: I'll add a footnote to reinforce how emotional the last night was, but I think it's true that we all savoured the final performance and absolutely and unequivocally sang our hearts out. What were your final moments of the tour like?

Maisher: We had a free morning before we left, meaning we had a chance to walk into the little village of Hütttau. At around 3:00pm that afternoon we departed from the hotel in our coach. It was very sad to leave as most of us had had

the time of our lives and would miss it very much. The journey home was just about as tiring as the journey there, but somehow seemed a lot quicker and some part of me wished that it would have lasted longer. We were all very deflated by the time we got back to Blue Coat at around 3:00pm the next day. We said our last goodbyes to some of the people that were leaving our school and there were many tears shed.

Jonathan: As far as I know, it's the general consensus that everyone wishes that we spent more time on-tour. Alas, all good things come to an end. In two sentences, how would you sum up your experiences during the Choir Tour to Austria?

Maisher: To be very honest, I did not expect the tour to be as exciting and fun as it was and I enjoyed every bit of it. I can't wait for the next Blue Coat choir tour; I definitely want to go!



After our final performance in Austria, a most sumptuous and awe-inspiring view greeted us. On the one hand, the sun was setting, whilst on the other hand, the reality of the situation began to dawn upon us. The tour was nearing its end, and for some, they would never again perform as part of this choir. To say it was an emotional moment would be an understatement, but I will forever be grateful for the fun, laughs and ultimately the memories, shared with new and old friends alike. No regrets. Seize the moment. Fulfilling these sentiments and embracing each moment as it was presented has created an infinite quantity of unforgettable and breathtaking memories. And whilst some infinities are bigger than others, and despite the temptation to use 'hashtag yolo', I'll just sign off by saying that life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the number of moments that take our breath away. Dankeschön Österreich.

From Bach's *Prelude* from Suite in G showcased by Martha Cruz in Year 9 to an Earth, Wind and Fire medley from the School's Senior Concert band, the school's Summer Recital offered a wide range of music over the span of the evening that it was on. Showcasing all of the music groups within the school, this Summer Concert certainly showed the strength and depth that both Mr Emery and Miss Horton bring to the school's musical life. The new additions to the music department (Junior Brass and Intermediate Wind Ensemble) certainly matched the standard set by their senior equivalents (including the School

Choir, most of whom were preparing themselves for the tour to Austria), and all groups were well led by their equivalent staff who teach in our Music Department.

The solo items really showed off the depth of talent within the school's music department, with some new soloists leaving us wanting to see what they will be able to do next time they get the chance to perform. However, as with every summer concert, the ending was bittersweet, and we had to say a tearful farewell to our Sixth Form leavers, as well as our Year 9 cellist, Martha Cruz.



Ukulele Club

by Aliya Venkatesan-Woolf

The Ukulele Club is the club that I first joined when I came to Blue Coat. I think it's excellent. We are a small club, but we have a wide range of musical talents. We are a small group who meet every Thursday lunchtime and just have fun strumming the ukulele.

Just before February half term, we did a ukulele concert in WO7. We played a variety of songs, including Price Tag (Jessie J), Riptide (Vance Joy), Ho Hey (The Lumineers), Hey Jude (The Beatles), Somewhere Only We Know (Keane/Lilly Allen) and I'm Yours (Jason Mraz). The concert was a great success and the

money we raised went to the price of our new, yellow ukulele.

The ukulele is a very easy instrument to learn. None of us had ever been taught the ukulele properly before, and now we know how to play a large number of songs. Some songs we know are: The Cave, 500 Miles, Show Me the Way to Amarillo, Budapest, La Bamba and many more.

So if you want to join come at Thursday lunchtime to SO5. Come at the beginning of lunch with some food!



Jazz Band at Williamson Square *by Catherine Butler*

On the 3rd of July, the Jazz Band and the String Quartet were asked to perform in Williamson Square as part of the International Business Festival. The band consisted of people from all year groups and some ex-pupils who have moved onto higher education after Blue Coat.

The Jazz Band played around 10 pieces in all, including "Footloose", "Hot, Hot, Hot" and a medley of songs by Earth, Wind and Fire. In a small bandstand we played through all of the songs and managed to maintain a small audience throughout the performance, despite the miserable weather. We repeated the pieces up until lunchtime, when it was time for the String Quartet to

take the stage. They performed in the Me Quarter and gathered quite a large audience. They played for 30 minutes, then the Jazz Band took over for another hour, repeating the same songs as earlier.

Overall, it was a wonderful day to be a part of, and although it was very tiring—as well as performing all day, we had to carry music stands, amps, keyboards and a drum kit across the city centre in the rain—it was worth it; both the String Quartet and the Jazz Band sounded fantastic, despite the fact that both had only had a few rehearsals prior to the event!



In the last week of the Christmas term, a group of sixth formers from the Squirrel Magazine put on the Xmas Factor with the help of Mrs O'Rourke (and several other staff members willing to sacrifice their reputation for charity and for entertainment). The event involved these members of staff acting out a Blue Coat version of the reality TV show, only with a festive twist to their acts. That festive twist varied between each performance, from being accompanied by elves to having Father Christmas throw sweets all over Shirley Hall.

The hall was full on both days of the event, with almost everyone in the school coming to see the show on their respective days. Each show was introduced by Ali and Sorcha, our hosts, whose comments made the performances even funnier – not that the acts needed any more comedy. Coupled with these two were our judges: Mr Shipgood as Simon Cowell, Mrs Silcock as Sharon Osbourne, Ms Wilson as Scary Spice and Mr Caulkin as Louis Walsh (with a questionable Irish accent). Once the judges

were in place on their precariously balanced chairs – so much so that they needed me to hold their chairs on the Thursday after a near-death incident involving Mr Caulkin – the acts were introduced one by one.



Scotland's own 'The Exclaimers', featuring Ms Papworth and Mr Docherty, opened the shows, and their tartan outfits did not disappoint in getting the audience excited. The second act was Mr Dowling, better known as his stage name JD/BC, who had perhaps too much of a good time, but was entertaining nonetheless. Following him was Steps 2 Success, the Steps Tribute Act consisting of Miss Sanchez, Mr Kershaw, Mrs Jackson, Miss Fitchie and Mr Spence, whose performance was nowhere near a tragedy. The rehearsal time that they had put in

The Xmas Factor Continued

really showed in their act, allowing them to come second on both days.



Next up was My Chemical Bromance, introduced by a 'noble' attempt at chemistry puns by Sorcha, and who gave a far from 'Boron' performance that let them win the competition on Thursday. The penultimate act, Testostertones, consisted of Mr Cain, Mr 'P-Unit' Pearson, Mr Watkins, and Mr Ainsworth. They had everyone on their feet on Tuesday, letting them win the first event



– although they couldn't quite manage a repeat performance later on in the week. Their rendition of One Direction's 'Steal My Girl' was certainly interesting, but possibly not quite worthy of the arrogance shown in their promotional video.

Both days featured a different 'mystery guest' to close each show. Tuesday's secret act was none other than 'Father Christmas Tree', a duo consisting of Mr Barends and Mrs McDonnell, and they didn't fail to give a performance that could be labelled a religious experience. Mr Barends, dressed as Santa Claus (with a hint of Phantom of the Opera), offered the perfect accompaniment to Mrs McDonnell's Christmas tree one piece, and the pair knew the perfect way to get the crowd on their side – by throwing the entire contents of two boxes of Celebrations at them. Thursday's hidden gem was the one and only Michael Bluebell. Blue Coat's answer to the great Canadian singer. Mr Cox sang a great rendition of 'Sway', and his backing dancers, Mr Wilkinson and Mrs Jackson, were the icing on the cake of his performance.

The Xmas Factor Continued

I'm sure everyone would agree that it's difficult to see how Mrs Wilkinson doesn't teach at the Royal Academy of Dance. Despite their gallant attempts, however, neither of the mystery acts were able to snag the trophy.

Over the two performances we raised well over £1000 for SOBS, so the event was incredibly successful, and after weeks of constant rehearsing, organising and fundraising, seeing our hard work pay off was worth it. Plus, there's something



Prize Giving

By Phoebe Hunter

Monday 15th December marked the annual Blue Coat School Prize Giving set against the remarkable grandeur of St George's Hall. The return of Old Blues who had left in August 2014 to start the next stage of their life at university was a cohort that I was proud to be part of; although it would later transpire that I would leave my Physics degree and come back to Blue Coat in January 2015 to study for an English A-level (slightly ironic considering I was awarded the Physics prize!)

The achievements of current students were also celebrated and the hall was filled with staff, students, parents and siblings there to support the award winners. The night gave the Blue Coat community a chance to celebrate the wide range of success that students experienced throughout the last academic year; not only exam results but also sport, music and community impact.

Some of the best moments of the evening were the performances by the incredible choir and orchestra who chose beautiful pieces of music to accompany the awards night and speeches. The orchestra played an astounding rendition of Tchaikovsky's Marche Slav and I heard multiple

comments throughout the evening about the exceptional standard of each musician and chorister. Another highlight was the Old Blue "after party" organized by the Old Blues

Society which gave me opportunity to speak to everyone who I said I'd stay in touch with, but realistically never did. However it was nice to how everyone had settled into their new life.

The speech given by Old Blue Simon Leonard was a poignant message that encouraged all students to reach for their aspirations but he also highlighted the significant message that whatever career path you're destined for may not be related to any degree you chose to study at university. Considering the development of new technology and opportunities to engage your entrepreneurial spirit in this modern age, it was a particularly relevant point.

Mr Cox told us that there were five words he wanted us to remember; "We are proud of you". Hopefully now you have seen this writing you will be reminded of that fact every time you open the Squirrel. Indeed, there was an overwhelming sense of pride on the night and it felt like a very appropriate way to celebrate the hard work and talent of pupils at Blue Coat. I'll leave you with the last line of the poem read by Ms Julia Shaw on Prize Giving night which contains a very important piece of advice; "**Ha Fun. Dig Deep. Stretch**"





In the run-up to the UK General Election 2015, the Politics department organised a school election which consisted of six candidates battling it out to be elected. Four Year Twelves and two Year Elevens represented six of the major political parties who campaigned for election on May 7th.

Following a bitter, week long election campaign during which the candidates promoted their parties via the medium of election posters and party stickers (including various inter-party smear campaigns), the six party leaders engaged in a debate where they presented their election promises and debated over five topical questions relevant to the UK election.

The next day, students cast their ballots in the Shirley Hall. Turnout was higher in Key Stage Three and lowest in Key Stage Five, bucking the national trend

of older voters being more likely to vote. The result of the election was a plurality of votes for Labour's Sean Bickerton, who came away with 41% of the vote. The successive order of other parties based on vote share was Green, Conservative, UKIP, Plaid Cymru and Liberal Democrat.

All in all, the election results were unrepresentative of the votes cast by the UK electorate on May 7th, but provided an interesting and insightful analysis of where political support lies throughout the school.



The Wedding Singer

By Alice Backstrom and Alex Wilson

The 2015 school play was, as expected, a triumphant success on Blue Coats's behalf. The success of Blue Coat's past school productions was continued this year, and every detail of this profound production was extracted from the interminable imagination of James Lacey, an ex-pupil of our own Blue Coat School who is now a successful actor. The show band (led by Tommy Geddes and Miss Horton) performed a tremendously 80s oriented soundtrack that could transport any (fairly middle-aged) parent in the audience right back to their adolescent life. The set design team created an ethereal setting and, paired with the costume department brought the show to life. James rehearsed this years' sizeable cast for countless hours on both weekdays and weekends, and Tommy tested the show bands dedication and durability. Auditions commenced in October of 2014. Some of



compensated for the loss. Call-backs followed, with a finalised cast list emerging in the subsequent weeks. Before we knew it, the long journey had begun. Ensemble numbers were swiftly choreographed, directed and set by James, whilst Mr Emery created a choir of symphonic excellence out of the students. The costume designer frantically sewed away in order to make the 100s of outfits required, whilst the Set Design team embarked on the gigantic task of transforming the Shirley hall into the incredible set required. The stage crew had now been recruited and were becoming prepared for the hectic and cramped environment of backstage, along with getting trained up to operate the lighting and sound systems. Months of hard work from all sections paid off and, before we knew it, the stage was up, the band set, lighting assembled and the show ready to go.



the valued cast members had sadly left us at the end of the 2014 academic year, however the talent presented to James and Mr Emery from the new students certainly

The Wedding Singer cont.

It was show week time! Everyone was ready to put on a display of all of their achievements of the past half a year. Due to vital last minute refinements and changes on Sunday and Monday, the charity night on Monday ended up being our first ever complete run through of the show from start to end. The nervousness of the students began to become apparent as they had their hair plaited and crimped, complimented by their neon eyelids and bold lips. Tensions were rising! However, despite the few difficulties the company faced, charity night was a huge success, with the finale provoking rupturing applause and standing ovation from the audience. The standard of performance developed and grew with the week, improving day by day. The final night arrived and was, as ever, extremely emotional for everyone involved. The pinnacle moment of 6 months of hard work, passion and dedication brought many tears, and the speeches made by James Lacey and cast members were very special to the cast. Emotion was high as two extremely special people had to say their farewells this year. Two cast members who had performed in the school play for 7 years- the leading man, and the leading lady, were now parting ways with something that had been such a huge part



of their school and personal lives. Jack Kauffman-Harding and Kelsey Walsh had to say goodbye to us. Two incredible performers of professional standard who we were lucky to have are now moving forward in life. The play has very much influenced their future lives and career, as Kelsey is now going to study musical theatre at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, whilst Jack is going on to study music at King's College London. It's safe to say the play will never be the same without them leading the way and we will miss them entirely next year. Regardless of age or previous experience, the cast always gels, and a family is made to share memories together. The school show is always definitive date in the company's annual calendar and is a week with moments to be cherished. We are all entirely grateful that the school play is part of our school life and cannot wait until next year!

After a long, gruelling six-hour coach trip to Heathrow Airport followed by a flight to Italy, the sight of Mera's beautiful alpine setting and panoramic view upon arrival was enough to make the journey worthwhile – long before we were able to take advantage of the fun and opportunities that the school's annual ski trip has to offer, which was held in February 2015.

The days started in the early morning and, despite the early-hour starts, the awakening scenery made the early starts much easier. On the first morning, pupils were split into separate groups depending on their ability and, as a beginner, my group and I were introduced to the slopes slowly which, session by session, became a more breath-taking experience as we willingly skied down the greater and steeper slopes with more experience, and we became the first beginner group to ski down to the village of Scopello, which was a great achievement for all involved.

The ski-day was split into two two-hour periods, and pupils and teachers were able to re-vitalise during the lunch break in which we were able to enjoy a genuine taste of Italian cuisine – the food was of a good quality and size, to help us re-gain our energy before spending another two hours of the afternoon appreciating the one in a lifetime experience of participating in an extreme sport which, thanks to Sport Hotel Camparient and their coaches, was made possible.

At the end of the ski-day, we were able to have some free-time to ourselves and pupils were able to participate in several activities, such as tobogganing, which have created a long-lasting memory in partnership with the unforgettable experience of skiing itself. Every night the pupils were provided with entertainment and the fancy-dress night towards the latter end of the holiday was the most memorable of them all.

On behalf of everybody who went on the ski trip it is safe to say that everybody had an incredible time with their friends, which has created an abiding memory for all those involved.



Sport



Sports Day

2014 Winners

Bingham



On the 8th of July 2014 all students from years 7-10 and teachers changed into their sports kits ready for the annual sports day. The day, in contrast to previous years, was hot and sunny and perfect weather for sports! The stands filled up quickly with students and became very noisy with excited chatter. When the first races started the chatter turned into shouting, screaming and cheering for each house!

Although the teachers did not take part in any event, they did provide some quality entertainment, with Mr Mercer showing off his ballet and ballroom dancing skills, and Miss Hutchings proving that the Irish really do burn easily!

The day was very successful and the end results (as told by Mrs Ludlow over the loud speakers) were:

Year 7:

- 1st: Bingham
- 2nd: Shirley
- 3rd: Blundell
- 4th: Graham

Year 8:

- 1st: Bingham
- 2nd: Graham
- 3rd: Blundell
- 4th: Shirley

Year 9:

- 1st: Blundell
- 2nd: Bingham
- 3rd: Graham
- 4th: Shirley

Year 10:

- 1st: Bingham
- 2nd: Graham
- 3rd: Shirley
- 4th: Blundell

The overall victor was Bingham!



Rounders. It is not a game of throw and catch, and it is not a game of swing and miss. But it is a game of skill, it is a game of cooperation, and it is a game of speed. This is none more so evident than throughout last year's awe-inspiring performance from the current Year 11's, we fought some fearsome giants, many claimed that it was our Goliath, others said that it was the last chance for us to shine, but for me, I said BRING IT ON!

We started the season with a dampened mood, but after a motivating pep-rally the whole team was bouncing off the walls and spirits were high (we ate sweets). We played our first game against Bellerive (one of our toughest opponents), but we pulled through with scrutiny, cunning and most importantly ruthlessness (also they were Year 8's). These were all possible due to the overwhelming support we received from our crowd of vast fandom, which consisted of two substitutes, Ellen Moore and Georgia Edmondson (Gee). However, maybe it was lack of energy, maybe it was the Chloe Hop, maybe it was Sorcha on third base or maybe it was Ellen, but whatever happened, our second match did not go so well. Can I say we tried our hardest? No. Can I say we played our best? No. Can I say that we worked together? No.

What I can say is that it was an honour to be Captain of a team that had its fair shares of victorious moments as well as its losses, its ball, bats and coin tosses but nothing is more certain than this, if we had been allowed to train on the field and kicked the boys off, we might have actually stood a chance. So there it is, the best and the last rounders match the babies of '98/'99 ever had.



Spandex, sweat and spikes—who can deny their love for sport? 2014 was the first year in my secondary school life where the Blue Coat girls have been entered into the English Schools, a meet for athletes to ultimately compete in the county in which their school is located, and can be often dubbed as the “Kids’ Olympics”. However to compete at this level, the team must have qualified through a number of rounds. On a benign summer’s afternoon, the U15 girls’ squad battled in pursuit of qualification into the next round whilst others most probably had their feet up watching the next episode of Gossip Girl.

As the competitors warmed up, our confidence shrivelled after seeing some of them execute perfect technique in hurdles, long jump and shot put. In spite of this, special recognition should go to Bryony, who stormed the 300m gaining 18 points. Alas, we cannot forget the glamorous long jump pit assistants, Izzy and Ellie, who tirelessly put their backs into ensuring that the pit was raked to perfection.

Our team did not earn enough points for the next round—nevertheless we went home with our heads held high, on Mr Phelan’s bumpy minibus drive back to school. On behalf of the team, we’d like to say a huge thank you to the PE Department (and Miss Cumming’s mum) for the much needed support and for giving us a fantastic experience. Amidst the defeat, we had one of the most amusing and entertaining afternoons; it couldn’t have been any better.



Under 14s Athletics

by Alice Nichols

This year the Year 9 Athletics team competed in two competitions. The first was The English Schools Athletics, where a selected group of Year 9s went down to Wavertree Athletics Ground and competed. All members of the team did very well, and nearly all brought home medals. A few weeks later, we went to the Athletics Counties competition, also at Wavertree. Again we all tried extremely hard and our endeavours paid off.

Under 13s Athletics

By Anya Gavin

Last school year, Blue Coat took part in an athletics competition in Wavertree. Everyone who took part in the event achieved amazing results and did a great job in representing the school. The Year 8 girls athletics team consisted of:

Tay Hanson-High Jump— 4th place

Anya Gavin: 100m-4th place, Javelin-6th place, Relay - 4th place

Adriana Webb: 200m-6th place, Relay-4th place

Georgina Beese: Relay-4th place

Aisha Roukhamieh-McKinna: 1500m-6th place

Katie Burt: Relay-4th place

Everyone who competed really enjoyed it and we hope that we can compete again next year.



Last year, Blue Coat travelled to Wavetree Athletics track to compete against schools from across the city in a qualifying competition. I found it to be a very fun day, with Blue Coat performing well throughout, including podium performances in several events such as the long jump, hurdles, relay and 100m. Luckily, the weather was also on our side, so we returned with lovely tans. We also qualified for the finals, where we then went on to perform well. Proud of our achievements, we returned with our heads held high having enjoyed the experience. I am sure that all of us look forward to the opportunity to compete once again.

Boys Football: Kings Chester Away by JJ O'Rourke

The annual trip to Kings Chester is always fun for the first, second and third eleven. This year it was a Wednesday afternoon and we couldn't ask for better weather; glaring sun and not even a whisper of a breeze, perfect football weather. So we all met outside PE, most dressed in our suits with sunglasses and Dre beat headphones. We all got on the coach and 45 minutes later we arrived at Kings Chester, the pitches were perfectly cut. The game I played in had a good starting eleven, presumably good enough for us to win.

The match kicked off and it was an even contest for the first 15-20 minutes until Michael Row had a mazy run down the left hand side, beat his man at the by-line and crossed a lovely ball in for Sam Tierney to poke it in at the centre of the goal. It was a good start from Blue Coat until we were hit on the counter attack, with a quick switch from the left to right; an over hit cross by Kings met by a man arriving late, who took a touch

and slotted it inside the near post of our goal.

Once that goal went in our mind sets didn't change. We went back playing to the way we had been. We were playing attractive football and being patient as we knew that our chance would come. It nearly did when a ball was played over the top of the defence for Jacob Barrett-Baxendale to run onto and he had a chance to lob the keeper from outside the box, only for the chance to be cleared off the line at the last minute. Then disaster struck with another counterattack. This time the ball was played in from the right for the striker to cut across me getting a toe onto it and the ball squirmed past Bobby in goal.

Somehow we were 2-1 down and by half time we had numerous opportunities , we had a chance cleared off the line. Countless 1 on 1's also went to waste. We knew if we played the way we had and found the killer through ball then we would be able to go on and win the game. But, first we had to tighten up the defence so Henry replaced Sam and he swapped positions with Ronan, to add a bit more pace on the flanks. It seemed to work. Within minutes we were awarded a penalty, I decided to give it to Sam due to the fact he has never missed one. Sure enough, he sent the keeper the wrong way and we were back in the game 2-2.

We had a new belief that we could win the game. We had more confidence now and then yet again disaster struck. We were playing the ball out from the back and the attackers were pressuring us, then Bobby cleared the ball, only for it to



fall to one of their midfielders who controlled the ball out of the air and hit a looping shot over Bobby and under the cross bar. We couldn't believe it we had somehow fallen behind again. It was now 3-2.

We knew something had to be done, so a tactical decision was made; off came Jamie, Blaise and Jacob and on came Sandeep, Sean and Stephen.

Within minutes the new line-up were playing well and we were awarded another penalty and Sam took it again but this time he hit it over the bar. The final 10 minutes were manic. We were awarded corner after corner and our two best chances fell to Stephen Chen both within 10 yards. The first was from no more than 6 yards out and he hit it over after a lovely run and a neat little 1-2. The second, we were all up except for me and the ball was crossed in. It was like a pinball machine in the opposition box, no one could clear or shoot until the ball bounced up to Stephen, who hit the ball into the top corner only for their keeper to produce an outstanding save and prevent him from scoring. Kings were able to soak up the pressure and when they cleared the ball the referee blew his whistle.

We had lost a game we didn't deserve to lose. The man of the match award was awarded to Mike Harkness. He was the best player on the pitch. He took people on, controlled the tempo of the game and he could also be found defending and was then immediately back up the other end attacking.

The other games results were as follows;

Blue Coat 1st vs Kings 1st won 4-1 Goal scorers were; Max Thelen (3)
& Matthew Harrison

Blue Coat 2nd vs Kings 2nd lost 2-1 Goal scorer was Alex Tucker

Blue Coat 3rd vs Kings 3rd lost 3-2 Goal scorer was Sam Tierney (2)

Under 14s Boys Cricket

by Jacob Slater

Last school year was an exciting and successful year for the U14's cricket team. After some excellent team performances against schools such as St. Margaret's, West Derby and Birkdale, we found ourselves advanced into the Lancashire Cup and into the final of the Liverpool Cup. Unfortunately, a tight encounter ended in a loss in the final to St. Edward's.

We all played excellently together as a team, but individually some of us excelled. Our best batsmen for the year were Dan Carus-McDonald and Jason Smith, along with Joe Fletcher and James Morgan who picked up the most wickets. Many thanks to Mr Barends for the effort he put into our team.

Under 15s Cricket

By Matthew Harrison

Last year was a very successful year for the Year 10 cricket team. In previous years the team had underachieved, but, last year we showed our true class by winning the Liverpool Cricket Cup.

After strong victories against St. Margaret's and SFX we progressed to the final which was held at Sefton Park Cricket Club against Calderstones. It was a hard fought first innings but we scraped our way to 132 after some brilliant batting from our captain, Joe Staunton and some explosive shots from Daniel Teh. Calderstones came out of the blocks faster and it looked as though they would cruise to victory but, after some crucial overs from Matthew Cooper that went for very few runs, we were back on track. We took wickets at crucial times thanks to great wicket-keeping by Adam Moorcroft and a stunning catch from Abe Jacob. We ended up winning by 11 runs-a great victory for us.

We also enjoyed some success in other matches and unfortunately lost narrowly to Merchant Taylor's in the Lancashire Cup. This was the only bad part of a very successful season. On behalf of the team I would like to say thank you to Mr Phelan for organising and taking us to all of the games.

One of the highlights of the school year was the visit of Liverpool Football Club's Adam Lallana. As a result of Blue Coat's participation in the FA Schools' Cup, which is sponsored by Playstation, the school was chosen as the venue for one of the 'tie of the round' fixtures, with our Y10 Boys' Football team playing a one-off game against Helsby High School. In addition to this, Playstation set up 16 gaming stations in the Sports Hall and students from each year were chosen to come and test their video gaming skills against their peers.

Adam Lallana's arrival at the school was greeted with great enthusiasm from students and staff members alike, with many grasping the opportunity later in the day for a selfie or two. GCSE and A-Level PE students had the opportunity to take part in a Q&A session with the Premier League star, before Lallana assisted with the U15 Football Team's warm-up prior to their fixture on the playing field and gave a dribbling masterclass to some lucky students who were filmed for Sky Sports Game Changers.

Perhaps the centrepiece attraction of the day came in the early afternoon, when one lucky student was given the opportunity to play a game of Fifa 15 against Lallana watched on by many of his peers and members of staff; emerging with a 1-0 victory. The final order of the day for the player was to model for a photo shoot in the school changing rooms before concluding his time at Blue Coat by signing memorabilia.

For the remainder of the day, members of staff too, enjoyed themselves by challenging each other on Fifa, with one particular highlight being a highly contested game between Miss Fitchie and Miss Hutchinson and an outstanding goal by Miss Fitchie was enough for her to win.

Overall, it is safe to say that all that took part in the day had a fantastic time and those fortunate enough were delighted to meet one of their footballing heroes.



International Links



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Over the summer, myself and four other students (Molly Arnold, Joseph Murphy, Adrian Leung and Greg) travelled across the globe to Beijing and Xiamen, China. We attended the Chinese Summer Bridge Camp for just over two weeks accompanied by Mr. Fee. It was one of the most enlightening and unforgettable experiences that I've ever had and I will remember it for the rest of my life.

The journey took twelve hours which was split into two six-hour flights (Stopping off halfway at Dubai airport). We stayed in Beijing for the first two nights where we visited Beijing Zoo to see the Giant Pandas. We then visited the Confucius headquarters where we were formally welcomed into China. We were all part of the 'Xiamen 1' group which included four other schools from across the North West of England. One of the schools we particularly bonded with was Altrincham Grammar School for Boys. Their teacher (Mr. Smith) was the leader of the two Xiamen groups and the students were really lovely.

After visiting Beijing and getting to know each other we took a three-hour flight to Xiamen- a major city on the South East coast of China. Xiamen was one of the most beautiful places I've ever visited, the sun was always shining (the temperature reached highs of 45 degrees) and the sky was always so clear, not a cloud in sight. We stayed at the Xiamen University Campus for around ten days and it was immaculate from the beautiful buildings to the luscious vegetation. The campus included two main canteens, hundreds of accommodation apartments, an athletics track, gymnastics equipment, tennis courts, a library (one of the biggest university libraries in China) and around fifty buildings used for schooling. The main



school and library is situated in front of a huge lake which is at the heart of the campus itself. At the start of the holiday, Molly, Joseph, Adrian and I hired bikes which we used to travel around the campus when going to the classrooms which were about a twenty-five minute walk away. We would get up at 7:00am and be downstairs for 7:30am to cycle to

Year 9 China Summer Camp continued

the canteen where we had breakfast. Breakfast in China was so different to what we were expecting. They served steamed stuffed buns, rice, noodles, fried bread and chicken however, we opted for the fruit freshly prepared that morning. Each day we would participate in fun activities such as Kung-Fu, Chinese mask making, Chinese Painting, learning about Chinese history and culture. We also took part in the compulsory YCT (Youth Chinese Test)



Examination. The new YCT test was launched by Hanban in an effort to encourage foreign young students to learn Chinese and improve their Chinese language proficiency. The results would place us in either the beginner, intermediate or advanced classes. We all successfully passed the YCT test with some of the highest marks achieved. We had three four-hour Mandarin classes whilst we were there to prepare us for the final YCT examination which we completed at the end of the holiday. We all passed the YCT Test and were awarded a certificate in the leaving ceremony.

The next day, we were put into pairs and sent to a Chinese host family for the day. Molly and I went to Auntie Chu's family home; it was an apartment on the coast of Xiamen. The family were very welcoming and (as a sign of politeness) poured us some Chinese tea. We must've had around fifteen cups as the father kept pouring out for us! The grandma showed us how to make dumplings which were served as part of the dinner. Auntie Chu had a husband and daughter, Ruby. Additionally, Auntie Chu's sister came over with her son and daughter to meet us; they were a lovely family. The grandma asked us to come into the kitchen to help cook dinner. To our shock, there were two huge live crabs



the sink. Grandma took a crab, scrubbed it and chopped it up while it was still alive. The shell went everywhere and Molly and I were in a state of shock! After our meal they brought out a birthday cake for Molly which was really lovely of them. Then everyone sang Happy Birthday (in Chinese). Auntie Chu then took us back to our meeting place in the Siming Campus.

Year 9 China Summer Camp continued

was the old Xiamen University Campus which was now a park. We explored the park and came across a beautiful lake overlooked by a beautiful old Chinese building. We sat on the pier as the sun set and the sky turned pink. Xiamen was such a beautiful place.

On the second to last day, we visited Gulangyu Island which is located just southwest of Xiamen City. Visitors can



reach it by steamboat from Xiamen City in about 5 minutes. The steamboat was jam-packed with people; no one could move at all. There was an area of the boat reserved as there was a Buddha on board which was unexpected! Gulangyu Island is renowned for its delicate natural beauty, its ancient relics, and its varied architecture. The island is on China's list of National Scenic Spots and also ranks at the top of the list of the ten most-scenic areas in Fujian Province. We walked around the island for a few hours and took in the lovely scenic views and ate ice cream. After the visit, we had a meal at a famous Chinese fish

restaurant which was very pleasant. We then walked to Zhongshan Road which is the retail centre of Xiamen. It contains a department store full of high end shops such as Ralph Lauren. On the opposite end there was a department store called 'Tiger City' which was more of a market; it was so cheap! The road had many small eateries and ice cream parlours; we tried some street food such as a squid kebab which was delicious! We then met up with the rest of our group and visited Nanputuo Temple which was stunning. It had beautiful ancient Chinese architecture and many small Chinese gardens. We walked round and climbed up the hill to the top of the gardens to find a huge cave full of small ceramic Buddhas! When we were leaving, we noticed that the huge lake at the front of the Temple contained lots of turtles; it was a lovely surprise!

On the last full day there was a typhoon and there was non-stop rain for over six hours. Due to these extreme weather conditions, we were unable to attend our final lessons as the wind was too strong. Therefore, we rehearsed our performance, 'Dui Mian De Nu Hai Kan Guo Lai'. This is a famous Chinese pop song by Richie Ren. It roughly translates to 'The Girl Next Door'. We practised this performance in Xiamen where we were put into a group of around twenty six people and had to compete, through song and dance, against other groups who went to Xiamen to see who would perform on Live Chinese Television on the big stage in Beijing. Our group won

Year 9 China Summer Camp continued

and took part in the Beijing performances which celebrated our time in China. Of an evening, we would play football with the boys from Altrincham Grammar School and Torquay Boys Grammar School; it would still be very humid so we would sit up talking. It was truly perfect.

Our visit to Xiamen had eventually come to an end. We flew back to Beijing and spent the last four days in the hotel we stayed at during the start of the holiday. On these final four days, we climbed the Great Wall of China, visited Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, The Summer Palace and The Temple of Heaven. Climbing the Great wall was one of the most amazing yet tiring experiences of my life! It took us forty minutes to reach the top in the searing heat. As we reached the top, we were greeted by a famous martial artist named Shi Dru who was lovely! The view from the



the way back down we bought handcrafted fans and a 'Pass of the Great Wall'. We also enjoyed the visit to the Summer Palace as Molly, Joseph, Charlie, Chris, Joe and I sat and ate ice cream on the boardwalk of Kunming Lake whilst people pedalled by on their boats; it was such an amazing experience! It was one of the best holidays I have ever been on and I met some amazing people that I'm sure I will keep in contact with. I would recommend going on this trip to any Year 9's who take Mandarin GCSE as it is truly unforgettable and so much fun. It's one of the most enlightening trips I have ever been on and it felt, helped me with my Mandarin speaking. I feel so grateful to have taken part in such an amazing experience.



top of the Great Wall was breathtaking. The wall went on as far as the eye could see. I had to remind myself that I was standing on top of one of the great wonders of the world; it was an incredible experience. On

Bordeaux French Exchange 2014

By Ciara Jennions



To be honest, our week in France was so awesome and full of fun trips and making friends; it was hard for us to go back to England afterwards. In fact, many French and English students were sobbing as we realised that this may have been the first and last time we would meet; a strange concept, living with someone for a week and never seeing them ever again. It started with us flying across to Bordeaux, a beautiful place in the south of France, known for its good food and wine. We left school and family excited and nervous, ready to meet a new French family.

A tower with 207 steps awaited us on the Wednesday. Before we made our way up, we were taken down into the tower's historically terrifying crypt. We were then told about the crypt's odd and scary past. We learned that seventy mummified corpses had been hung on the walls of the very place that we stood. After this, we were taken up the tower. There were two floors, both complete with spectacular views. It was very tiring however, and by the time we were back at the bottom we

were ready to return to the school. The afternoon was spent with our exchange students, so I went shopping in Bordeaux, along with my exchange student, Louise.

The next day was spent on a cycle tour of Bordeaux. We got to see lots of historical sights around the older part of the city. It's



a really beautiful city, though by the end of the tour everybody was getting tired, as it was a really warm day, and all of the cycling was exhausting! We got to cycle through two lovely gardens, as well as seeing part of an old Roman amphitheatre.

In my opinion, Friday was the best day. We got to visit a market and a lovely beach in Arcachon, as well as the Dune du Pyla, along with our exchange students. Firstly, we had time to look around the market. Next to the market there was an artisan chocolatier, where the chocolate looked lovely, but was very expensive! In the market there were lots of lovely little stores that sold things such as bracelets and scarves, all of which were very nice. Once we had time, we got to go down to

Bordeaux French Exchange 2014 cont.

the beach to eat our lunch. Most people also went for a paddle in the sea, with me being one of the only ones who didn't. After we had spent some time on the beach, we were off to the Dune du Pyla. The first climb up was quite difficult, especially due to the heat of the day. The real difficulty came when we climbed back up the other side. When running down to the sea it seemed that nobody had realised the difficulty we would face getting back up! When we finally got back down to the side we needed to be on, it was already time to return to Bordeaux and our French families.

All of our weekends were spent quite differently. I had to go to a wedding, which I found really boring. On the Sunday I was

English teacher was the nicest. She gave some English magazines to read whilst the students did a test. The afternoon was the best part of this day though. In order to get to the centre of Bordeaux we had to go by tram. The trams were so full we had to sit on two different ones, and it was very uncomfortable. But this all had a good result. For lunch we got to go to a crêperie. I was used to eating pancakes, and though I thought that they were good, but compared to these French crêpes, they were nothing. We then went to the cinema to watch 'The Guardians of the Galaxy' which was very good.

The next day, was the day that we returned to England. In the morning we went into Bordeaux for a last look around. When we returned to the school we got to see our exchange students. Here there were many heartfelt goodbyes between people who may never see each other again. Some people started crying, French and English alike, as they realised this. We then set off for the airport and the return to England. On returning to Liverpool, when we crossed the road at the airport I found it very funny when Luke said, "We can't cross roads, and cars have to stop and can't kill us!"



very tired, so we didn't do anything else. I found the Monday quite interesting. We spent the morning in school with our French students. Liliya and I found it very funny how afraid the students were of their French teacher! In my opinion their

Spanish Exchange to San Sebastian

Kelly Stewart

year, AS Spanish students took part in a Spanish Exchange with a school in San Sebastian. The exchange commenced in November, when the Spanish students travelled to Liverpool to spend the week with their English partners.

During this week, we did various activities to show them to see how we live our daily lives. We took them to the Albert Dock, the Canning Alley and had various meals together during the week. It was quite overwhelming at first because we had never met them before however this worry soon disappeared as the week progressed. Whilst we were in school they had various visits out to museums, art galleries and they went on a day trip to Chester, which they all seemed to enjoy. On the final day, there were a few tears shed as we said goodbye to them now.

The second part of the exchange took place in the following April, when Blue Coat students travelled to San Sebastian to stay with their Spanish partners. We were all really excited to see them again and we were all greeted with hugs and kisses when they arrived. During the week we took part in various activities such as climbing Monte Pelicci, visiting the Guggenheim and going to the beach for the day (which is surprisingly nice!) During the evenings our exchange partners were great hosts taking us on tours

of the city, going to local pinxos bars and of course, lots of shopping! As the final day arrived, we were all faced with the realisation that the exchange was over. Again there were tears but many more this time around.

We had a great week in Spain and I know that the Spanish students loved Liverpool too. We hope to keep in touch with our friends in Spain as it truly was a great experience, enhancing our Spanish speaking skills whilst making new friends in the process.





San Sebastián 201



Hey guys, what's going on? Our names are Ali El-Rhalibi and Jack Wang and in July 2014, a squadron of four Year 11 students, ten Year 12 students and one Year 13 student from the Liverpool Blue Coat School spent between two and four weeks in the city of Suzhou, China. The students were there for a summer school at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, studying either 'Intensive Chinese and Culture' or 'Chinese Language and Business'. Studying Chinese offered the students an indispensable start in terms of learning a language that is becoming ever more desirable whilst being immersed in the seemingly infinite pool of opportunities that China had to offer. The Chinese Business course offered a fascinating insight into the world's most dynamic economy.

In addition to an invaluable scholastic experience, our squadron of students saw some of the many sights presented by China. The exhilarating city of Shanghai lies just a 30-minute bullet train ride away from Suzhou, where the nightlife was taken advantage of to the utmost by our elite cadre. A select squadron of students also visited China's bustling capital, Beijing, over the course of the weekend and beheld the world-renowned sights of the Great Wall and the Forbidden City.

The trip was a fantastic escapade which benefitted the students academically, as well as strengthening their cultural sensitivity and knowledge. **For any great stories, anecdotes or pictures (unsuitable for this article), please consult any members of the Year 11 squadron. You could ask the Year 12/13 squadrons too but their banter is poor.**

#FTM #中队 #Banter

On July 14th, a coach of Year 7 students set off on an exhausting 12 hour overnight drive to Normandy. Little did we know that the French trip would be such a blast. Upon arriving at the Acorn adventure site (near Hauteville-sur-Mer) we were met by an enthusiastic set of staff, amazing weather, and a lovely rural setting. Our campsite was already set up and we were shown around the grounds. Many fun activities awaited us, but first we chose our tents and unpacked. A sandy volleyball court lay in the centre of our area, next to a marquee for meeting and eating. It looked and felt awesome. The Acorn staff accompanied us on the day activities like rock-climbing and raft building, and they really made the trip memorable. They were funny, talkative and altogether a pleasure to be with.

We learned about the local history, saw the famous Bayeux tapestry, paid our respects to the men who fought at D-Day and altogether practiced our French (with some interesting results!).

The Bayeux tapestry depicted the events of 1066 from the point of view of the Normans, and was much longer than we first thought. The amount of time it must have to

embroider it in such fine detail completely threw us. Also, it had survived revolution, fire and invasion... yet remained intact! The museum was interesting, as was the film about 1066, but the gift shop was completely swamped! Bayeux itself was a beautiful place, and contained the British War Cemetery, which we visited. The same sunny day, the group went to Arromanches, a small fishing town where one of the D-Day landing beaches was. An unusual 360° cinema we visited really moved us with its video footage of the invasion, as did the memorials and a pillbox we entered.

The day activities were also eventful. We did kayaking (which got us very wet), rock climbing in a massive quarry, high ropes, bushcraft in a dark forest and raft building. All of these required teamwork and proved fun and active, leading to a better overall experience. We visited the beach as well, trying to buy ice creams with our terrible French and playing games.

We were sad to return to drizzly Britain, our superb trip over. It had been great, and we missed it as soon as we left.



Year 8 Salou Trip

By Alice Code, Phoebe Mayner & Charlotte Harkness

In Summer 2014 Year 8 travelled to Salou. There was a lot of walking, but by far the hardest part of the trip was getting up at three in the morning and going to school.

The first day was spent chilling by the pool and trying to charge our phones, as only Ms Henderson had managed to sleep on the plane.

The next day we woke up after a night raving at the mini disco, ready to go to the Torres wine caves. While there, we went on a train-ride around the grapevines and tried some grape juice.

On Day 3, we went to Barcelona, and visited the Nou Camp stadium. When we had finished our tour, and found Charlotte, we got back on the coach

and headed for the Sagrada Familia and the markets in Las Ramblas, before returning to the hotel.



Over the next two days, we went to Port Aventura and the Costa Caribe waterpark. After the initial hour-long wait for tickets, everyone had a great time in the Spanish equivalent of Disney, even when Emily threw her shoes off the top of one of the waterslides. We returned home after the midnight firework show, ready for our last day in Salou.

The last day was spent packing, frantically cleaning rooms, and making a few last-minute purchases at Ale Hop, and before we knew it we were on our way back home.



Hello!

My name is Imen, I'm fifteen and I'm French! I first spoke with Becky (Dunwoodie) last year. We have never seen each other in person, but we talk via e-mail. Last year I studied at Hélène Boucher High School, which is located in Paris (Hélène Boucher was a French pilot who was very famous).

Our teacher asked us to write letters to some British students. I sent my letter and few weeks later, I got an answer. I'm not studying at Hélène Boucher High School anymore: I go to a boarding school, which isn't very far outside of Paris. I study science even though I love languages. I have studied German since I was nine and English since I was eleven.

I really love reading and writing.

For example, here is one of my poems (I want to thank Becky for the translation!):

*I want to be able to watch you
Like you can watch the rainfall
Armed with a terrible indifference
To make silence quiet.*

*Our shy relationship was broken
As easy as a matchstick
What will not be and has never been
An ardent fire smothered by your frail voice.*

*Breathing your air makes me suffer
Your smile is the worst of offenses
Was all of this only a game?
My indifference seems to be the crime.*

*Choose your side, my dear
I do not want to play anymore
At being the hunter or the prey
Awaiting a gaze whilst in prayer.*

*I won't run after you
As we hold onto a dream
Propose a truce
Instead of reaching an impasse.*

*Before regression becomes impossible
I won't let you walk away
I don't have to keep my feelings quiet anymore.*

Thanks for reading and goodbye! :)

Key Stage

3



Year 7 Social Evening

By Nia Morris

On Friday 19th September, the new Year 7 students attended a social evening held by the parents association. With snacks and refreshments, everyone gathered in the dining hall, awaiting the event.

We then proceeded to Shirley Hall for games led by a group of Year 13 students called 'the onesies'. This was an opportunity for us all to meet pupils from different forms and build up new friendships. I thought that this aspect was extremely enjoyable.

I heard other students say that the event 'was really fun' and some were also asking

why the fun had to end.

We played games: speed anagrams, balloon popping and pass the parcel (with hilarious forfeits). Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Meanwhile, the adults were listening to a parent association presentation and received useful information including: dates of when wine-tasting events would occur and details about the York Trip. Both children and parents came out smiling and relaxed.

The social evening was a total success.

Year 7 Halloween Disco *By Christy George and Louise Fung*

The Halloween Disco was very enjoyable—we had a great time! As almost all of Year 7 attended the disco, we had an opportunity to talk to people in other forms. We made lots of new friends!

We thought that the Halloween decorations in the canteen were amazing. They really made the atmosphere more fun. There was a tuck shop selling drinks and sweets. Everybody thought that this was really cool.

To get in to the Halloween spirit, a couple of weeks before the disco, there was a pumpkin-dressing competition. The entries were really fab! Someone had even painted theirs green.

There was also a group of Year 12 students helping out with the disco. This was really fun because a lot of

them dressed up in Halloween costumes.

We heard one of our friends saying that the disco was the most fun they'd had since the start of the school year. We agree!



We walked into C04 and sat down in our usual friendship groups. In front of us stood two men in matching yellow and red T-shirts and there was a slide on the board showing the large title CODE BREAKING WORKSHOP.

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C ----	L ----	U ---	3 -----
D ---	M --	V ----	4 -----
E .	N --	W ---	5 -----
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H ----	Q ----	Z ----	8 -----
I ..	R ---	0 -----	9 -----

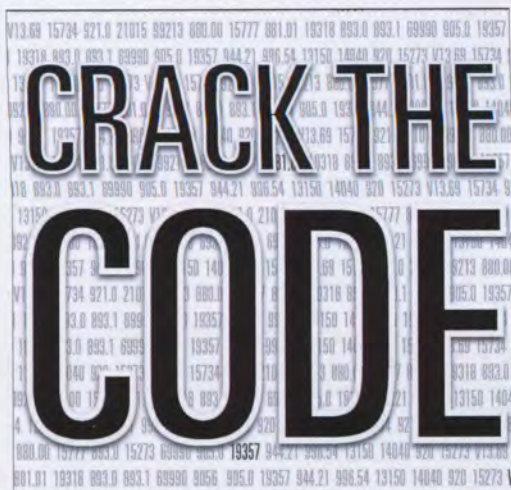
The men introduced themselves and we went straight into the codes, using the slide show to gather information as well as what the men were saying. While one gave out the booklets the other, who did most of the talking, explained about how the codes were used in the past and why.

We found out, with much delight, how Romans used their slaves heads to carry on messages by shaving off their slaves hair, writing the message on their bald scalp. They then left them for 1-2 months until their hair had grown back, then sending them to the receiver of the message, who would simply shave off the newly grown hair and read the message.

We looked at flag signals, with demonstrations galore, which was really fun and a very active part of the session.

Flashing lights and Morse code also featured in our learning. Our main point of focus was on the Caesar cipher, a type of cryptography. This is an easy code, consisting simply of replacing one letter of the alphabet with another that is a fixed number of positions down the alphabet.

It was a fun and interesting experience and the hour whizzed past very quickly. We were all very reluctant to leave the classroom!



During Year 7 we went on a trip to Spaceport. It was fun and an amazing experience we learnt a lot and enjoyed our time there.

As Spaceport is only in Wirral and was not that far so we travelled by coach. When we got there we were split into our form groups before we were allowed to explore Spaceport.

We were given worksheets to fill in as we went around. For most of the day we learnt about Dr Who, the Solar System and rockets. We also went on a simulator, which felt very realistic.

Later we went on a ferry trip on the Mersey River and whilst on the ferry we ate our lunch. On the ferry we were given a talk about Liverpool, the Wirral and both of their coastlines. There was a very long line on the ferry to wait in to buy ice cream.



When we got off the ferry, we went back to Spaceport and finished filling in our worksheets. Then we were more or less finished so we all went to watch a video. The video was about the conditions in space. It was quite interesting. Once we had all purchased our souvenirs, we finally headed back to school.



Describe what you thought your first day would be like in one word?

Scary.

Was your first day as scary as you thought it would be?

No, because I made friends easily.

Describe how your first day was in one word?

Fabulous.

What was the first difference you noticed when you started BC compared to primary school?

The different teachers.

What were the perks of Year 7?

The teachers were more lenient with you, if you were late.

What was your favourite subject and why?

English, because I really liked my teacher.

Did you get involved in any clubs?

Yes, I joined the choir.

How did you find making friends?

It was hard at first, but I made a lot of friends from my lessons.

Was it difficult finding your way around the school?

It wasn't too bad, because my friend had a map so we were able to follow that.

What were your first impressions of the school?

It was very organised, fun and there were lots of nice people.

Describe the school.

It is good fun.

Was the work difficult?

It wasn't too bad, but I got quite a bit of



Skiing in summer, that seems unlikely! And also not far from home! Well, that's just what we did at the end of last year, students in Year 8 who had chosen to not go on the trip to Barcelona were given the amazing opportunity to go to the Chill Factor in Manchester. The day was split into three main activities, which we each tackled at a different time, depending on which form we were in.

The first thing we noticed was the freezing temperature of the place! After all, they don't call it the Chill Factor for nothing. My first activity was spending an hour in the 'Snow Park'. This consisted of a short skeleton track in which some high speeds could be achieved! Then there was a small piste allocated solely to the racing of sledges. We could all agree this was very entertaining, especially as it was quite hard to actually stay on the sledges! Finally, perhaps the most amusing of all the activities, was the rubbering slope. This was an icy, bumpy hill on which we could slide down in bouncy rubber-rings while being spun around by the safety guide. This was quite disorientating as you can imagine!

The second activity was a rather daunting climbing wall. We all tried to climb walls of different difficulties. It didn't matter if you were a first-timer or if you had some experience in climbing; there was a wall for everyone! After a few tries, we each were given the opportunity of attempting the "speed wall". We had to climb the wall as fast as we could and if we did well enough, our name would be put on the leader board. The

record was a mind-boggling ten seconds and was set by the same man who had featured in a Top Gear episode for beating a car in a race down a huge cliff.

The last activity of the day was skiing or snowboarding down the artificial pistes. The beginners were taught how to ski on a small slope just for themselves whereas the few people who had some experience were allowed to go on the big piste, which even had a few jumps towards the bottom. For this was the most enjoyable activity of the day as I got to practice some of my snowboarding tricks. I am sure that the others thought this as well, because whatever the ability, everyone was able to have fun.

The trip was an amazing experience for me and I would definitely do it again if I had the chance. I highly recommend this trip, especially if you have never tried skiing or snowboarding as you may just fall in love with these sports as I did many years ago.



Earlier this school year, the annual Year 7 trip to York took place. It was a great opportunity to experience the wide range of historical culture displayed in the beautiful city of York.

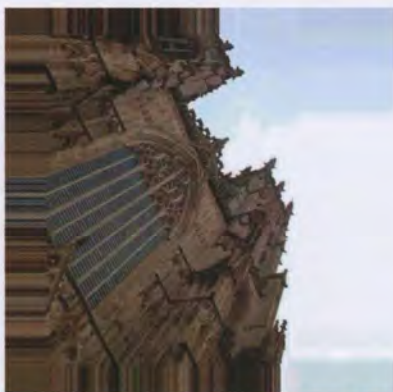
The trip was a really good opportunity for us, the new Year Sevens, to get to know each other. We were allocated in rooms with one person from our form, and two people from another. This meant that we got to talk to people that we wouldn't have got to socialise with otherwise.

On the first day, we got there around midday so we didn't have time to do much, however, once we had unpacked, we went on the coach to the York Castle Museum. It was very interesting learning about York's history and

how it came to be like it is today. (We also went to the gift shop where some people bought some very interesting souvenirs!) That evening, we went bowling. It was also a great opportunity to socialize with our teams.

The next day, we were supposed to go on a boat trip but it (unfortunately) got cancelled. Most of us then went to The York Dungeons and got really spooked out. The actors were amazing and the adventures and stories told inside were captivating. That day, we also visited the York Chocolate Story where we got to make our own chocolate bars. Yum!

Our trip to York was amazing and we all loved it!





Peter Arnold-Craft Competition Winner KS3

By Nia Morris

Solemn contemplation

Where luring sirens sing

Pensive stillness and superiority

Aquatic life, what beauty brings

It's secret, musing world

An unfathomed, new universe

Where Neptune dictates and commands

Currents and creatures, in water

Immersed.

And yet on one fateful day

A storm arose, never to forget

Malevolent waves crashed on jagged rocks

Then babbling like a loquacious dinner guest.

The shores so lethal

Some like lithe dagger blades

Deadly and punishing

Reminiscent of those in an epic escapade.

Finally, after a long period of chaos

Neptune calmed down the seas

Stilled the waves and softened the rocks

And thankfully restored nautical peace.

Such power and fearsome properties

The oceans have and yet

The water can be beautiful

And be a guest, now with politeness and
etiquette.

The storm settled a long time ago now

And I regard the water as a peaceful place

The ponds and lakes are soft

While I cool down my face

Contemplative and deep

The sirens sing still now

It remains pensive and superior

The waters are ever-changing but ever the
same.

And like they are

They will remain

Key Stage 4



Art Trip to Amsterdam

By Oscar Hou

We spent 3 days in Amsterdam but we should have spent more. After a short flight into the heart of Holland, we walked to the Rijksmuseum - passing rows of bicycles on the street, occasionally being attacked by one; they run rampant on the stone streets. Despite parading its traditionalist Dutch architecture, its capital city nature confessed to contemporary and often beautiful buildings, disseminated within the centre.



People often consider art to be either weird and modern, or boring and old. They cannot conceive the idea that these eras can co-exist. Visiting the Rijksmuseum dismantles this notion, with classical Rembrandt residing a few rooms away from a compressed tea cube, although my preferred exhibits were from the Asian pavilion. I will not try to describe all the art I saw with words, because although you can describe to the blind the blue of the sky, they still cannot see, no matter how eloquent you happen to be. So, I can only summarise all the art I saw as Great.

After visiting the Rijks and settling into our rooms, dinner was served at a faraway Pancake restaurant. The pancakes were very big and



could perhaps sustain small families if they rationed well. I describe it as "far away" because we had to travel there 30 minutes by foot, much like how we had to travel everywhere, multiple half-hours by feet, on cobbled pavements, with bicycle ambushes. One thing I learned was that our art department likes danger. But the best thing about art teachers is that they don't like getting up before 10am.

The day after, we embarked to the Rembrandt House Museum. All his possessions and rooms laid intact, dating from 1639 - unfortunately, I am not a noticeable admirer of Rembrandt or that general era, so I will not go into any more detail, but I can say it was interesting, although I remember someone accidentally and discreetly cracking one of the glass display cases.

Van Gogh was next. I love Van Gogh, and the museum was wonderful. Do you ever see something so great, so great that you briefly consider a career, or future, in just doing that, foresighting whether you could ever begin to equal something so great? The museum made me want to be an architect, interior designer, and fine artist all at once. It was very surreal to see something only seen in books or web pages

Art Trip to Amsterdam

By Oscar Hou

in real life, like if you accidentally saw Beyoncé on the Quad or a similar event. Incidentally I regret comparing Beyoncé with Van Gogh because although she is fantastic, Van Gogh was prodigal - it was so rewarding to see his paintings in real life, to be able to get a view of his marks and colour and paint. I confess I shoved through swathes of bored children to stick my nose in his orchids.

We had dinner at the Hard Rock Cafe next. I felt truly assimilated into Dutch culture, thank you Miss Watson.

On our final day, we visited the Stedelijk museum, filled to the brim with the weird and modern art I wrote about earlier - visual art, fashion, furniture - every contemporary facet of art you can find today. Once again the building was beautiful, much like everything inside. Different shades of fluorescent light brewed together on the ceiling, with wide steps leading to each floor. I felt like we could have spent a lot more time in there.

The final event was a canal ride. I think

everyone agreed it was anticlimactic.

Also, there was a sketchbook competition, which, incidentally I won, winning water-miscible oil paints, which was cool, although only six people entered.



In July 2014 to celebrate the end of a great year all the Year 9 students went to Blackpool Pleasure beach on an adventure excursion. The day started quite early but no one felt grumpy or groggy as they eagerly awaited the day ahead. We passed the time on the arduous bus journey by singing an array of songs and eating the majority of our lunch. By the time we arrived everyone was feeling restless and couldn't wait to start our rollercoaster of a day. The informative talk at the beginning seemed like it took years, only about half listened (the responsible ones) while the rest were raring to go.

Immediately once the talk was over, everyone split into little groups and most headed for the largest, scariest rides like the Tango Ice Blast, Infusion and Revolution.

The more daring of the group went straight for the prime attraction – The Big One. The day was full of thrills and screams as everyone enjoyed themselves. Around lunch time the crowds calmed down as everyone dispersed into the nearest McDonalds or KFC as they had queues of children streaming outside. The smarter kids used this time to get on as many rides as possible. In the short time we were there it was impossible to ascend every rollercoaster, the majority only managed 7 or 8 rides. As the day was nearing to an end everyone was running around trying to get on one last ride, insistent on making the day last as long as possible.

On the bus journey back, everyone reminisced about the day's events in a fatigued drawl. It was a great day out.





On 22nd of May 2014, thirty Year 10 students met Mr O'Brien, Mr Adamson and Mrs Irvine at Liverpool Airport to start the first ever Blue Coat trip to Madrid. After a short flight and coach journey from the airport, we finally arrived at Hotel Principe Pio in the centre of Madrid. Our hotel was opposite the Palacio Real, which was a great view to see when we first arrived. After hectic room allocations, unpacking and a brief itinerary talk from Mr O'Brien, we set off to do our first activity of the holiday; a cable car ride over the city. The cars took us above the tree tops, allowing us to see Madrid from the sky and giving us a taste of what the rest of the weekend would have in store for us. Then it was back to the hotel for a meal, some more organising and then it was time for bed.

After being woken up by my roommate Lucy at around 6 o'clock in the morning (thanks a lot Lu!), we got ready, had our breakfast and got into our groups with our group leader which was of course Mr O'Brien. By the end of the morning all three groups had names; Obi Jon Kenobi Team Salsa Geri and Ado's Saddo's. The morning weather surprised the girls in our group rather a lot, considering most of us had expected rays of sunshine from the moment we woke up. Instead it was a dull grey morning which left us shivering in our shorts. Nonetheless, we 'beasted on', as Mrs Irvine would say, and began our day visiting the Palacio Real which was actually very impressive. After that, we bought Metro tickets and continued to travel around Madrid seeing sights such as Plaza

Mayor and visiting Mercado de San Miguel, where one of the boys in our group (who shall remain anonymous) thought that a huge lobster was a shrimp. The market allowed us to sample the local food and eat something other than Burger King which seemed to be the popular option with most people during the weekend. Once we had finished our travelling around the city, we then visited the home of Real Madrid, the Bernabeu stadium. The stadium was impressive and noticeably larger than most stadiums I had ever been to. We were



treated to views of the pitch from all levels and then much to everyone's delight, we were allowed through the dressing rooms and onto the side of the pitch where we sat in the dugouts which the team and staff of the club would all sit during the season. The trip to the stadium had left everybody feeling excited for the following night when the final of the Champions League (in which both Madrid teams would come

head to head) would be played and left Chloe feeling complete after she'd bought her Real Madrid top with Bale on the back.

Following on from a busy day of sightseeing and exploring, we then headed to the Hard Rock Cafe for our evening meal. As expected, the food was brilliant however as with all school students, after we had finished our meal we wanted to leave but the three teachers seemed quite happy to stay. So, we were left to entertain ourselves for a short while and provided some entertainment for by-passers in the form of a Blue Coat yoga class led by Natalie and Liv. Soon enough, we returned



to the hotel for what I thought would be a quiet night but it was the complete opposite. The event of the night was my accident with our door handle which, in my defence, was already hanging off. As I attempted to open the door the whole

handle fell off in my hand on both sides of the door. The rest of the night was spent attempting to put it back and at one point Mr O'Brien and the hotel receptionist were locked inside our room. After about an hour and a half of locking and unlocking the door we were told we would have to pack our things and move to a room on the top floor of the hotel. It was an eventful night to say the least.

Saturday morning came and after the events of the previous night, I was glad to be up and out around the city again. We set off on a coach tour and saw more of the city, which seemed to have quietened down a bit as most people had made their way to Lisbon for the match. We saw more sights such as Plaza de Torro, which was a lot bigger than most of us had expected however unfortunately we were unable to go inside the bull ring. After the tour, it was onto Parque de Warner Bros for an afternoon of rollercoasters. The theme



park had rides to match most major Warner Bros films and TV series such as Superman, Batman, Scooby Doo and Lex Luthor. However, the ride that had the most effect on people

(quite literally) was Stuntfall. The ride began by pulling the cart up a tower and releasing the cart backwards at a speed that could make your head spin and then the ride continued to throw you left and right at high speeds. After deciding to ride Stuntfall twice, a few people had decided they'd had enough after the ride had left them feeling a little bit sick. The following evening, we all sat in the bar and watched the Champions League final. To top off an exciting evening, we were all highly entertained by Mr Adamson's comment that he was 'as ripped as Ronaldo' and Chloe's drooling over Gareth Bale (who wears shirt no.11) to which Izzy replied 'He's not a 10, he's an 11'.

The next morning, we woke with sad faces as it was leaving day. After packing and breakfast we had one last trip around Madrid and then relaxed in the park nearby our hotel until we were told it was time to go to the airport. I think I speak for everyone on the trip when I say that this trip was one of the best we have all been on and some of the events and memories will be remembered for years to come.

Year 11 Prom

By Kelly Stewart and Ali El-Rhalibi

Did you ever think that you would become prom king and prom queen?

Ali: I don't know, I had a good feeling and I guess that was confirmed when we heard the shortlist. I think I get on with everyone, I have friends everywhere.

Kelly: No I'll be honest I didn't think I was would even be in the running for prom queen. I didn't know the criteria for the prom queen. I thought that maybe if it was on people in the year on a whole, if they liked me then I might have a chance. So I was very shocked which is apparent on some of the photos that were taken when my name was called.

would do that again, given the opportunity.

Kelly: Yeah well when Ali got lifted up and I ran! I was not being hoisted into the air! It was quite fun dancing with everyone all together at the end. We were all dancing together and I really enjoyed it.



What was your opinion on the song choice?

Ali: The song was 'Time of your Life' from Dirty Dancing. Well my face was captured at the exact moment the song was played. I just heard 'now I' and I just looked straight at the DJ. I looked him straight in the eyes, he didn't look at me I was just like 'what have you done?'

Kelly: Yeah I agree. When I heard the song I was just thinking 'oh here we go' and Ali's face was a picture. The photographer did well to capture his reaction.



What was your highlight of being prom king/prom queen?

Ali: My highlight was probably getting lifted up by everyone. I'm not sure who suggested it. It was after the climax of the song. After everybody ran into the centre, I remember distinctly someone behind me saying 'let's pick him up'. Everyone was on board immediately and I felt hands everywhere and then I was elevated. It was really good and I

Do you think it was good end to year 7-11?

Ali: The first half was a bit dead as no one was comfortable enough to dance. There was no food to keep people busy and the drinks were a bit overpriced. After the nominations and the joke awards, it lightened up and everyone started dancing.

Kelly: It was a good way to end our time at Blue Coat as we were all together. We all had a really good night and everyone got along well. There was no heckling or messing when people were nominated.

with the school colours, navy suit gold socks and tie. So we kind of coordinated.



What was arrival at the school like?

Kelly: I was so nervous turning up. It was such a nerve wrecking experience. Well for the parents, especially the girls and their mums it had taken a lot of time and effort to get everything ready for prom.

Ali: I liked seeing whose parents stayed behind with cameras. Even in the coach waiting to go some parents were signalling me to get students so that they could take pictures because some parents really wanted to be there to see the children off, it was a proud moment.



How did you prepare for prom?

Kelly: So I bought my dress in February and then once I had the dress I could buy the shoes and the accessories to match. The dress is the most important as everything has to match the dress. Getting ready for prom was a two-day thing. I got my tan and nails done the day before and then hair and make-up on the day.

Ali: I bought my suit two weeks before prom but the week before I bought a cream suit and I was thinking 'could I pull it off?' but in the end I went with the navy suit. I stuck



Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award

By Eleanor Maguire

Over 100 students from Years 9 and 10 completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, which is a fantastic achievement that everyone should be very proud of. To complete this challenging yet fulfilling award, students had to apply themselves to four different sections: develop a skill, partake in a physical activity, volunteer at somewhere that enables you to help people, and complete a two day expedition.

From the four sections, I found the expedition the most challenging and equally the most enjoyable. It involved two days of navigating our way around the countryside, making our dinner and camping in a freezing cold field, however because we were with our friends, it was an amazing experience and we laughed a lot. We were put into walking groups of eight, and we promptly started the expedition. The bags we had to carry were extremely heavy, so by the end of the day, your

back and shoulders were aching a lot, but everyone had the goal in their head, and didn't moan about it.

For me, I look back on the whole DofE experience as a very positive one that I would like to remember for a long time because not everyone gets the opportunity to do something like this. Many of us often talk about the funny memories we made, such as us getting lost and being late back to the campsite, meaning we had to cook dinner in the dark, which was very difficult!

I hope that we are given the opportunity to continue on with the Duke of Edinburgh Award and progress to the Silver level because, while it was hard work at times, that was what the whole experience was about and it would be recommended to anyone who is thinking about doing it.

Bronze DofE Expeditions

By Harish Kang

The expedition section of the Bronze DofE was a hard, however rewarding, experience. We did two expeditions in total, the first was a practice one. The aim of this was to get people used to things such as using the maps and compasses, and having to walk for long distances with heavy rucksacks. The second one was the actual expedition, where we received less guidance during the walking, and had to use our own navigational skills more.

During the practice expedition, the weather was very nice; it was always sunny and dry, which made it much easier to walk, and also when we

had finished walking, to set up, and take down the tents.

The first day of walking wasn't too tiresome, however it certainly wasn't easy. Due to the heat, we had to take many breaks as a group to hydrate, which did make the walk longer. However, they helped a lot, as without them we wouldn't've made it all the way back. On the second day the walk was much harder; there was a large ascending road for some part of the walk, and straight after that, a fairly steep hill climb. Doing all of this was very hard as everybody had sore muscles from the day before.

During the actual expedition, the weather to begin

Bronze DofE Expeditions cont.

with was worse than at the start of the practice expedition. When we began our walk it had started raining abruptly, which meant everybody had to quickly put on their coats, and put waterproof covers over their bags. The walk on the first day wasn't too entertaining, as for about half of it, we were being showered by rain. In addition, we also spent a lot of time walking through fields which was quite repetitive.

Even though it had been a very cold night, we all managed to sleep well, waking up with freezing noses. Taking down the tent in the morning was somehow challenging, as it was all cold, wet, and muddy, which left our hands feeling numb afterwards.

The walk that day showed better weather than

the first, as there was no rain, and during the afternoon it was very hot and sunny. Near the end we were pushed for time to get back, as we were all tired from the hot temperature and the long day of walking the day before. Nevertheless we did manage to get back with time to spare.

Overall, I believe that the expedition part of my bronze DofE was a great, and very worthwhile experience. I have learnt a lot of new useful skills from it, which I hope I will be able to use in other situations and it will be one of many, long lasting memories from school.



Year 10 Trip to Alton Towers *By Luda Chupina*

The trip to Alton Towers was on the 15th of July, at the end of the year for Year 10. We had to be in the canteen at 8:30am, yet we were delayed because of a problem with the coaches. Getting onto the two coaches provided was easy as forms were set to go into different coaches – Blundell and Shirley in one coach and Graham and Bingham on the other coach. The ride to Alton Towers was noisy and like a roller-coaster itself; trying to get through small, country lanes with sharp turns on an enormous coach was found quite terrifying, even for some teachers. We arrived at Alton Towers at around 11 o'clock and after a small talk about behaviour and time we had to meet after our day, we were free to walk around

the theme park. We went in small groups in different directions ready to queue for rides like The Smiler that were actually worth queuing for in comparison to memories of bleak Lightwater Valley two years previously. The queues were huge, but that was to be expected, so it came as no great shock and it certainly didn't spoil the day. Different groups saw each other as they wandered around the park relishing about the rides they had been on, counting how many rides they went on and their experiences.

We had to meet at the entrance of the theme park at 5 o'clock, where students talked about their day and waited to go back.

Thirteen months ago, the entirety of Year 10 was asked to wait behind after an assembly by their Key Stage manager. After an initial groan that spread across the crowd like butter over school toast, the atmosphere completely changed with the use of two words and a single question: "experience", "university", and "So how many of you would be interested in becoming a Maths Leader for this year?". Instantly, a forest of hands shot up into the air, and it was instantly clear that the role of Maths leader was certainly popular to say the least. Looking back, I sometimes had doubts as to why I volunteered for such a large and gruelling undertaking, but at the end of the experience, it was totally worth my while.

The cocky now-Year 9 lads that we had to teach were probably the most challenging element of the whole course, but all in all, the challenge is what made it enjoyable. The "Fun" Maths Roadshow also lived up to its name, and coupled with the

teamwork elements, the Maths Leaders program was one of the most enjoyable aspects of my Year 10 life. Looking back, I think that a career in teaching may not be my cup of tea, although I would certainly recommend the Maths Leaders opportunity to anyone who gets the chance.



Lord of the Flies

By Jamil Abbasi

In September 2014 I was part of a show with one of the most renowned dance directors and choreographers in the world, Matthew Bourne. He is undoubtedly one of the most prestigious figures in the theatre world and it was an honour to work and perform for his company, New Adventures. I was part of the cast for the dance interpretation of William Golding's novel, *Lord of the Flies*.

There was a long and tricky process before becoming part of the cast as there were multiple workshops and auditions that had to be completed before I was even considered for a role. There were over a thousand boys in the North West who attended the workshops and auditions to try to get one of the twenty-two parts available in the all male cast. It took many weekends and after school sessions to get a recall for the company but it was worth it.

After a nervous and difficult three hour recall, that was it, I had given my best and hopefully it would pay off. It did. I received a phone call from the company saying that I had been selected to be a part of the cast. I was overwhelmed by the situation but also excited to get started. I was told the dates of rehearsals and was warned it was going to require a lot of hard work and dedication.

The rehearsals took place through the summer holiday for four days per week. I knew it would be tough but the sheer effort that had to be put in was incredible. During the two week period before the show, we met

some of the professionals that would be playing some of the roles. They were really friendly and supported us as we drew near to show week.

Show week became very intense as the scale of the performance became more of a reality. The first show took place on a Thursday evening. The Empire auditorium soon became filled out with an eager and anticipating audience. The show went past like a blur and the whole experience was elating. First night was over with and I now felt I could enjoy the rest a little bit more as the Friday Saturday and Sunday shows went by. This was an experience that was truly unforgettable. Mathew flew into Liverpool especially for the first night performance from a show he was working on in Japan. He and his team were tremendous and hugely encouraging and wanting help male dancers to succeed.

My future with Matthew Bourne did not end here as I now have an audition for his agency so hopefully I will be able to have another experience just like *Lord of the Flies*.



The Mezzanine Of Maritime Poetry

By Joseph Murphy

On the 22nd of March, myself and 4 other Year 8 students (Jacob Stillings, Anika Koithara, Jack Fox and Josie Pritchard) attended the final of a poetry competition set up by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool to commemorate Liverpool's strong maritime roots.

All the students were in good spirits after school being cancelled earlier that day due to the snow and after everyone had braved the weather and arrived at the Town Hall we were lead up into a ballroom, where the Shanty Kings (a band of some cheerful men) performed some old sailor songs and we were able to view the five poems in the Under 18's category final and the five for the Over 18's final, whilst dining on confectionary. Here we were interviewed by Roger Haffie-Thompson, a former Blue Coat

student, before being led down into the Council Chambers.

The Liverpool Sea Cadet Drum Corps then put on a fantastic performance and all the finalists were invited to read out their poems. Then, the judges (One being the Lord Mayor herself: Cllr Sharon Sullivan,) had deliberated over a final result, we all waited anxiously for the winners to be read out. Much to my own surprise, I was announced winner of the Under 18's category and was bestowed the title of 'Mezzanine of Maritime'. My prize was a weekend out at sea on a royal navy boat and I'm excitedly awaiting this voyage.



History Trip to Berlin

By Sorchia Keenan

On 24th October, 77 Blue Coat students and 8 teachers met at Liverpool Airport to embark on a historical adventure to Berlin. When we arrived at Berlin, we were taken to our vibrant hotel and met by our two guides who would take us around the city in the proceeding days. Both tour guides gave us an insight into Berlin with one of the tour guides, Keith, reminding us of older versions of our very own Mr Croxton and Mr Pearson. During our stay we visited the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag, Potsdam, the TV tower, Checkpoint Charlie, the Olympic Stadium and many other famous monuments. However, the most powerful visit was to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. It moved everyone and, although it was extremely sad, it was a truly unforgettable experience.

Berlin provided us with memories that will stay with us forever and we would all love to go again.



Peter Arnold Craft Competition Winner

By Anya Gavin

Ambling along the mountain top,
It's pouring down and just won't stop.
I can barely see through all the mist,
I'm angry, I'm drowning, I clench my fist.
Each step is a struggle,
Each step is too hard.
All these problems I must juggle,
Isolated, alone in the dark.
I feel like collapsing, all this weight on my back,
I feel like I'm falling, now under attack.
This never ending tunnel won't let me out. Will it stop raining? I'm in serious doubt.
The water is rising in this cage I'm trapped in.
It's nearing the top now, the air's getting thin.
I'm prepared to give up. I'll take my last breath.
There's no one to help me' it's nearly mind my death.
But when I'm prepared to give in and sink,
I finally see a light in front of me, I dare not blink,
I just hope I don't lose this light like I've lost everything I had before.

Key Stage 5



On the morning of 1st April, sixty Year 12 students set off to Oxford from Liverpool via the M6 toll, a return journey which many on the coach are aspiring to repeat over the next few years of their lives.

Accompanied by several teachers, including the Heads of School and Sixth Form, and a handful of former Blue Coat students, we were mainly anticipating a bit of sightseeing and a chance to dress up. What we received on top of that, however, was an invaluable insight into the applications process for competitive universities, and the opportunity to fall in love with a beautiful and historic city!

The Liverpool Blue Coat School consistently sends several students a year to the Oxbridge universities, and thus has developed indispensable links with both. This enables our Sixth Form to offer a highly rewarding visit to an Oxford or Cambridge college each year for students who are holding designs on competitive universities. Our host this year was Trinity College, Oxford, which looked even more magnificent - and Potteresque - in person than photographs could ever display.

We had prepared ourselves for potential accommodation scares, but besides the night-flight trek between some of our rooms and the bathroom, the lodgings were more than up to scratch (one of the suites in our staircase contained a grand piano). Furthermore, it was an absolute

treat to wander through Trinity's famous gardens - staying at all times, of course, off the grass - and to soak up the prestige of the College and wider university during our two days there.

A common misconception regarding Oxford and Cambridge is their snobbery: this myth and others, including the cost of living and the supposed need to be a child prodigy, were debunked in a short session held by a College representative, to the reassurance of our cohort. We had the chance to further see the 'real Oxford' through student-guided tours of two other colleges, St. Peter's and Hertford. One of the greatest pulls of Oxbridge universities is their collegiate system, which only a handful of higher education institutions in the UK still maintain. Each college offers a slightly different feel, ranging in size from 60 students a year to over 160, and thus it is absolutely essential for prospective applicants to visit as many as possible in order to find their favourite.



Oxford Dinner Continued

Personally, I barely stopped for a cup of tea in one of the innumerable coffee shops which Oxford offers - among other little treasures, such as a gift shop dedicated to Alice In Wonderland (whose author, Lewis Carroll, studied at the University) or Oxford's smallest pub, the Bear Inn (the walls of which are decorated by 4,500 ties) - as there was precious little time to visit each of the 34 undergraduate colleges.

Thankfully, most were open to prospective students despite their closure in anticipation of exam season (and of those that weren't as willing, I managed to talk my way into a fair few more).



The must-see college is Christ Church, whether for its enormous lawns, sprawling adjoining meadows and Tom Tower, or its featuring of the staircase shown before the Sorting ceremony in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. Yet almost each college

was breath-taking to see, so much so that making a decision between them all poses quite the challenge - it is understandable why, as explained in our myth-debunking session, "open" applications to a college (something of a lucky dip) are increasingly popular.

And after a day of trekking across the city and narrowly escaping several bicycle collisions, the Dinner itself came as a hearty relief. Held in Trinity's impressive formal hall and staffed by a league of waiters in waistcoats, we were treated to three courses of fine dining and a series of speeches after dessert. Formal hall isn't a ceremonial necessity each night in most colleges, however, and if tomato risotto doesn't float your boat, food is also served in each college's Student Bar and the reams of city eateries.

Overall, therefore, the Oxford Dinner is an unmissable trip for anybody who is looking to apply for either Oxford or Cambridge. It inspired even greater confidence in applicants with their hearts fixed upon it, and helped others to discern that the culture of the university might not be for them after all. I would highly recommend the trip to anybody even slightly considering an application to competitive universities, as the chance to visit such a beautiful and inspiring city - the "city of dreaming spires", as dubbed by poet Matthew Arnold - is not to be missed.

Upon being invited to write an article for the Squirrel, I jumped at the chance. As you all know, I do love the sound of my own voice and forcing everyone else to listen to it has been a pipe dream of mine since I was an embryo. I write this article not simply to try and impose my own sense of self-importance on you but to inform the intrigued, and those too tired to get up in the early hours to climb a mountain, what it's like to do so. It wasn't a pleasant morning but – donning two pairs of socks, a woollen jumper seemingly knitted for the BFG; jeans which could bend an iPhone 6 and a Kagool which screamed tourist hiker – I felt ready for the day's events.

Arriving to what must have been the 1960's, I was informed of the decision to impose a policy of gender segregation on the mini-buses. It only took one quick look into the "men's bus" for me to elect to become an "honorary girl" for the day and jump the female one; although, I did feel like the feminist reincarnation of Rosa Parks for the day – one step at a time to equality guys.

After only being on the road for what must have been half-an-hour, we ended up taking a rather ritualistic stop at a Little Chef. The temptation to buy a caffeine stimulant was just too much to bear and so I went with the largest cup of molten grit they had; from what Little Chef was a mamant should be called a Café. It was hot; believe me, it was hot. You know how I know? Because only seconds later, with Mr. Bulkin at the wheel, it was all over my patch...

Following a rather hot and uncomfortable drive down - my only

consolation being that I was at the back and no one had really noticed the wet patch in my pants – we arrived at the foot of Skiddaw. It never occurred to me or anyone else, from what I could gather, that it might be sunny in the Lake District. It turns out that two weeks into July the probability of it being hot is, to put it lightly, rather high. And so, that miscalculation ended in nothing but pain; hot, steamy pain.

It was in the smouldering masses of clothing we had all foolishly adopted that we began the ascent. It didn't take long for the group to start separating, the strongest (and least sensible) taking the helm. With the increasing spread of the group and the misguided sense of privacy that evoked, the men - driven by that innate need of man to mark untamed territory - decided to urinate all over the country-side. You could tell this was definitely the rural north when, mid-stream, one unnamed person within our group realised that he was actually micturating on a dead ram.

It only took another couple of yards for the soles on my unfit-for-use shoes to begin to peel away like an ageing plaster. This made the walk rather difficult. One consolation, however, was the endless comedy of a group of ego-charged fell runners making their way up the rather steep mountain-side, at speeds close to 2 miles per hour, looking like the Hunchback of Notre-Dame with a limp.

When we finally reached the top, after two baby peaks which only delivered false hope, the placid landscape was immense. It's hard not to feel powerful when standing at the top of a mountain;

a feeling which is soon quashed upon noticing that some sheep beat you there and is hanging off the edge just to brag. It was at this peak that people would perform the age-old tradition of adding a rock to the mountain's peak. Only, no one had actually brought a rock with them, so they just took one off the peak to put it back on again in the view that they were, quote, "making the mountain bigger".

Finally, we could make the descent. The ground was rocky and had more twists, turns and obstacles, than a very twisty turny thing with obstacles. This time none of us could help descending at high speeds and those walking up this side of Skiddaw must have been rather shaken as a pack of Kagool-wearing ninjas swooped down on them. Our speed meant we all made it down in good time; except for Mr Caulkin, that is.

Somehow, we had lost him on the way down. Luckily, he wasn't that far behind. You could tell who really cared by the fact that only myself and three others bothered to stay and wait for him.

The hike was over and now we could enjoy ourselves at a local Gastropub. The prompt notice as we entered not to attempt to purchase any alcohol seemed obvious but some still moaned as if they were actually going to try in the first place. It's very easy to sit down and enjoy yourself when you've been walking for close to six hours, and so we did. In fact, I didn't even mind that they'd pulled the old trick of pretending the website wasn't updated and actually our meals were going to cost more than we had originally thought.

Then we were home and, after a sleepy journey, back to the relatively boring street

lamps and busy roads of Allerton. Turns out the hiking club was where the party was at. I suggest you all go next time the opportunity crops up.



The Great War Commemorative Service

A student's perspective....

On 11th September 2014, a commemorative service to mark the Centenary of the start of World War I was held in our School Chapel. From the beginning of the Service, we were encouraged to honour the memory of the Blue Coat students who fought, and died tragically, so that we may come to our School safe from fear. Their sacrifice was remembered through several poignant readings and poems read beautifully by members of the Senior Prefect Team throughout the event. We were particularly privileged to welcome not only Sixth Form students, but also old friends of the School, for many of whom the horrors of war were a stark reality for their families, just seventy years ago. The Service was perhaps felt most as we reflected directly upon the members of our School Community that left School, with their whole lives ahead of them, to fight for their country. The names of these fallen Old Blues

were read out, along with any information the members of the History Society had sourced. Mr Emery and the Sixth Form Choir led us in stirring hymns and performed the 1914 classic Keep the Home Fires Burning with great empathy, whilst time for further reflection came during a very moving flute solo by Eleanor Roberts. As Canon Janet Eastwood brought this emotive Service to a close with prayers and a blessing, we all remembered with great pride the sacrifice made by so many young Liverpooldian pals a century ago.

We would like to thank all those who attended and participated in the service, particularly the Senior Prefect Team and Ms Holland, for making the event such a touching tribute to such brave young men.

By Luke Sullivan and Jessica Hyde, Head Boy and Head Girl, 2014-2015

A teacher's perspective...

Members of The Blue Coat School Community, including Old Blues, Foundation Governors, Governors, Staff, Year 13 students and Canon Janet Eastwood, gathered in the Chapel to mark the Centenary of The Great War. The names of eighty Old Blues are on The Chapel Memorial.

Ms Silcock opened the Service with the following statement:

When we hold our annual Remembrance Services in Shirley Hall and this magnificent Chapel in November, we pay our respects to all those who died or were wounded in conflict. Members of our Senior Prefect Team read the names of those former Blue Coat Boys who fought and died in The Great War and The Second World War. Their names are immortalised in the memorials in our School and throughout the world. You walk past these names every day. They are names on a list. But to others, they were a father, brother, son, husband, friend. In our faithful heart their memory is always

enshrined.

The inscription on our Chapel Memorial says: they loved duty more than they feared death.

Today, we honour their memory.

The poignancy of the event was enhanced by poetry, contemporary speeches of a call to arms and music, all of which were performed with great sensitivity and respect by members of Year 13.

The History Society of the School has been researching into the names of The Old Blues on The Chapel Memorial and what they have discovered so far, was read to those present. It was a moving occasion, made more so by the fact that the age of those in Year 13 was mirrored by the ages of The Old Blues, killed in action in the 'war to end all wars'.

Ms Holland

Y12 Social Evening

By Charlotte Ann Worthington

On Friday 5th September, Year 12 took part in a social event after school. What we would be doing was kept a secret until we walked into Shirley Hall and saw a treasure chest fastened with a number of locks. We were split into teams and were given a map with clues on as to where we would find scrolls, in and around the School. We could compete in tasks in exchange for one scroll.

The tasks consisted of archery, puzzles and a wooden maze in which the ball had to reach the other side without falling through the holes. Of course, there were other teams so these were done in a rush. If we won the task we would be given a combination for one of the locks on the treasure chest back in

the Hall.

Once we had all the combinations, we returned to Shirley Hall. There were already teams waiting in the queue to have a go at the chest. Our team decided to each remember a combination so that we would be quick, as we only had two minutes to unlock all the locks!

All the teams in front of us failed, so it was then our turn. We each quickly tried to unlock the locks to gain entry to the chest. We did it within the time period and so won the contents of the chest, getting a £10 Amazon gift voucher and a box of chocolates each. Afterwards, everyone returned to the common room for refreshments and food.

Y12 Diversity Day

By Jim Nugent

On the 5th September the entirety of Lower Sixth were involved in a "Diversity Day", a series of sessions which taught us about different types of people and how to respect them. We were split into five groups who took part in each session as a carousel: my group firstly met people from several of the major world faiths, including Christianity, Islam and Buddhism. These people explained to us the basics of their religion and were open to any questions which we had, which proved very interesting.

After this we met members of Brooke Health Clinic, a group of volunteers who discussed with us the stereotypes of the LGBT+ community — proving that the majority of these are often incorrect.

Next, we met two trans men who explained the difficulties that trans people face in society and the media on a daily basis. As this was probably the subject our group had least familiarity with, it was particularly enlightening.

Another speaker we met was Dave, a blind man who founded the local charity DaisyUK, which helps disabled children to stay social and active through sport. The final session of the day was with a member of the Anthony Walker Foundation, an anti-racism charity very focused on Liverpool. Overall, the day was both informative and enjoyable.

Going into the playhouse to see this play without knowing a single ounce of the storyline in hindsight was an excellent decision. Not only was I moved by the play, I was genuinely shocked at some of the major plot revelations.



I think that the adaptation of Khaled Hosseini's novel captures excellently the darkness and injustice the author was trying to portray and for that the adaptor, Matthew Angler, should be applauded.

The play begins by following two Afghan boys growing up in Kabul in the 1970s. Amir is a Pashtun, the largest ethnicity in Afghanistan whereas Hassan is a Hazara, a race descended from Genghis Khan's Mongols who are persecuted and are mostly occupied as servants. The boys grow up together but political and ethnic tensions

cause a rift in their friendship. Peace began to erode within both Afghanistan and Amir, which led to Amir and his father leaving the country. Upon his return later in life, tragedy strikes and nothing is ever the same again.

'I thought it was amazing,' said a fellow student, and I am inclined to agree. The play was very deep and thought-provoking, and although the writing was partly the cause of this, the execution of it was superb and so overall it was a thoroughly worthwhile experience for my English Literature course.

The Blue Coat Sixth Form Prom was hosted at the Racquet Club on the 25th June, 2014. On a very warm night in the heart of Liverpool, the graduating Year 13s celebrated the end of their exams (with some Further Maths students having only finished the day before!) in style, with everyone dressed to the nines.

After months of hard work, the A-Level students were finally free to let loose. Fun was to be had by all, not least of all the teachers who were in attendance, with Mrs McKenzie and Mr Cox dancing to Bon Jovi's classic, 'Living On A Prayer'.

A highlight for many at the prom was the incredibly entertaining photo booth, with props

galore; huge hats, sunglasses, scarfs and wigs certainly ensured many a memorable photograph was taken that evening.

Then the time for electing the Prom King and Queen was upon us. A shortlist of six boys and five girls was put forward and the class of 07 — 14 had their decisions to make. In the end, Matthew Crowley and Denise Lin were to eventually take their crowns.

Prom certainly proved to be a night enjoyed by all, and was a truly fantastic opportunity to say goodbye to the school that some had attended since Year 7, and along with those who joined in Year 12, the Prom shall certainly live long in their memory.



Year 12 Debating Competition

By Oliver Macaulay

On October 1, I took part in the Year 12 House Debating Competition. It was a lively debate in which myself and my team mate Najwa Nazali (who both represented Bingham house) argued in favour of the motion "Selective schools should be abolished", and — despite being against formidable opponents — I am happy to say that

Najwa and I won the debate, which resulted in Bingham winning the competition. I felt that this motion was an interesting yet challenging subject to debate about, especially as I joined a selective school by choice. Nevertheless, I found the debate enjoyable and I look forward to taking part in debates in future.



Scottish Referendum Debate

By Jane Carney

This year's Teacher/Student Debate was over the motion: 'This house believes the people of Scotland would be wise to vote 'Yes' in the independence referendum'. I was fortunate enough to be able to take part in this debate as a member of the opposition.

When I was first given the opportunity to get involved I was quite apprehensive, as I had never been involved in any debates in my time in the Lower School, however I saw this as an opportunity to work on my public speaking skills as well as to enhance my political knowledge as a new Politics student. The debate turned out to be a lot better than expected, with a huge amount of support

from many other members of Sixth Form as well as various members of the Staff. The room was full of people who came along to support the speakers and, ultimately, to increase their awareness on the biggest political referendum of our lifetime.

My advice to those who are considering in taking part in a debate is to absolutely go for it: it was an amazing experience and is a great thing to be able to put on my personal statement.

On the 27th March, renowned Scottish composer James MacMillan came into school to give a talk to the A Level Music classes about his life as a composer and his work "The Confession of Isobel Gowdie". Isobel Gowdie, a Scottish woman accused of witchcraft in the 17th century, was supposedly executed, although there was never any record of her death. As a result of this, MacMillan told us that he wrote "The Confession" as a way to show the respect that she wasn't offered before she was executed.

The talk took place as an interview of sorts, with Mr Emery playing the "Graham Norton

role" (his words, not mine), before the floor was opened up to the students. For the A2 students, it was a unique way of teaching them about one of their set works in preparation for the exam, and for the AS students, it was a great opportunity to learn about what it's like to work as a professional composer. It was an especially enlightening experience for students in the Philharmonic Youth Choir and Orchestra, who were performing the world premiere of MacMillan's "Little Mass" on the Saturday night.



Back in the cold month of November last year, over thirty year 12 geographers went to Blencathra in the Lake District for part of our rivers field work related to our syllabus. As a new coat, this was my first trip, and I found it very interesting and an exciting experience to be part of and it was also great opportunity to get to know fellow pupils more.

The main emphasis on the three day trip was based around river systems, how they work and how they change based on specific features. As you can imagine in the month of November it's not exactly the warmest time of year, however, it was a fun alternative to being in the classroom and definitely worthwhile!

Despite having to go into the freezing rivers, with at the time heavy rain, it was very useful for me and fellow students as it helped our understanding of river concepts as well as

changes based on position and allowed work in the classroom to be consolidated and put into practice, which has really enhanced all our knowledge. Whilst collecting our results from river variables we worked in groups meaning team building skills were vital in order to collect important results for analysis. We were all very careful with the equipment we used, apart from one, who accidentally broke one piece— a certain Joel Borokini! On our final day we went to the small village of Keswick, where we looked into why the area was prone to flooding back in 2009, and also view the strategies that have been implemented since to prevent such high levels of flooding in the future. I found this particularly interesting as it showed exactly what caused the floods and will be useful knowledge to have for our exams later this year.

When returning to our accommodation, wet, dirty and exhausted our first job was naturally to have a shower! After our dinner, we then had a lesson with our teachers



there, the amazing and hilarious Deano and Claire, who helped us gain a better understanding of the findings we made during the day. After the lessons, was our downtime, and where it's fair to say the liveliest events of the trip occurred, where we watched TV altogether and of course debated heavily into the night about all topics relating to rivers as one big, happy and passionate geography family! The biggest event of the evening was when I and Luke Sinclair-Ford helped our fellow roommate, Stuart Curry, transfer his 'manky' bed to the girls' house to swap – the only hitch being

the inability to get it through the rather small door frame!

Despite the cold and wet conditions, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the trip, with many pupils reinforcing that including Ben Holsgrove who described it as 'the best trip he's ever been on', Eloise Healey and Beth Gibbs as 'a very enjoyable and fun time' and even Mr Frost admitted it was an 'eventful trip'. To anyone considering A-Level Geography the Blencathra trip has to be one of the biggest perks (amongst other things as Geography is amazing!) of the course and a very fascinating, funny and most of all thrilling experiences. Well if yours anything like the 2014 experience!



Year 12, from a Year 13's perspective

Starting year 12 can be stressful, as any sixth former will know. New teachers, courses, friends and (most importantly!) new uniform.

Whether you are new to Bluecoat or have been here since you first ran down the corridor with a huge rucksack bouncing on your back, everyone still nervously anticipates what the fresh year will bring.

Hash Singh's guide to year 12:

There is a huge difference between GCSE and A level; GCSEs are child's play compared to AS/

2. Nearly all GCSE courses just require a decent memory, exam technique and common sense. AS starts to test real understanding for the first time.

Academically, they generally expect more student-led learning in classrooms, and they oversee the organisation of your notes far less apart from Mr Kenny's monthly file check. You are expected to do work outside of the classroom, which becomes more natural as the weeks go by.

Teachers don't immediately interact with you as a fellow adult. You get the usual incremental increase in 'respect', if that's the right word, which accompanies every new school year.

Formed debating society in Y12 which led to

Blue Coat entering nationwide debating competitions and also led to the roaring success of House Debating (at least in my opinion!)

My best experience in Blue Coat was being taught by the one and only Mrs Papworth! Playing football on the mystery with a view of the West Front, being able to start a society and have it funded by the school (very useful for UCAS) and of course, experiencing the sheer joy of tasting canteen food.

Is there anything that you wish you'd known before starting year 12?

1. Those little folders that you have to force open and shut, never last. Invest in 4 lever arches to get organised, and retain your notes until July.
2. Break was designed to be just long enough to buy and eat 3 waffles and a sausage roll. Make use of it, and get the perfect start to your day.
3. Don't expect those born earlier in the year to go on McDonalds runs when they get their driving license – even when they've pinky promised. You'll be left broken hearted.
4. Don't sit next to the loud, disruptive kid in the class. If you're looking around the room and can't identify this person; it's you. Stop being loud and disruptive.

Year 12, from a Year 13's perspective

"It's a big step up."

Undoubtedly you'll have heard that a lot as you move from GCSE to A Level and you are probably sick of hearing it. But it doesn't make the message any less valid. Because the truth is, and I'm sorry to say, it's a big step up. The real change is the amount of work you as the student have to put in.

Take me for example, I did English Literature, History, Psychology and Spanish in Year 12, which probably sounds a nightmare for all the essayphobes out there, but I enjoyed it. While our experiences will differ, the principles of surviving A-Levels are pretty much universal. And once you get the hang of those principles, you'll find your stress levels decreasing dramatically.

Probably the most important thing I'm going to tell you is that managing your time correctly is vital in 6th Form. If you're the type of person to leave homework until the night before (which I am guilty of myself) you have to get out of this habit. It may be okay in the first few weeks, but as the term goes on, homework piles up and there will come a day when you have work due for every lesson.

Frees. Or study periods as teachers call them. We all need a bit of a rest sometimes, and believe me, I know how much you need to relax but don't waste them. This is probably the warning I wish I had heeded during Year 12. Too many frees washed away in a hazy blur of checking Twitter and I paid for it when I got home that night: It's hard to motivate yourself once you're home and you have a full stomach of spaghetti carbonara. The key message here isn't that my mum's spaghetti is to die for, but that you should use

your frees wisely.

To not just survive, but succeed in your first year of A-Levels, you need to put a lot of effort in. Independent work is imperative if you want to reach your grades. You cannot coast your way through Year 12 or you'll suffer for it when you get to May and you have an exam every day. Independent work can be as simple as going over your notes from last lesson to consolidate your knowledge or reading around the topic or making your revision notes while it's still fresh in your memory. In essence, the more work you do now, the less work you'll have to do later. It's also good practice for university life which seems far away but it's closer than you think.

Societies are a great way to meet new people as well as explore new interests in a relaxed, laid back environment. Try to go to a pile of societies early in the year to get a taste for them and then pick a few favourites. There is something for everyone whether you're a musician, a science buff, a maths whizz or a casual film fan. You'll also find there are a wide variety of trips and holidays you can go on throughout the year that will vary depending on your subject choices. I was lucky enough to go to Austria with the Choir last year and it was one of the best experiences of my life (despite the thirty hour coach journey).

If you only take one thing from this article then remember to work hard, stay on top of your work and don't let it pile up, because at the end of the day:

"It's a big step up."

Alex McDonald

Year 12, from a Year 13's perspective

Having studied in Blue Coats since year 7, I am now attempting to complete the final lap that is year 13. I study Biology, Chemistry and Physics, with the hope, nay, the mere dream of studying medicine at university. The 'Blue Coat Bubble' encapsulates everything you could possibly want to be a part of: whether that is to excel in sports, performing arts or academics, and hence popping the bubble has never occurred to me.

In Year 7, my small chubby self was somehow elected as the captain of the cricket team, and ever since then, the sport and the team have been an integral part of my life. The amalgamation of stern but brilliant teachers, class-act compadres and a grade II listed building has contributed to every aspect of my school life and helped me to develop into an all rounded person, I will forever remain indebted to the school.

Getting the opportunity to represent the school in cricket in sunny Barbados with my best friends is a memory I will always cherish.

Subsequently, touring Austria with the school choir and singing alongside the Philharmonic Youth Choir under the renowned Vasily Petrenko has been an overwhelming experience.

The leap from GCSE to Sixth Form had been daunting to say the least. We spent the last 11 years of our lives building up to the mystical GCSEs and now they're done. A new uglier tyrant torments us; A level. The work load triples and worst of all, we're expected to behave like adults. The opportunities, however, in Sixth Form are infinite. I got the chance to set up Debating Society with Shash Singh and Sam Elcock, which has been incredible in its self. The school is and has always been a challenging yet nurturing environment. I for one, am happy that I started trudging around with a rucksack two sizes bigger than me in these corridors and wouldn't want it any other way.

Rishi Banerjee U6A



Peter Arnold Craft Writing Competition Winner

Untitled By Jacky Hou

I find	into the thin air
solace	I am one with
in the	the atoms
dark waters	and the water
the heartache	suspended in the breath
dulled	of the island
by the storms	there is no colour
of tomorrow	in the future
the waves crashing	nor in the days
violently against	gone by
the rocks	I simply dissolve
and I close	into the instant
my eyes	alone and trembling
and feel the	against the waves of time
sound of the	
dark waters	
and I melt	
into nothing	

Peter Arnold Craft Writing Competition Winner

Waterfall By Cassie White

The twists,
The turns
Of the river
Are proof of a never-ending course.

The road well travelled.

Each meander is

Changed mind.

Regretted decision.

Forging its own path,

Flows and flows

Until it reaches the cliff.

When you reach the drop

Do not swim against the current -

Do not fight it at all.

Breathe in. Stop.

Close your eyes

And fall.

University Destinations



Elza Alex	Liverpool John Moores University	Pharmacy
Jack Andrews	University of Manchester	Electronic Engineering
Hania Aniq	University of Bradford	Clinical Sciences/Medicine Foundation
Jonathan Ashcroft	University of Leicester	Economics
Colette Bennett	Lancaster University	Physics
Joel Best	University of Leicester	Physics
Florence Binks	University of Nottingham	Ancient History and Archaeology
Francesca Bird	Liverpool John Moores University	Nursing with Registered Nurse Status (Adult)
Alice Blanchard	University of Oxford	History
Dominik Bosowski	Gap Year	
Matthew Boyle	University of Sheffield	Geography
Alexandra	Manchester Metropolitan University	International Fashion
Megan Buoey	Lancaster University	Medicine and Surgery
Ryan Sean Bush	Northumbria University	Psychology
Andrew Callaway	Newcastle University	Medicine (stage 1 entry)
Anthony Carney	Liverpool John Moores University	Criminal Justice
Kahrie Carter	University of Liverpool	English
Emilia Casaus	University of St Andrews	History
Emma Casey	Newcastle University	Biology
Kaylyn Chan	University of Cambridge	Natural Sciences
Vatshala Chandran	University of Salford	Biochemistry
Manishankar	Swansea University	Medical Engineering with a
Roy Chu	University of Bath	Mathematics
Joseph Chung	University of Sheffield	Software Engineering (4 years)
Sharon Chung	University of Liverpool	Psychology
Thomas Coleman	University of Liverpool	Biochemistry
Fraser Colman	Queen's University Belfast	Microbiology
Jamie Court	University of Liverpool	Geography (Science)
Andrew Craig	Liverpool John Moores University	Applied Psychology

Grace Crichton	University of Liverpool	Physics (4 years)
Matthew Crowley	University of Liverpool	Medicinal Chemistry with Pharmacology
Amy Czarnecki	University of the Arts London	Fashion Communication: Fashion Journalism
Kezia Davies	University of Southampton	Fine Art
Sarah Davies	University of Oxford	History and English
Julia Davis	University of Cambridge	History
Serena Dawar	University of Warwick	History of Art
James Day	University College London	Mathematics
Eleanor Denny	University of Liverpool	Psychology
Nina Des Forges	University of Bristol	Geography
Jack Driver	Kings College London	Theology
James Edwards	Lancaster University	Economics
Alexander Elson	University of Leeds	Fine Art
Asmaa Essa	Imperial College London	Medicine
Elliot Falconer	University College London	Philosophy and Economics
Liam Fang	University of Bradford	Chemistry
Alifia Fernandes	University of Huddersfield	Pharmacy
Ellie Fields	City University London	BSc International Political Economy
Luke Findlay	University of California	Economics
Jack Foley	Liverpool John Moores	Accounting and Finance
Joanne Fong	University of Bradford	Clinical Sciences
Alexander Frost	Loughborough	Civil Engineering
Georgina Gibson	University of Sheffield	Law and Criminology
Robert Gillies	University of Liverpool	Mechatronics & Robotic Systems with a Year in Industry
Laura Gillin	Edge Hill University	Primary English Education with QTS
Curtis Gladden	Newcastle University	Law
Katherine Goodwin	University of Cambridge	Modern and Medieval Languages
Bridget Griffin	Lancaster University	Physical Geography
Kylie Guan	University of Bristol	Mechanical Engineering
Buneet Gumbhir	Kings College London	Computer Science with a year in Industry (4 years)

Sandani Gunawardena	Gap Year	
Sarah Hamed	Gap Year	
Callum Hancock	Liverpool John Moores	Marketing
Sydney Harold	Sheffield Hallam University	Psychology
Peter Harrison	Durham University	Mathematics (3 years)
Daniel Harvey	University of Leeds	Economics
Alexander Hayes	Kings College London	Medicine (5 years)
Tom Hessom	University of Kent	Social Anthropology with a Year in Japan
Charlotte Ho	University of Manchester	Cognitive Neuroscience and Psychology with Industrial/ Professional Experience
Grace Holland	Newcastle University	Law
Abbie Hoyte	University of Liverpool	English and Hispanic Studies
Genevieve Hubble	Gap Year	
Phoebe Hunter	Gap Year	
Sophie Hurst	Gap Year	
Nicole Jackson	University of Bristol	Geography
Conall Jager	Durham University	Biological Sciences
Rebecca Jensen	Liverpool John Moores Uni-	Natural Sciences (with Foundation
Jasper Johns	Brunel University London	Engineering with an Integrated Foundation Year with Professional Development
Grace Johnson	Gap Year	Chemistry with Research in Industry
Emma Jones	University of Liverpool	Politics
Kelli Jones	Royal Holloway University of London	Economics
Paul Jones	University of Leeds	Accounting and Finance
Jenny Joseph	University of Salford	Nursing (Adult)
Jeeva Joy	Edge Hill University	Geography
Beverley Jung	Kings College London	
Takudzwa Kadani	Gap Year	Electrical & Electronic Engineering with Year in Industry

Natalie Kelly	University of Bath	Accounting and Finance (with professional placement)
Mpho Kgatuke	University of Liverpool	Computer Science (with a year in industry)
Danish Khan	University of Bath	Medicine
Anthony Lau	University of York	Medicine (Phase One)
Edwin Lau	University of Leicester	Management and Mathematics
Esther Lawrence	University of Sheffield	Economics
Megan Lawrence	University of Leeds	Psychology
Sean Leddy	University of Warwick	Psychology
Erin Lee	Loughborough University	Psychology
Michelle Lee	University of York	
Katrina Lewis	University of Leeds	Chemistry
Ellen Liggett	Gap Year	Medicine
Colin Lim	University of Oxford	Chinese Studies and International Business
Denise Lin	Imperial College London	
Angela Liu	University of Chester	
Amy Lloyd	Gap Year	Geology
Hannah Lockett	Gap Year	Physics
James Lovell-Kennedy	University College London	Geological Sciences
Ridda Mahmood	University of Leicester	Pharmacy
Alireza Mahmoody	University of Leeds	Mechanical Engineering
Manaal Malik	University of Keele	Medicine
Boris Matiki	Staffordshire University	Business and Management with Study Abroad
Fredwin Mattathil	University of Manchester	Economics
Jordan Matthews	Durham University	English Literature
Adam McGowan	University of Leicester	
Chloe Mcloughlin	University of Glasgow	Psychology
Ruksana Miah	Gap Year	Biomedical Sciences
Maizie Montgomery	Northumbria University	Physics
Fraser Morgan	Royal Holloway University of London	Engineering (Mechanical)

Luke Morgan	University of Leeds	Medicine (6 years)
Jenny Morris	University College London	
Annie Mosley	University College London	Mathematics
Joshua Mottram	Gap Year	Pharmacy
David Murphy	University of Warwick	Medicine
Mohammad Naderali	Liverpool John Moores	Classics
Hoi Lam Ng	Imperial College London	Medicine
Julia Ng	University of Glasgow	Applied Sciences (Foundation Entry)
Baltazar Ntwali	Queen Mary University of London	Architecture
Nneoma Nwinyinya	University of Central Lancashire	
Jessica O'Hare	Liverpool John Moores	
Clara O'Heneghan-Yates	University of Glasgow	History/Music
John Ogundele	University of Oxford	History and Economics
Paddy Orah	Gap Year	
Clara Owens Lattimore	University of Essex	Sociology and Criminology (Including Year Abroad)
Anna Parry	University of Edinburgh	Cognitive Science
Wicky Paul	University of Birmingham	Dentistry (5 years)
Oliver Penrhyn-Lowe	University of Warwick	Physics
Ninju Philip	Gap Year	
Jack Porritt	Lancaster University	Mathematics
Lucy Preston	University of Nottingham	Pharmacy (4 years)
Anita Pun	University of Huddersfield	Architecture
Hayley Rabet	London School of Economics	International Relations
Jakub Raniszewski	University of Manchester	Physics
William Renshaw	University of Warwick	History and Politics
Rachel Rice	Manchester Metropolitan University	Fashion Design and Technology
Robert Rimmer	Loughborough University	Chemistry
Samuel Roberts	Liverpool John Moores	Computer Forensics
Sophie Rooney	Gap Year	

Kevin Shaji	Gap Year	
Jeehan Saleh	University of Liverpool	Medicine
Thomas Schumacher	Imperial College London	Geology
James Scott	Liverpool John Moores	Business Management
Niloofer Sharifi	University of Oxford	English Language and Literature
Christie Sherlock	University of Glasgow	Product Design Engineering
Caitlin Skarratts	Gap Year	
Lydia Smith	Gap Year	
Thiha Soe	University of Bradford	Biomedical Science
Joel Sorby	University of Leicester	American Studies
Melissa Sorby	Gap Year	
Gavin Spruin	University of Nottingham	Law with Spanish and Spanish Law
Katherine Staunton	University of Cambridge	Modern and Medieval Languages
Vladimir Stepanov	University of Edinburgh	Artificial Intelligence & Computer Science
Maximilian Stoker	Durham University	Geography
Hannah Sturdy	Lancaster University	Accounting and Finance
Thomas Taylor	Lancaster University	History
Tesseley Thomas	Liverpool Hope University	Biological Science
David Thompson	University of Sheffield	Mechanical Engineering with Nuclear Technology
Laura Thurgood	Gap Year	
Samuel Tollitt	Gap Year	
Badrakh Tumurbaatar	Liverpool John Moores	Business Management
James Tune	Durham University	Politics with Year Abroad
Olivia Valerio	University of Leeds	Politics
Femi Varghese	Gap Year	
Alexander Veregan	University of Lincoln	Journalism
Abbigail Waldron	Newcastle University	Business Accounting and Finance (includes business placement) (4 years)

Hannah Waldron	University of Nottingham	Chemistry with Research in Industry
Sarah Waldron	University of Liverpool	Nursing (Adult)
Fionnuala Walsh	Sheffield Hallam University	Computer Science (with a Year in Industry)
Aidan Walters-Williams	University of Liverpool	Philosophy
Annie Wardale	University of Sheffield	Software Engineering
James Wharton	Liverpool John Moores	Accounting and Finance
Sophie Whiley	Liverpool John Moores	Medicine (Phase One)
Andrew Whitfield	University of Sheffield	Law with Spanish
Lauren Whittaker	University of Liverpool	Economics
Alice Williams	University of Birmingham	Business Studies with Foundation Year
Lynton Williams	University of Leeds	History
Laura Williamson	University of Edinburgh	
Katie Winstanley	Gap Year	Optometry
David Wong	University of Bradford	Chemical Engineering
Kelvin Wong	University of Birmingham	Pharmacy
Vanessa Wong	Liverpool John Moores	Geology
Abbie Wood	University of Liverpool	Earth and Environmental Science
Andrew Woodward	Lancaster University	Law
Jack Wray	University of Leeds	Pharmaceutical Chemistry
Grace Zdesenko	University of Leicester	Orthoptics
Chloe Zheng	University of Liverpool	Electrical and Electronic Engineering.
Andrew Zhou	University of Southampton	Mathematics and Philosophy
Stanislav Zhydkov	University of Warwick	Chemical Engineering
Takudzwa Zinyama	University of Leeds	

Life After Blue Coat



So you were a student at the Blue Coat...

Mr Pearson: I was a student at the Blue Coat school from 1994 through to July 2001, so I was here for 7 years, and it struck me the other day that I just passed my 20 year anniversary at the Blue Coat school, given that I was away for a few years at university. It's almost 20 years to the day that I was in the Blue Coat chapel as a year 7.

What would you say you were like as a pupil then?

Mr Pearson: I was always very outgoing but I always played by the rules and did things by the book and was nowhere near a rebel but I thought I was quite funny, probably wasn't, and I had good relationships with staff, enjoyed coming to school, was nowhere near the brightest at all but really enjoyed lessons and enjoyed the opportunities given to me by Blue Coat and feel it stood me in good stead for adult life I

guess.

What were your favourite things about Blue Coat then and now?

Mr Pearson: My favourite thing then was playing football before school, at break-time, at lunch-time and after school, so we basically just played sport the whole time, we had a much bigger yard because we didn't have the science block where it is now so the yard stretched from the wall all the way through to the gym so it was a huge area that at any given moment there'd be hundreds of games of football. I also enjoyed coming to school and being challenged academically. The best thing about now would be relationships with teachers I think and particularly those who taught me, like it's a bit odd but Mrs Jackson was my form teacher and Mr Adamson gave me my exam results, he hates being reminded of that, and I was in Miss Bennett's English class so it's

quite nice to come back and kind of renew those old acquaintances. The best thing is also the students and the fun we have in lessons, I would say.

Is there anything from the old school that you miss that isn't here anymore or that's changed?

Mr Pearson: Yeah, we used to sing a hymn at the end of each term called 'God be with you till we meet again' and we'd all as a whole student body, so like 800 to a thousand of us, always stress or emphasise the word 'with', just for comedic purposes. It was kind of like the school anthem, so it would be the equivalent to your 'five gold rings' if you like, and so yeah that was stamped out and now it's gone. I miss some of the old teachers that have retired and left and things like that who were quite formative in shaping me as a student but then also as a teacher as well so people like Mr

Schofield.

What are the most notable differences between the school then and now?

Mr Pearson: Well obviously girls are all the way through the school now, so when I was at Blue Coat it was lads from 7 to 11 and then 12 and 13 was when girls arrived so there was a bit more of a laddish culture or a laddish mentality, a bit of a pack mentality, so the girls have definitely had a civilising impact upon the lads, so yeah I'd say that's the biggest difference. There's certainly a much more supportive culture and environment as far as the kind of students are concerned, they look out for each other a lot more and there seems to be a better social cohesion or interaction between different, I don't want to get too heavy, but interaction between two year groups, so in my day we didn't

have anything to do with anyone younger than us or anyone older than us. We're also in a much better building because we've had all the renovations so it used to be pretty scatty.

What's the worst thing you remember any one of the students doing at your time at Blue Coat?

Mr Pearson: There were a couple of good stories. To this day no-one really knows how he managed to do it, but one of my favourites was, a friend of mine managed to dangle himself out of the top of one of the school buses. His mate held onto his legs, this is genuinely true, and, it was like a time when you could unscrew the front glass of the window, he basically was able to turn the numbers round on the bus because they were manual, they're all like electronic now. He did it once, and basically the bus driver didn't pick anybody up because he just created a random number so nobody got on his bus,

and it was hilarious but we all got told off, which was because the bus company had lost a lot of money that day, that was quite funny. There was also the time when Mr Hicks was terrorised on a number of occasions by my class. Once, they unscrewed the top of the over-head projector, I had nothing to do with this, but they unscrewed the top of overhead projector, put sheets of paper in front of the bulb so that when he turned the projector on flames started pouring out.



What years were you at The Blue Coat School?

1995 – 1997

How would you describe your time at the School?

The best of my school years, which definitely represented one of my better choices in life. I benefitted from some really dedicated teachers, and, as A-level students, we were all studying subjects that we really wanted to learn. The mix of students was fairly diverse, and the camaraderie across the sixth form made for a pretty good environment. I'm still in touch with old friends from the Blue Coat and some of their stories are incredible.

How did your experience at The Blue Coat prepare you for your career?

As my maths and physics background has been crucial to my career journey to date, I would credit my maths and physics teachers with preparing me academically – they did an amazing job. Aside from that, the structure of the sixth form

centre helped me to develop communication skills with a range of people, practical lessons developed team work skills, and the sixth form social life – particularly Graham Hughes' legendary house parties – prepared me for the less academic side of university life!

What has been your path since leaving the School?

I took a gap year and worked in telecommunications research & development: I organised the placement through the Year in Industry scheme, and still maintain friendships and networks built during that experience. Following that, I gained a degree and a PhD in Physics at Durham University. I joined the Government Statistical Service as a fast streamer at the Department for Education, then managed a team of analysts in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, informing the development and evaluation of Higher Education policies and supporting three successive Higher Education

ministers. My most recent career move has been back to Durham University.

What do you do now?

I am now the Business Intelligence Manager at Durham University. My team is responsible for providing the evidence base to develop and monitor the University strategy and plans, and to support decision-making. It's a really interesting job and I work with some fun and talented people.

What would be your advice to students at the School today?

Work hard, enjoy yourselves, make the most of it. If you plan to attend university, you'll need more than just good grades to stand out from the crowd and Blue Coat provides a lot of opportunities to make sure you achieve that. Don't forget your friends, and never shut a door behind you – whether real or metaphorical!



Department
for Education



"As my maths and physics background has been crucial to my career journey to date, I would credit my maths and physics teachers with preparing me academically - they did an amazing job."



Durham
University

Class of 1988

Studied: **Law at the University of Oxford**

Now lives in: **Los Angeles**

Stuart, from the Class of 1988 is now based in Los Angeles, and is the **Founder and CEO of IM Global**, one of **Hollywood's leading film production, financing and distribution companies.**

How would you describe your time at the Blue Coat ?

A significant and formative experience. At the time it just felt like life as normal, but with hindsight I realise that I thrived amidst a culture of excellence and surrounded primarily by peers who did likewise.

How did your experience at the Blue Coat prepare you for your career?

I learned how to set myself targets. I learned that I was someone who enjoyed giving his best. Ultimately I discovered that you don't have to

be the tallest, the loudest or even the smartest to be a winner. Just focused.

What has been your path since?

Initially an orthodox one—a law degree from Oxford followed by four years of practice as an entertainment industry lawyer. Then, rightly or wrongly, I started to take some risks. I moved to New York and became an executive at Miramax Films (the studio that made films like Reservoir Dogs, Pulp Fiction, The English Patient and Shakespeare In Love) eventually becoming the studio's head of worldwide distribution at the woefully tender age of 31. When I was 34 I left and after a twelve month detour trying (unsuccessfully) to buy Liverpool FC I moved to LA with my wife and young son in 2006 and started IM Global.

What do you do now?

I'm the Founder and CEO of IM Global, one of Hollywood's leading

production, financing and distribution companies. My partner since 2010 has been Indian billionaire Anil Ambani (whose other major investment in Hollywood is even Spielberg's DreamWorks Pictures). We're one of the most recognisable and active company's in Hollywood having produced over 25 feature films and with additional offices or co-ventures in London, Beijing, Mexico City and Mumbai. Our biggest film to date 'Walking with Dinosaurs' comes out in the UK and worldwide this Christmas.

What would be your advice to students at the Blue Coat today?

Believe in yourself completely.



Ultimately I discovered that you don't have to be the tallest, the loudest or even the smartest to be a winner. Just focused.
Stuart Ford



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD



IM GLOBAL

A RELIANCE ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY

Class of 2003

Studied: **Law at The Queen's College, University of Oxford**

Now lives in: **Liverpool**

After leaving The Blue Coat School in 2003 Margaret read Law at The Queen's College, University of Oxford where she was awarded a Michel Exhibition and the Ives Prize.

Margaret now specialises in family law and has appeared before the Court of Appeal.

I attended The Blue Coat School from 2001 to 2003 and remember with great fondness these years. I felt very privileged to attend such a prestigious school which was instrumental in helping me achieve my ambitions. The School instilled discipline of thought, confidence and independence in taking a

rigorous academic approach to the subjects I studied at A Level. The School also provided excellent extra curricular opportunities for example a Choir Tour to Venice and a visit to The Hague to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia which was examining war crimes.

I will always be grateful to the Blue Coat School for giving me the encouragement to apply for and achieve a place to read Law at The Queen's College, University of Oxford where I was awarded a Michel Exhibition and the Ives Prize.

My ambition was to become a barrister so I completed the Bar Vocational Course in Manchester and I was called to the Bar by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn

In 2008 having been awarded a Lord Denning Major Scholarship and a Hardwicke Entrance Scholarship. I spent a year working as a Research Assistant to an eminent Queen's Counsel in London. I obtained a pupillage and later tenancy in a set of chambers based in the Temple, London.

I now practice in Liverpool in the areas of family law, including ancillary relief, injunctive relief and public and private law children applications and have appeared before the Court of Appeal. I am also instructed in criminal cases, for both prosecution and Defence in the Youth Court, Magistrates Court and Crown Court. I also undertake a



I will always be grateful to the Blue Coat School for giving me the encouragement to apply for and achieve a place to read Law at The Queen's College, University of Oxford.

range of personal injury and common law civil work.

I would encourage current students at The Blue Coat School to work hard, make the most of all opportunities the school provides and aspire to reach your full potential.

Fun Stuff



1. Why did the teacher wear sunglasses?
2. Which hand is it better to write with?
3. Why did the clock in the canteen run slow?
4. Why does it take pirates so long to learn the alphabet?
5. Why did the girl wear glasses during maths class?



Dingbats

1. F IRELAND C 2.
R ANCE TEST A
N CAN
C D
E A

Perfume The Head
The Head

3. _____ 4.
↑

App R Us Us
Us Us
Us Us
Us Us

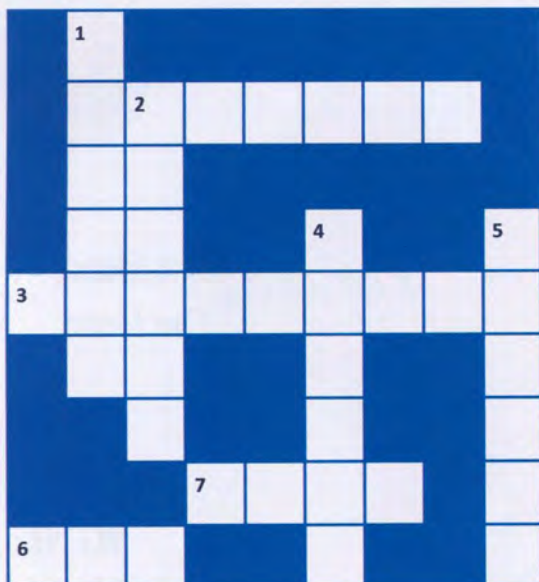
Answers on page 131

Science Word Search

ATOM PROTON
CELL STOMATA
COVALENT RADIOACTIVE
ELECTRON TITRATION
ENTHALPY PLANT
WAVELENGTH
NUCLEUS ORGAN

R Q Y K N U F O U C D I F Y L
D A U H I W S V U E G V L L G
W T D U T M N W F H X V R N E
J E V I O U O N R T G U U A U
G W N S O U R S Z G M C Z J S
L T I T R A T I O N L R S Q E
E S N E H M C G L E H S B S P
V Z N E S A E T U L X M Y W N
U Y J R L T L S I E L P N F O
J U Y C V A E P K V L F D R M
H Z U D O M V M Y A E N F U L
A O K P R O T O N W C W D K O
P S M E G T M T C X P V W D Y
Y B E L A S Z A Q R I G J Z B
K F X M N Y L Z F A I Y J Q X

Blue Coat Crossword



DOWN:

- 1— Donut related teacher (6)
- 2—This years school play: The Wedding _____ (6)
- 4—Green house (6)
- 5—Haunts the school (3,3)

ACROSS:

- 2—Senior prefects have an extra _____ on their blazer (6)
- 3—Scottish teachers nickname (3,6)
- 6—Shape of a librarian's badge (3)
- 7—Something Mr Mercer always says (4)

Answers on page 131

Teacher A

I'm passionate about: Chemistry, rockets, teaching and motorbikes

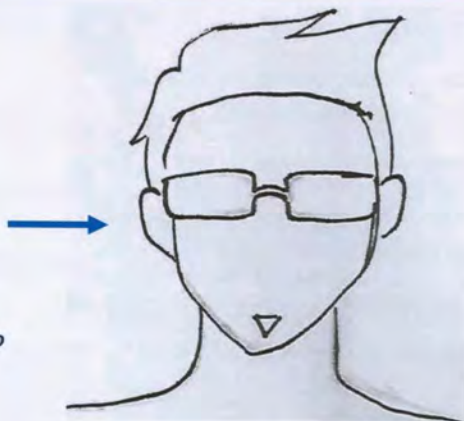
Biggest pet peeve: People who don't talk

Hobbies: Eating out at restaurants, seeing friends, and riding my motorbike.

Describe yourself in one word: Geek

My outlook on life: YOLO! Be great! Be good to each other!

My favourite Disney movie: Aladdin



Teacher B

I'm passionate about: Scotland and physics.

Biggest pet peeve: Lazy people.

Hobbies: Go to the movies and eating haggis.

Describe yourself in one word: Chaotic.

My outlook on life: Optimistic— it will get better.

My favourite Disney movie: Up

Teacher C

I'm passionate about: Music, family, and giving people a chance in life.

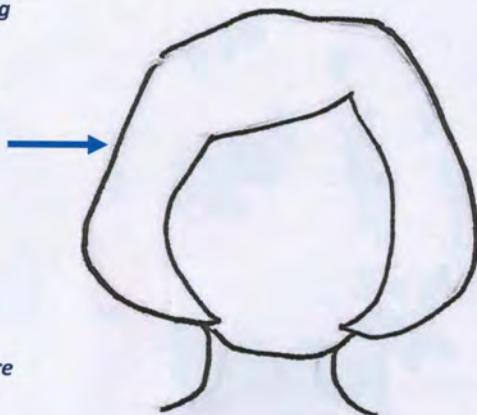
Biggest pet peeve: Discourtesy and treating a person like a thing.

Hobbies: Singing, and taking my family out.

Describe yourself in one word: Loyal

My outlook on life: Life is there to be lived; happiness over money.

My favourite Disney movie: Hunchback of Notre Dame.



Guess Who? Continued

Teacher D

I'm passionate about: Having fun, 'the usual' family and friends, nails and heels.

Biggest pet peeve: Ignorance.

Hobbies: Officially – mark and read. Unofficially – socialise, and get my nails done.

Describe yourself in one word: Unique.

My outlook on life: There is no such word as 'can't'.

My favourite Disney movie: Lion King (because of my old Year 11s).



Teacher E

I'm passionate about: Cars and my job.

Biggest pet peeve: Arrogance.

Hobbies: DIY/Mechanics, and partying.

Describe yourself in one word: Confident.

My outlook on life: You only get one shot so make sure you rip it up! Do what you want.

My favourite Disney movie: Lion King.



Answers on page 131

THE CURSE OF THE BLUE COAT MEN!

IT HAS BEEN AN ONGOING TREND THAT THE BLUE COAT MEN FIND THEMSELVES DEATHLY INJURED. IT ALL STARTED IN THE 80'S, AND IT WAS A DOWNWARD SPIRAL FROM THERE...







Quotes

By Matthew Fletcher, Alex Bellis and Thomas Brodrick

Here are some quotes to motivate you in your school-work and inspire you in your daily life. Dream big!

"There is only one way to avoid criticism: do nothing, say nothing, and be nothing."

Aristotle

"Laugh!"
-Proverb

"Kindness is a language that the deaf can hear and the blind can see"

-Mark Twain

"Why worry? If you've done the best you can, worrying won't make it any better."

-Walt Disney

"Sometimes the questions are complicated and the answers are simple."

-Dr. Seuss

"To put it in, you have to lie down and put both legs in the air"

-Guess which teacher (answer in the back)

"If today were the last day of my life, would I want to do what I'm about to do today?"

-Steve Jobs

"A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new."

-Albert Einstein

Answers

Dingbats:

1. Exam-In-Nations
2. Sent to the head
3. Line up
4. Apparatus

Teacher Guess Who:

Teacher A—Mr Dunkin

Teacher B—Mr Doherty

Teacher C—Mrs Maskell

Teacher D—Mrs O'Rourke

Teacher E—Mr Mercer

Jokes

1. Because her students were so bright!
2. Neither, you should use a pen!
3. It always went back four seconds!
4. Because they spend years at C!
5. Because it improves di-vision!

The quote was Mrs Wilkinson!

