

# The SQUIRREL



# 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 new format and look forward your ideas and suggestions for the next edition.



## FRONT COVER DESIGN

This design concept brings together both new and old eras and explores the most significant events since The Blue Coat School was founded, via a timeline within the Clock Tower. These events represent how school life was during those periods and how they were important as they contributed greatly in improving and changing our school into what it is today.

Jessie Lau 10GR

Squirrel Magazine Artwork courtesy of Jessica Lau

Squirrel Magazine Photography courtesy of Samuel Elcock

# CONTENTS

	Page Number
Editorial	2
Headteacher's welcome	3
Top Ten Questions	4
Whole School Events	15
Music	22
Sport	25
Clubs & Societies	30
International Links	36
Key Stage 3	43
Key Stage 4	48
Key Stage 5	56
University Destinations	63
Life After Blue Coat	70
Fun Stuff	75

# Editorial



When I first thought about taking on the role of Squirrel Editor I was apprehensive about how my ideas and suggestions would be viewed. My understanding of the Squirrel Magazine was that it was an institution in itself and what I was proposing could be viewed as radical (or simply insane). After five years at The Blue Coat School what has impressed me the most is the range of talents and skills that students have, as well as the different personalities and I believe that the magazine should reflect this. I was adamant that students should organise and compile the magazine, whilst I remained in the background and assisted when required (not always something that comes naturally to me!) It has been an interesting few months and also quite difficult, what with a new format and layout, the editorial team has been working hard to produce a school magazine which reflects them and you. We hope you enjoy reading it and we look forward to hearing your feedback and ideas for the next edition.

The Squirrel magazine is an important part of The Blue Coat School calendar and history. The editorial committee, under the guidance of Mrs O'Rourke, hope to capture more of the students' personal successes, thoughts and achievements. It is always a privilege to read the Squirrel which reflects so well the talents and abilities of the students and I know the committee also hope to include achievements and thoughts of 'Life After Blue Coat' which I believe will be a real point of interest for all readers.

Looking forward: the first big 'event' of this term is the School Show of 'Les Miserables'. I always enjoy the energy, talent, enthusiasm and teamwork of the Show, but this year will be even more special as the music and story of Les Miserables are so moving and haunting. Possibly the audience will know the story even better due to the recently released film.

During this term, there are many new subject House competitions, such as a Maths relay, Spelling Bee, posters in History and Art. This will be great fun for Blue Coat students since so many have always enjoyed competing in the House sports events, and it is good to see other talents and abilities rising to the challenge – as well as students seeking the points and the glory for



their Houses!

February half term saw trips going to the Italian Alps for Skiing, Berlin to support GCSE History and Paris for Year 13 students which I am certain were enjoyed by all involved.

So, another busy term; it is also a very important term academically, particularly for those taking GCSEs, AS and A level exams. This is the term when students really start to 'move through the gears' in lessons as so many have ambitious grades for their targets and are determined to achieve success.

The life of a Blue Coat student is busy, challenging, demanding and enriching. The Squirrel magazine is important in showing that this is, and always has been, the case.

# Top 10 Questions...



...with our new staff

## Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Widnes.

## What did you study at University?

Well, I first trained as an English teacher and whilst I was teaching in one school, I was particularly interested in the RS Department's scheme of work. I then decided to go and train to become an RS teacher so I studied for a Divinity degree part-time.

## What would you do if you won the lottery?

If I won the lottery, I would buy city-centre apartments in each of my favourite cities – Liverpool and London.

## What is your favourite film or book?

My favourite film would probably be 'Life is Beautiful' as it is both poignant and funny whilst my favourite books are 'How green was my valley?' and 'A tale of two cities'.

## Can you speak any other languages?

I can speak some French and Spanish although I am fluent in Double Dutch!

## What do you like to watch on TV?

I enjoy 'QI' and 'Have I Got News For You' but my favourite programme would have to be 'Strictly Come Dancing'.

## How long have you been teaching for?

I've been teaching since the 1970s on and off as I've had several other jobs since then.

## What other jobs have you had?

I have done many things from spending a year in Spain working in a supermarket, to doing some sales promotion for Barclaycard and running a newsagents! One particular job that I had was as chauffeur/nanny for a family with two children. I had to drive them from Liverpool, through France and Spain to North Africa whilst teaching the children English and Maths.

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

Currently, I am learning to play the Ukulele as I think you can never be sad when playing the ukulele! I really enjoyed going to see the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain and I also love the theatre, particularly modern dance.

## What are your first impressions of Blue Coat?

I think that Blue Coat is a wonderful school with fantastic pupils. I love the sense of humour of the students here and I think that the relationship between staff and pupils makes this school the best that I have ever taught at.



**Where did you grow up?**

I grew up in Crosby.

**Have you had any previous jobs and what would be your dream job?**

Yes I worked for Halifax for 8 years and then the NHS for 4 years. For my dream job, I would love to be a PA, especially for Prince Harry!

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

When I'm not looking after my 5 year-old daughter, I like to shop, go to the theatre and socialise.

**What is your favourite film or TV programme?**

My favourite film is 'An Officer and a Gentleman' – there's not many of them around these days! I also love watching 'Strictly' on telly and this year, I think Dani & Vincent were great.

**What would you do if you won the lottery?**

If I ever won the lottery I would go and live in Vilamoura, Portugal – it is my favourite place in the world.

**If you were doing karaoke, who would you be?**

Oo, definitely Mariah Carey!

**If you could be the best in the world at anything, what would you choose?**

I would love to be a dancer and that's why I love 'Strictly'. I would especially want to dance the quickstep.

**What music do you like?**

I love a bit of everything really – Rihanna, Michael Bublé and The Script are some of my favourites.

**Have you got a favourite actor/actress?**

My favourite actress would be Julia Roberts as I love everything that she has been in. As for my favourite actor, I would say Richard Gere.

**What are your first impressions of Blue Coat?**

I think that this is a great school – the pupils are so polite and well-behaved.

## Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Northern Ireland and lived there until 2007, when I moved here.

## What did you study at University?

I studied 'Leisure and Business Management' for four years.

## Have you had any previous jobs and what would be your dream job?

Yes, before teaching I had jobs as a waitress and as a bar maid. I think that my dream job would be a Radio DJ because I enjoy all genres of music – apart from heavy metal that is.

## If you could be the best in the world at anything, what would you choose?

That's a hard one but I think I would have to say Irish Dancing.

## What are your hobbies?

I love to play Gaelic Football and I currently play for a local team.

## What are your greatest achievements?

I would say that they were mostly sporting achievements and in particular, winning the University All Britain Championship for Gaelic football.

## What is your favourite film or book?

My favourite film is currently 'Skyfall' – I loved it. As for my favourite book, that would probably be 'P.S. I love you'.

## Have you got a party trick?

Yes, I have actually - I can shake my eyeballs!

## Have you ever met anyone famous?

I have met David Gest and Stevie G.

## What are your first impressions of Blue Coat and what are you most looking forward to?

My first impressions are that it is a lovely school with great staff and great kids. I am looking forward to getting to know the pupils here.



**Where did you grow up?**

I grew up in Crosby.

**What did you study at university?**

I graduated in 1980 from Kingston Polytechnic with a degree in Graphic Design.

**Prior to teaching, have you had any other jobs?**

Well I've been teaching for ten years and have also worked in animation and film, fashion and I still continue to work as a freelance illustrator.

**What would you do if you won the lottery?**

If I won the lottery, I think I would open my own gallery for children's work.

**What is your favourite film or TV programme?**

My favourite film is definitely 'Amelie', I love watching 'CSI' and I also really like to watch Andrew Marr!

**What are your hobbies?**

I love making jam and I actually have my own business called 'Gilly's Jams'. I enjoy painting and exhibiting my work as well as walking my springer spaniel, Nellie!

**If you were doing karaoke, what would you sing?**

It'd have to be The Weather Girls – 'It's Raining Men'.

**What music do you like?**

I really like Northern Soul and I like to listen to a bit of Classical Guitar and also Beethoven.

**Have you got a party trick?**

Yes, I have – I've got double-jointed fingers!

**What are your first impressions of Blue Coat?**

I think that the students here are really friendly with a great sense of humour, which I believe is the most important thing. Everyone works together and there is good community in which everyone works hard.



**Where did you grow up?**

I grew up locally in Garston and Allerton.

**What did you study at University?**

I started off my first year studying History, Philosophy and English and then completed my joint honours in Philosophy and English.

**Have you had any previous jobs?**

Prior to teaching I have been a community worker, a financial advisor, a baker, a soldier and a wheelchair basketball coach.

**What are your hobbies?**

I enjoy making my own beer copying old recipes from Belgian Trappist Monks and I like to cook. I also play the clarinet, banjo and guitar.

**What would you do if you won the lottery?**

I would work part time and then set up a centre for spiritual development.

**What is your favourite film or TV programme?**

My favourite film is probably 'The Matrix' and I also really enjoy the works of Charlie Chaplin. On television, I like to watch 'Lost', 'The Walking Dead' and 'Game of Thrones'.

**Have you got a party trick?**

Yes, I can open a capped bottle using just a spoon.

**Can you speak any other languages?**

Yes I know a little sign language.

**What music do you like to listen to?**

I like lots of different genres of music: Blues, Country and Bluegrass are some of my favourites.

**What are your first impressions of Blue Coat?**

I think this is a great school where students have a genuine interest in learning. There is a good, friendly spirit of both the staff and the pupils.



### Have you had any previous jobs?

I was a trainee fashion buyer for Matalan for a year.

### Where did you go to university?

I am currently studying at Manchester Metropolitan for a degree in fashion buying.

### If you were doing karaoke, who would you be?

I'd probably be Beyoncé.

### What would you do if you won the lottery?

I would go on holiday somewhere in the Caribbean.

### What do you watch on TV?

I like American TV shows such as 90210 and the Big Bang theory.

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

I enjoy socialising.

### If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you live?

I would want to live in New York.

### If you could meet anyone famous, who would it be?

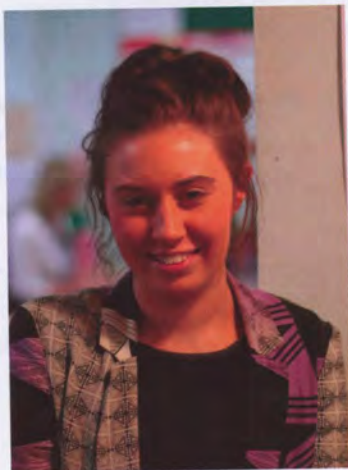
I'd meet Alan Carr because I think he'd be really fun to be around.

### What music do you like?

I like all kinds of music especially Bruno Mars.

### What are your first impressions of Blue Coat?

I think that the staff and pupils here are all very nice and it is a very friendly school.



**Where did you go to university?**

I went to John Moores in 2005 and studied Fashion before going back to University in 2010 to become a teacher.

**Have you had any previous jobs?**

I used to work for myself making one-off fashion items for people but that became quite stressful, really.

**If you could be the best in the world at anything, what would you choose?**

Well I really can't sing so I'd want to be the best singer!

**What would you do if you won the lottery?**

I would be a fashion designer and have my own business. I've always wanted to have my own Tapas restaurant so I would be able to do that as well.

**What is your favourite film or TV programme?**

I like horror films and on TV, I like watching 'X Factor' and 'I'm a Celebrity: Get Me Out of Here'.

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

I like socialising, painting and I still sometimes make fashion products for people.

**If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you live?**

I think I would say Barcelona.

**If you could meet anyone famous, who would it be?**

I would want to meet Vivienne Westwood as she has been a big inspiration to me.

**What music do you like?**

I like a variety of music but particularly R'n'B.

**What are your first impressions of Blue Coat?**

The pupils here are really genuine and nice and it's great that they seem to really enjoy the lessons as they're always happy and excited.

**Where did you grow up?**

I grew up in West Derby.

**What did you study at university?**

I studied English at Manchester University and then went on to get my post-graduate certificate in Teaching.

**What music do you listen to?**

I enjoy indie music and my favourite artists are Elbow, Radiohead and Interpol.

**What would you do if you won the lottery?**

I would buy a big house and then travel around the world.

**Have you ever met anyone famous?**

I have met Noel Gallagher; he's very short!

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

Well I've got two young kids so I don't get much spare time! I like to relax and I enjoy doing yoga and reading.

**What is your favourite book?**

To Kill a Mockingbird

**If you were doing karaoke, who would you be?**

I'd be Debbie Harry from 'Blondie'.

**If you could be the best in the world at anything, what would you choose?**

I think I would like to be a yoga master/expert.

**What are your first impressions of Blue Coat?**

I think it is a lovely, supportive place that has very high standards. I am also impressed by how tolerant the school is towards everybody.

## Where did you go up?

I'm a local lad – I grew up in Wavertree and also Toxteth.

## Where did you go to University?

I went to Liverpool Hope University in the 1990s and studied there for four years doing a BA in English and History. After that, I decided to become a teacher and so went on to complete my teacher training.

## So why did you choose to become an English teacher?

There were two main reasons that I wanted to pursue a career in teaching English. Firstly, I have a passion for English and enjoy all aspects of it from studying literature to writing myself. The second reason is that I wanted to share English with others and teaching is the perfect way for me to do so.



## Apart from teaching, have you had any other jobs?

Yes, I have done many things previous to teaching including being a youth leader and coaching sports at a local youth centre in Wavertree.

## What would be your dream job?

I think that if I wasn't teaching I would love to be a film director or perhaps a writer as I enjoy writing in my spare time and I am a published poet.

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

Mostly, I spend time with my family as I have a son and a daughter. I have always liked sport as well, and in the past I have represented Liverpool in table tennis. I also really enjoy travelling and I have been to South Africa and spent three and a half months in Australia.

## What type of music do you like?

My favourite genre of music would be indie and my favourite artists include 'Echo & the Bunnymen', 'The Smiths' and Morrissey.

## Have you got a party trick?

I would say that I'm fairly good at impressions and some of my best are John Lennon, Ben Stiller and Robert De Niro.

## Have you ever met anyone famous?

I have met Martin Skrtel and Pepe Reina a few times and I've also met the scouse actor Ian Hart who starred as 'Professor Quirrell' in *Harry Potter*.

## What are your first impressions of Blue Coat and what are you most looking forward to?

My first impressions are that this is a great school and I particularly admire the good attitude towards learning that all students here have. As a teacher, I love seeing my students reaching their potential and so I would say I'm most looking forward to pupil achievement.

**Where did you grow up?**

I grew up in North East China.

**When did you move to England?**

I moved here 20 years ago.

**What did you study at university?**

I studied Material Science at Birmingham University and got my PhD ten years ago. I also worked at Liverpool University for around 7 years and I became a teacher of Mandarin five years ago.

**What are your greatest achievements?**

I recently published 10 stories for children, to teach them Mandarin.

**What would you do if you won the lottery?**

I would travel the world once I had retired and visit my family in China.

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

I enjoy playing badminton and also going swimming.

**What do you like to watch on TV?**

I really like 'Downton Abbey' – the dresses are lovely! I also like watching 'Heartbeat'.

**What books do you like?**

The books that I like are all Chinese and I like reading historical books.

**If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?**

I would live in the UK although I don't like the Liverpool weather!

**What are your first impressions of Blue Coat?**

Well two of my children have come to this school so I know that it is a great school.



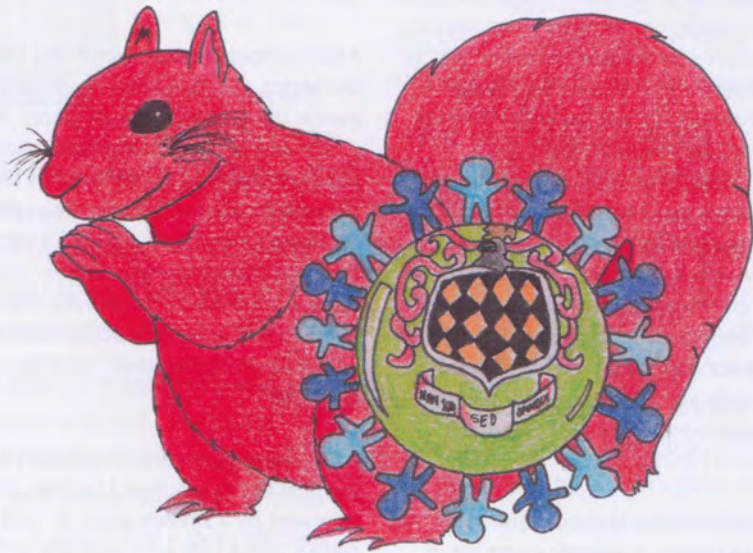
**We asked all our new teachers if they were Red or Blue and here's the final score...**



**9 - 1**



# Whole School



# Events

As you all fully well know; the student life can be a gruelling one (well, so it seems anyway) and we would benefit from some additional motivation to help us attain the high standard of work we look to produce. Some manage to crank out exceptional pieces of work day in day out regardless, this can be because of many different reasons: For example, the student who really takes pride in their work and ensures that their best performance is delivered every time, or the student has a genuine passion for a particular subject or future career aspiration. Whatever the reason, the school ensures that these efforts do not go unseen and that they be rewarded. These rewards are typically served up in the form of a book voucher, for the book store Waterstones, a lovely place, definitely worth a visit if you haven't been before. Obviously the value of the voucher will vary depending on the basis in which you received the reward or 'prize' as it is commonly referred to. Once you have chosen your desired book the school stores it away for a while so they can present it to you formally and put a nice stamp in the cover to commemorate your achievement, (it's a nice touch I think).

This formal presentation is more commonly known as Prize Giving, a swanky event set in St. George's hall, where all of these hardworking students gather alongside teachers and parents, to receive their prizes. As well as the awards ceremony itself, those gathered are treated to musical items, performed by the school choir and orchestra and even learn some life lessons delivered through speeches from the Headteacher, Governors and guests.

This year the whole thing kicked off at around 7pm with a communal sing along to the National Anthem, followed by an introductory

Speech by Mr David W Batterton the Vice-Chair of Governors; which detailed the proceedings of the night as well as praising the school's accomplishments over the past academic year, especially the recent approval and 'Outstanding' review by Ofsted.

Next begun the Headteacher's report by Mrs D A Silcock, B.Sc. NPQH, during which she also congratulated the school for its achievements and highlighted special events that we have experienced in the past academic year.

After a short musical item from the school's orchestra, the crowd then witnessed the main event: the presentation of prizes. Prizes were presented to the outstanding students, supported by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Councillor Sharon Sullivan. The students who received prizes had achieved a variety of accomplishments; for example winners of the annual Form Prize, those who reached outstanding academic achievement or those who had dedicated their time for the benefit of others.

After the presentation there was a second musical item performed by the school choir, followed by a speech given by 'old blue' Mrs Gillian Stone LLB, who was one of the very first girls to attend the school when it became co-educational again. She shared with us her memories and experiences of her past at the school as well as lending us some wise words and advice to follow. Her speech was then concluded by a vote of thanks as proposed by Head boy: Richard Pan and seconded by Head girl: Rebecca Borthwick.

To top the whole event of we were all invited for yet another communal sing song to the school hymn. And that was this year's prize giving.

After plenty of planning and preparation, last summer Blue Coat finally held its own production of the TV talent show: The Voice. The show was run by our form (the then 10 Graham) to raise money for our form charity, The Teenage Cancer Trust.

Although it took a while, we managed to convince (cajole) naïve teachers to take



part dressed and singing as their favourite performers or acting as a judge.

They may not have admitted it, but most of the teachers revelled at the chance to show off their stage skills. We even had to break up a few catfights between competitors arguing over who would win!

Once all the acts were signed up and rehearsing there was still a lot to do.

Leading up to the big day we had arranged for the last week of the Summer term, so much had to be organised – from getting backing tracks to dealing with acts demanding costume budgets!

On the Voice Day hundreds of students and teachers turned up, every seat in the hall was filled. The music was playing, the lighting was ready and the teachers were nervously pacing in the green room. We had even ordered in a crate of popcorn for viewers to snack on during the show!

First in walked the judges. With his very

own Irish accent and a denim jacket to look the part, Dr Lawell played a great Danny Donoghue. As he swaggered down the aisle to *The Man Who Can't Be Moved*, the resemblance was striking. Then came Miss Henderson and Mr Cosgrove as Jessie J and Will.I.Am., both natural entertainers and style icons in leopard print and shutter shades. Last but not least was Tom Jones, I mean, Mr Caulkin. Wig, accent, and all, this physics star rocked (and at times shocked) the audience as he danced in to *Sex Bomb*.

If that wasn't enough, we then had our performers. The aim of the game is to be good enough to make the judges who are listening to you blind, turn around and say they 'want you'. The two acts with the most judges who voted for them go through to the final where an audience 'clapometer' decides who wins and who loses. To keep the whole thing running smoothly we had our very own Holly Willoughby and Reggie Yates, or Jessica Hyde and Stelianos Michael, to interview judges and introduce acts.

The first contestant was 'Mid-Life Crisis', a live band made up of Mr Smith, Mr Sands and Mr Keating who impressed the audience with their rendition of *Teenage Kicks*. The judges gave positive comments and we moved on to our next act, Mr Kershaw, performing *Don't Stop Believin'*.

Mr Pennington then amazed the crowd with a heart-felt version of *I'm Yours* by Jason Mraz. Wrong Direction, our third act was,

# The Voice continued...

despite their confidence, a disappointment in the eyes of many.



The other group, Dolly Mix, however, proved to be more popular and secured themselves a place in the final.

Last but not least, came Mr Cox, our winner, singing *I Write The Songs* as a Barry Manilow tribute act. The judges described his performance as 'surprisingly amazing!'



A few months on, we turned our attention to the Christmas Voice – even more stressful

due to mocks, exams, and a new Squirrel Magazine to write. It was a Christmas miracle that we were able to pull it off!

This time, the acts needed to perform Christmas songs or festive No.1s, which many struggled with. We even had a new line up of judges, with some special guests visiting from the X Factor. Tom 'the sex bomb' Jones returned alongside Louis Walsh, Jessie J (complete with an amazing lip tattoo and equally amazing high heels!) and finally we had the 'female boss' Tulissa....an outstanding line up, both in quality and likeness!

Mr Cox valiantly defended his title as the 'Blue Coat Buble' whilst we witnessed a reformed boyband trying to influence votes with fake snow and stage jumping. Quaking Kershaw jived around the stage, and Mr Emery and Miss Horton demonstrated why the school's Music Department are so successful; however by the end we were left a clear winner, a revamped Dolly Mix, The Jinglets.

After an amusing and festive showcase, judges and contestants joined together with the band, (Mr Smith and some very generous 6th formers) to sing Band Aid's iconic Christmas anthem.

Thanks to the generosity of staff and students, donating their time and money, 'The Voice' raised over £1000. Now time to get started planning the next one.....

Houses have long been a feature of life at The Blue Coat School. Originally these would have referred to the dormitories where boarders would sleep, eat and socialise together. Blundell, Graham and Shirley were the original Houses, whilst Bingham was formed in the 1950's as the school expanded.

Currently each form is assigned to one of the four Houses.; however there are very few competitions organised between Houses. This year we are promoting each student's membership of a House and developing the House system to include a variety of different competitions and activities.

In October the House Council was established in order to help launch the new House competitions. The council was formed using Year 12 students, who were each assigned to a particular form in Years 7-11. They each put on a House Assembly to promote their House and also visited forms to gain information as to what students would like to see from the House system.

Alongside this , a schedule of Competitions was drawn up with a number of creative and innovative ideas coming from departments, as well as the allocation of House Points to already established competitions such as the Maths Challenge and Sports Fixtures. Students are encouraged to take part in a spirit of friendly rivalry in order to gain as many House Points as possible. Some competitions involve only the forms within each year whilst others, such as the Food Bank Competition, involve every form so are therefore assigned more points. Some of House Competitions for the Spring Term include:

Chess Tournaments	Inter-House Quizzes	Open Mic. Competition
Bodies Revealed Art Display	Maths Education on Mersey Challenge	Flanimals
Maths Poster Competition	Foreign Languages Spelling Bee	Slavery History Project
Tudor History Project	Intermediate Maths Challenge	Revision Podcasts
Debating Competition	Latin Translation Competition	Spelling Bee
Football	Maths House Relay Competition	Netball
Cross Country	Verse Speaking Competition	Physics Olympiad

House Points gained are added to the running total for each form and the Four Houses ranked accordingly. All of the Competitions will eventually lead to an overall winner in the summer.

There are currently plans to develop the House system further and these include: the electing of Form "House Captains", the inclusion of merits, positive events and charity fund-raising, as well as examining how each House can be represented through the school uniform.

On the 31st March 2012 Kaylyn Chan, Connor McKenzie, Stephen Chen and James Doughty took part in the Top of the Bench national final 2012 at Imperial College London. This is a national chemistry event and the four students qualified by winning the Liverpool/Merseyside heat in the previous December. All four students acquitted themselves admirably against 28 teams of students from all regions of the country finishing in 9th place overall.

For this year's competition, four students from the school competed in the annual Liverpool/Merseyside heat of the Royal Society of Chemistry Top of the Bench competition 2013. Our competing students were Ian Vidamour (Y11), Ryan Veryard (Y10), Owen Bell (Y9) and Alex Gaffney (Y9). The students were required to produce an

A1 size poster on an aspect of chemistry from everyday life prior to the event.

On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012 the students completed a two hour practical assessment and a one hour chemistry exam. Our students gave an exceptional performance in all aspects of the competition and finished in third place for the region. Unfortunately this means that they have missed out on a place in the National Final next year. Special praise must go to Ian Vidamour for obtaining the highest mark in the exam out of all the Year 11 participants.

## Foodbank

By Colin Lim

The Foodbank Project in Blue Coat has been running since late 2011 and seeks to find ways to supply food and raise money through the school to feed local families in crisis. I first became aware of the real shortage of food for many families when watching a local TV news article and a team of Sixth Formers have worked to raise awareness in school and give time to organising supermarket collections.

The school has so far this year collected over 300kg of food, 180kg of which from the recent Christmas Food Boxes Competition (where 9BL won and got the Krispy Kreme donuts!). Robert Gillies and

Alice Blanchard also ran the Santa Dash for the cause in December, raising over £100 between the two of them.

Thank you to everyone for your support and involvement with Foodbank - but the work in supporting local families in need is not over yet.



The Learning Support Office is located near reception and is next door to Mr. Cox's Office. There are two part time members of staff who cover three days each so there is always someone available to speak to students, staff or parents.

WE HELP you with exam arrangements, support for short term issues which affect your learning, such as:

- Stress
- Managing work load
- Lack of self confidence or low self esteem
- Lack of motivation
- Pupils who are not achieving their full potential
- Pupils who have emotional or behavioural issues
- Trouble with relationships or social skills
- Personal crises such as bereavement or problems at home
- Poor attendance
- Difficulties settling in

To see a Learning Mentor you can be referred by your form tutor or your Year Group Manager or Key Stage Manager. Sometimes parents phone with concerns and ask us to meet with their son or daughter. It is also fine for you to call in at our office and ask for an appointment if you have a problem you would like to discuss. Information discussed is confidential but if we feel that you are at risk of harm or are putting yourself at risk then we have to inform the Safeguarding team in school.

We also help to organise referrals to outside agencies for students who need specialist support. As part of our role we also meet with the students who are on the Gifted and Talented register to support them through their early years at The Blue Coat School and try to help make sure they reach their full potential.

Some students need a somewhere different at lunchtime and therefore we also run a games club in C3 for the younger students between 1.00pm and 1.30pm every day. You can come along to chat, read a book or play games. Over the last year we see between 15 and 30 students every day.

Finally if you do have a problem sometimes an independent ear is just what you need so do not hesitate to come along and ask for support Sometimes that is all that is needed to get you back on track.

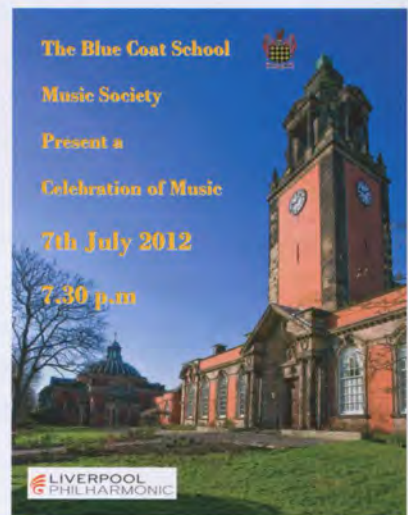
# Music



The night of Saturday 7th July 2012 saw 'A Celebration of Music' from the Blue Coat Music Society at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall; it was a grand affair even by Blue Coat standards. It followed up the school's excellent tri-centenary celebrations, also held at the Philharmonic Hall back in 2008, however for many this was before their arrival at the school so was a much anticipated event. A wide array of students showcased their talents; including many new students and a number of Year 13 students who were giving their final concert at Blue Coat, some having contributed to the School's music department for seven years. These students included Peter Athans who gave a rousing performance of Torelli's 'Trumpet Concerto in D Major' at the beginning of the evening, and later Sarah Zhao delighted the audience with a rendition of Mozart's 'Concerto for Piano in D Minor', both of which were accompanied by the school's orchestra. The Orchestra also played Tchaikovsky's 'Marche Slave' and 'La Rejouissance' taken from the 'Music from the Royal Fireworks' by Handel.

The first half of the evening was rounded off with a 'Glenn Miller in Concert' tribute and 'Jazz It Up!' performed by the Concert band, alongside the toe tapping, finger snapping, 'What Is Hip?' and 'Hot Hot Hot' from the Jazz Ensemble. The Choir regaled the audience with a medley of songs from the musical 'Les Miserables', with soloists

Georgia Mason and Kelsey Walsh performing beautifully; a particularly apt medley as Les Mis is the 2013 school show. The Choir also sang with the Orchestra throughout the evening and this included great pieces such as; 'Hallelujah Chorus' and 'Zadok the Priest'. The Choir's ranks were swelled with parents and friends from the Blue Coat Choral Society during their performance of 'I Was Glad'. The evening drew to a close with all joining in Elgar's 'Pomp and Circumstance' and Parry's 'Jerusalem', during which a multitude of balloons fell from the ceiling upon the audience, resulting in rapturous applause which ran on for minutes as the elated post-concert buzz filled the room. It was an extraordinary display of musicianship and talent from a school with a history of musical excellence and is likely to be remembered as a spectacular night by many.



After many weeks, days and hours of practice, the school chapel, lit by the pale flickering light of hundreds of candles, was filled with chattering parents, ex-students and members of the local community. The initial noise of the gathered masses began a gradual decrescendo as the choir started to sing the first few notes of The Blue Coat School's annual variation of the traditional nine lessons and carols, thus taking the congregation on a musical journey culminating with 'In The Bleak Mid-Winter'.

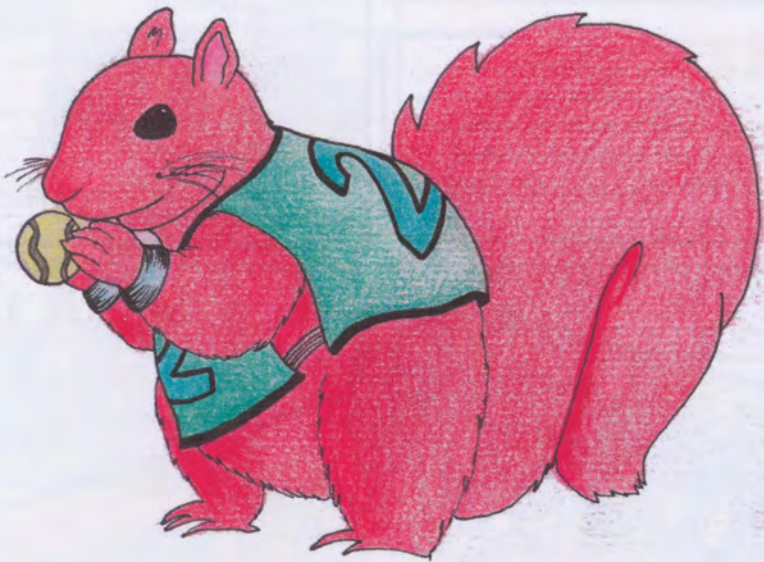
The evening, which took place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2012, saw a rich variety of musical items, sacred and secular, alongside a transition from the tranquil atmosphere of the Chapel carol service to Shirley Hall for a short concert of a more light-hearted nature. The choir once again exhibited their capacity for singing challenging music to the highest standard, and brought back old favourites like Rutter's 'Angel's Carol', much to the delight of some of the older members of the choir and congregation.

A particular highlight of the evening was the Year 7 Choir, who sang 'Carol of the Children' with heart-warming rapturous delight and excitement, under the direction of the school's vocal teacher Miss Owens. The audience was also treated to performances from the Flute Ensemble and the Brass Ensemble, along with a vocal duet of 'Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas'. The Concert Band delivered lively renditions of the 'Cowboy Carol' and the 'Coventry Carol', whilst the Jazz Band vitalised the evening further with 'Run Away Rudolph' and 'Santa Baby'.

It was a wonderful evening for all involved, and an appropriately celebrative ending to an excellent year for the school's Music Department.



# Sport



# BOYS' SPORTS



## CROSS COUNTRY

The male gender in our school evidently has a flair for running in the freezing cold; this years winners are: Luke Howarth, Adam Moorcroft and Sam Miley.

## FOOTBALL

In association football, our school is somewhat upholding our reputation with Usen Jones making the Liverpool City U15 team. Also let us not forget that the Year 10 team didn't lose a game (besides the time that Mr Farrell took over as manager for the day, as I'm disappointingly informed by Mr Adamson).

## EXTRA

Alongside a successful cricket tour to Barbados, back on home soil the

school has also achieved numerous individual and collective successes, including:

U12 Liverpool Champions  
U14 Liverpool Runners-up  
U15 Liverpool Runners-up

James Edwards, Daniel Harvey - U17 Liverpool City Team

Alex Sawyers, Alex Kitchen, Adam Carus- McDonald, Nathan Wyman, Rishi Banarjee - U15 Liverpool City Team

Joe Staunton, Matthew Harrison, Daniel Carus- McDonald - U13 Liverpool City Team

## BASKETBALL

The take over of the entire sports hall every lunch time pays off eventually... we're starting to see the great results as the U19 team were recently City Champions. Every other basketball team this year has also played exceptionally well.



# GIRLS' SPORTS



## HOCKEY

CONGRATULATIONS to the teams that have been successful in the Liverpool Hockey League so far this academic year. The U18 girls narrowly missed out on top spot to Liverpool College finishing in a very competitive 2<sup>nd</sup>. The U15s finished a close 3<sup>rd</sup> in their league with the U14 coming joint 2<sup>nd</sup>.

There was also success in the National Tournaments where both the U13 and U15 teams were runners up in the County Round stages.

The Merseyside County Tournaments so far, have seen the U13 girls finish in a very close 2<sup>nd</sup>. With all other ages awaiting their County Matches I'm sure there will be more success on the way.

Well done to all team participants this year, but congratulations to Remi Wood for playing for U21 Lancashire and being selected for U21 North of England Trials. Congratulations also go to Erin Lee, selected for U17 North of England.

## NETBALL

In the Netball League for KS3 our school is currently doing very well; Year 7 in 1st place, Year 8 in 2nd position, and year 9 in 3rd position. These results accumulate to our school being in overall 1st position. Our school evidently has a natural talent for sport.

## CROSS COUNTRY

Possibly the most gruelling sport that our school offers: running round the field with freezing cold air whistling down into your lungs surely can't be exciting? But there are obviously some who can take it; this year's winners are: Heather Quayle, Katherine Neo, and Eloise Healey.



# MIXED SPORTS



## SCHOOL COLOURS

### RE-AWARDS

#### Association football

Alexander Edwards, Matthew Gunson, Peter Robinson, Samuel Batterton, Lee Smith, Aiden Drew, Jonathan Kelly, Mark Smyth

#### Basketball

Andrew Beggs, Nelson Idama, James Rhodes, Peter Robinson, James Edwards, Matthew Gunson, Grant Helm, Theodore Jackson, Gavin Spruin

#### Cricket

Samuel Batterton, Andrew Beggs, Joseph Hunt, Theodore Jackson, James Rhodes, Peter Robinson, James Edwards, Matthew Gunson, Daniel Harvey, Conall Jager, Jonathan Kelly, Sean Leddy

#### Hockey

Alice Haughan, Charlotte Holmes, Alexandra Mallon, Emma Kelly, Erin Lee, Jenny Morris, Timah Julienne-Tabit, Sorcha Twomey-Harris, Abbie Wood, Remi Wood, Grace Zdesenko

### AWARDS

#### Association football

James Edwards, Gavin Spruin, James Scott, Sean Leddy, Joe Hunt, Adam Gaffney, Luke Findlay

#### Basketball

Joe Moorcroft-Moran, Jonathan Chu

#### Hockey

Elena Lyndsey, Hattie Power, Eden Widdows, Jessica Hyde, Laura Williams, Hannah Shore

## SPORTS DAY

With the first cancellation behind us, and the Year 10's (current Year 11's) unfairly knocked out of the competition due to work experience, Sports Day commenced. With the heavy downpour, annulling many events, participants from Years 7 through 9 trudged on willingly. Although now a year older, house winners include:

7 Blundell Girls	8 Graham Boys
7 Blundell Boys	9 Graham Girls
8 Bingham Girls	9 Blundell Boys

Although I can't vouch for the validity of these results, as most results sheets arrived to Dr Wilde and Mrs O'Rourke in the announcement box soaked through with rain. This was the same for Mr Caulkin's photography, utterly drenched as the clouds opened.

Regardless, the overall house winner, with a total of 566 points, was **Bingham**.

Individual event winners included:

Georgia Stevens, Robert Wilcox, Daniel Webb, Katherine Neo, Adam Moorcroft, Alex Tucker, Eloise Healey, Mia Gill, and Usen Jones.

## ATHLETICS

Well done to all those who participated in the athletics competitions this year, especially those who became city champions in their respective events.

Robert Wicox Year 7 City Champion High Jump  
Charlie Britton Year 7 City Champion  
Darnel Ryan Year 10 City Champion High Jump  
Luke Sullivan Year 10 City Champion 200m  
Kelly Ann Stewart-Year 9 City Champion Discus

Recently, I had the pleasure of interviewing Eloise Healey, in Year 10, who is an aspiring professional golfer with a handicap of one. With the Ryder Cup having finished she was very pleased that the Europeans had retained possession whilst I on the other hand was hoping the Americans would've pulled through. Here is what Eloise had to say about her golf career so far.

### **What are your favourite golf experiences?**

This year I played for England against Spain and I was part of the team in the Under 16 National Championship which was great. And I also represented Lancashire at the English Women's County Finals in Devon. It's also given me the opportunity to travel, for example I've played in Northern Ireland at Lough Erne which is Nick Faldo and Rory McIlroy's club, I've played in Spain and America too. Around Christmas time I'm due to play at a club near Miami called the Doral.

### **Do you have a favourite course?**

Well, I've played at Pinehurst in North Carolina before and the club house is beautiful there. I'd love to play at Augusta where the Masters is held, that would be a dream course for me.

### **Who is your favourite player?**

That's tough either Rory McIlroy or Tiger Woods. I've been lucky enough to meet both of them and Nick Faldo as well, when I played at Lough Erne.

### **Has The Blue Coat School helped you with your golf career?**

Yes, they have definitely, they've been a fantastic support and have been generous allowing me time off for tournaments and practice. There have also been a couple of



school golf tournaments which I've enjoyed competing in too.

### **Do you play any other sports?**

Yes, I play tennis and I do dance and karate, which I'm currently a brown belt in, and aside from golf I'd say karate is probably my favourite sport.

### **What are your future plans?**

In the short term I'd like to reduce my handicap from one to scratch and hopefully win the Under 18's English Girls Tournament. In the long term, I'd love to play on the LPGA in America and compete in the Solheim Cup (Women's Equivalent of the Ryder Cup).

### **Finally, do you have any tips for anyone wanting to take golf?**

I think the best advice I can give is to practice a lot, and understand that it takes time. But definitely to keep practicing.

From all of us here at The Blue Coat School we wish Eloise the best of luck in all her future tournaments.

# Clubs & Societies



**I know you all know about the Rubik's cube but do you think you could complete it in one minute?**

The Rubik's cube is a 3D combination puzzle, invented by a Hungarian sculptor and professor in architecture Erno Rubik.

Rubik's cube club is an enjoyable extra- curricular activity that takes place on Friday lunchtimes from one o'clock. The club is open to all students from years 7 to 9 and is run by Sixth Formers.

### What happens at the club?

At the club students of all skill levels are welcome. Beginners are taught the method of solving the Rubik's cube step by step and are allowed to practice on the cubes provided. The more advanced students can practice on harder cubes as well as having a go at different logic puzzles. Seeing other students complete the cubes in record times, gives you an incentive to try harder and get better at completing the Rubik's cube.

The Rubik's cube club is encouraging people to join but it does mean giving up Friday lunch break. Learning how to solve Rubik's cubes and getting quicker at completing them makes you think more logically. This is a skill that can be applied in subjects like Physics and Maths. You are also able to meet new people and make friends at the club and become a Master at Completing the Rubik's Cube.

Drama club is a cool club that runs on a Tuesday lunch time for Year 7's and 8's. Drama club is not run by teachers like most clubs but by older students. We are currently practising the Roald Dahl version of Cinderella (a much gorier version than the one you know!).

The skill of drama is taught through games that are amusing and inventive, including games called the park bench game and the impersonation game. The atmosphere in drama club is really fun and relaxed and everyone knows each other. Drama club isn't all about doing shows, it's also about having a good time and learning how to use good acting techniques.

What gives you the right to live over the bacteria in your body? What makes your life more worth saving than others? These are just some of the questions raised in the Medical Ethics Society. Students discuss on ethical issues about the practise of medicine every Wednesday after school in the school library. The topics evaluated include euthanasia, organ transplantation and patient confidentiality. Sometimes in medicine, you cannot do what you feel should be done. Ultimately, it's not who you are underneath, it's what you do that defines you. It provides students an opportunity to gain experience in constructing a valid point, using Point Explain Evidence Link (PEEL). Some students changed their beliefs completely after opening their eyes and seeing the true light behind what they always believed was true. It is time to question ourselves, what do you believe in?

These magnificent sessions could not have been so successful without the excellent organisation of our dear leaders, Irum, Ryta, Elizabeth and Baltazar. They also generously provide biscuits and drinks for those in need.

Current Affairs and Politics Society (or CAPS for short) is a great resource and forum for the interested in or studying politics. If you are having trouble keeping up with or understanding current affairs you can keep up to depth and look at important political news stories in more depth, we also look to help expose people to new political views, we don't always agree but that's part of the point. We also host a number of events such as debates and Question Time with both teacher and student guests the most recent of which was a great success.

This year we will be welcoming a new team to help organise politics society and I wish them the best of luck in managing it, I'm sure they will do a great job.

Politics society meets every Wednesday at lunch in C21, please feel free to come along if you are interested.

## Badminton Club

*By Jason Kelly*

Having attended the badminton club many times over, and been taken under Mr Caulkin's thorough guidance, I have improved exponentially. I went from smacking the shuttlecock across the court with no control, to coordinating it with intention and swish shots to tire my opponent. Sir Caulkin showed me that what goes on up here mattered more than exhausting yourself, chasing endlessly after the shuttlecock. "Strategy was key," were his wise words that went around the world.

To give you a better idea of just how inexperienced I was, Sir had to show me how to even hold the racket, as he said "it's no use hitting the shuttlecock with the handle, that's what you're meant to hold the racket with." Illustrated with a firm 'v' grip, Sir suddenly regained play and ended the match in one strike. He commanded it so effortlessly and elegantly that it became my mission to emulate his talent; he became my inspiration.

By the end of the session it became clear to me that those who were regular attendees already possessed a patch of his perfection. I just knew in time, I'd have some too. Though I never imagined I would improve so quickly, Sir sighted this sudden improvement and challenged me to a match. My heart sank and I didn't know what to do, but to my surprise I won, thanks to his awesome teachings!

## Student Alpha

*By Jack Driver*

Student Alpha is a new course which is a practical introduction to the Christian faith, aimed particularly at non-churchgoers and new Christians. The course runs for 10 sessions, located every Tuesday of the spring term. Located in C21, at 12:50, a session is structured around a question, which is addressed but more importantly discussed in small groups.

Crucially, the course is not a means of propaganda, and does not aim to convert people to the Christian faith. Instead, the focus is to challenge beliefs or views and create a safe environment where issues can be discussed. Some questions include, 'Why did Jesus die?' and 'What about evil and does God heal today?' Our aim is to allow an opportunity to talk openly about issues, and ultimately look at what all the fuss is about when it comes to Jesus and God. We hope to see as many six formers there as possible!

I first joined the Society at the beginning of the year as I hadn't taken history for AS-level yet was still interested and I'm certainly glad I did join. History society is a place where anyone can come to enjoy and learn about the past, whether it is to satisfy a burning curiosity, to expand your knowledge outside of an A-level or GCSE or just for your enjoyment. The History society has weekly presentations given by members on a wide variety of historical subjects, which provides an ideal opportunity for the development of understanding through discussion with like-minded individuals. Even if your knowledge of the past is limited, all we require is a genuine interest and enthusiasm for History as that is what the society is all about.

History society takes place every Tuesday 4-5pm in C21 and presentations cover all manner of subjects; from the Black Death to Genghis Khan, to mad monarchs throughout the ages and you can also enjoy some History society biscuits. (Yes we have biscuits; I bet you're interested now!)

If any students in Y10 – Y13 are interested then please come along to C21 after school on a Tuesday, eat some biscuits, be taken on a journey into the past, hear about a bear falling out of a window and maybe eat some more biscuits. We hope to see you soon.

## Philosophy Club

*By Chloe Mcloughlin*

Philosophy club takes place on Tuesday lunchtime at 1 in W01 every week and all years are welcome to come along. In philosophy club, we spend around 5-10 minutes of the session thinking up questions that we could discuss as a group; usually questions that don't have a right or wrong answer, and even philosophers struggle to come up with definitive solutions to these problems. We then spend the rest of the time we have listening to everyone's thoughts on the issue and if there's time will mine onto some more questions. The topics we have considered include free will and determinism, evil and suffering and questions concerning different perspectives. Our discussions can prove to be really interesting and thought provoking, so if you love testing your thinking skills and complimentary biscuits, you'll love our club and should come and take part in one of our philosophical debates.

## Japanese Language Society

*By Fraser Colman*

The Japanese language society runs on Thursdays from 13:00 to the end of lunch in room C14. Being student run the atmosphere is relaxed but focused with each session having been planned in advance; each week we progress through the main Japanese alphabet known as Hiragana, with 10 new symbols being covered at the start the session, before moving onto grammar and sentence construction.

So far this year we have learned pronunciation, verb conjugation, particles, numbers and the basic phrases needed to get by. Each week we increase our vocabulary and the lessons change to accommodate that. For the first few weeks the sentences we practiced with were quite simple and written phonetically but as our competency increased the sentences' complexity increased, they became more detailed and words were written in Hiragana not English. Notes are taken every lesson, however, so any new members can easily catch up making it extremely accessible to anyone interested in learning a new and fascinating language.

## Creative Writing Club

*By Mrs Ludlow*

Many students have entered competitions and numerous have achieved success in having their work selected for publication and winning prizes. Competitions entered included:

The Write Stuff; Express Yourself (32 students had their poems selected for publication and Sanjana Rameshkumar received a certificate for her highly commended entry; The Sea Odyssey letter writing competition (all entries were displayed in the Liverpool Maritime Museum and Matthew De Asha's letter was selected to be printed and distributed by one of the giants on the last day of the parade in Liverpool city centre); 89 students had their mini sagas published in an anthology of 'Swashbuckling Tales'; 18 students had their poems about sport published in anthology; Lara Rimmer (year 13) won first prize in the Athenaeum Writer in Residence Award. She won £1000 for herself and £100 for the School library.

We meet on Thursdays in WO4 and all are welcome.

# International Links



# Shanghai International Sister Cities Youth Camp

During the summer, six year 13 students - Robyn Murphy, Dominic McCaffrey, Ellie Fields, James Russell, Isabel Hawkins and Tayler Spruce - and Mrs Ludlow flew to Shanghai, China, to participate in the 2012 Shanghai International Sister Cities Youth Camp. The students had been chosen after entering a competition which was judged by Mrs Silcock, Mr Cox and Mrs Ludlow. Accompanied by teenagers from over 14 different countries, the pupils spent a little over two weeks in Shanghai and the surrounding areas.

Based at No. 2 High School of Shanghai, the camp intended to broaden international links and celebrate globalization. To do this, the students were provided with Mandarin lessons, Kung Fu classes, Chinese calligraphy and numerous day trips to key sights such as the iconic Pearl TV Tower; all of which was paid for by the city's government.

On the evening when we had to give a presentation about our city and school, our amusing film, made by the excellent six form team, was very well received.

We also had the opportunity to eat at restaurants, and some were even adventurous enough to try chicken feet and pigeon head! The Finance Tower was stunning, with its glass bottomed floor on the top level. We visited a Buddhist temple and also had great fun bartering in markets.

By night, the illuminated skyscrapers and boats on the river were a spectacular sight.



Over the course of the fortnight, the pupils made friends with everybody on the camp, especially students from Dunedin, New Zealand, and Queensland, Australia. However, the visit would not have been the same without Yuki and Kenny, the student ambassadors assigned to our UK group. We were particularly privileged to be able to visit their homes. Keeping in touch via Facebook, everybody intends to visit each other as soon as possible.

All participants on the trip would like to thank the school and Mrs Silcock for providing them with this once in a lifetime opportunity.

Dominic McCaffrey (U6C)



On 22nd September 2012, a group of students from Years 8-11, flew to Bordeaux for a week to live with French families. When we arrived at the airport, we were greeted by our exchanges and their families and, after a rather nervous goodbye to our friends, we made our way back to our respective houses.

For the remainder of the weekend we spent time with our families, many people enjoying the weather at the beach, in the town or, as I did, having barbecues. I got to meet Lucie's (my exchange student) cousins, uncles and aunts, one of whom was virtually fluent in English! They were very welcoming and, at times, highly amused by some of my translations - some of which left a little to be desired...

Over the course of the rest of the week, we were reunited with our friends at the school each morning, before heading out on a day-trip together. We visited many fascinating places and got to experience things that we never would have had it not been for the trip, including a visit to the underground churches and tombs of St. Emilion, tours of Bordeaux and a day in the school, shadowing our exchanges.



Most remembered though was the day when we climbed - and jumped off the top of - Dune du Pyla, the highest sand-dune in Europe!

Between learning to truly appreciate people who could speak English, suffering dodgy French school dinners and an 'eventful' trip to Laserquest, it was amazing how close everyone became; even with ages from 12 to 16 there was no separation in the group, and many of these friendships and memories will definitely stay with us.



# Beijing and Xi'an Cultural Visit 2012

On the 19th of October this year, Mr Pearson, 3 other students and I took part in a cultural visit to China; along with 3 other schools, to aid us with our study of Mandarin for GCSE. Our trip lasted 9 days and we visited 2 cities: Beijing and Xi'an. The journey was so tiring that by the time we got there it was only noon and we had the full day ahead of us!

We stayed at the Xi'an Jiaotong University, which accommodated us for the six nights we stayed in Xi'an. By the end of the first day, we had been awake for just over 30 hours. First of all, we visited The Big Wild Goose Pagoda which is a Buddhist pagoda standing 210 feet tall.

One of the most memorable activities was our visit to the Terracotta Warriors. We were all amazed at how spectacular it was and how each soldier had a different facial expression. Witnessing the soldiers was a moment that none of us will ever forget.

We went on to experience the hustling and bustling atmosphere of Muslim Street; a place famous for its gigantic market. We found that our bartering skills were rather impressive.

Most mornings were spent in small Mandarin lessons in the university taught by a Chinese student which helped to perfect our dialect. We visited the Xi'an City Wall on by far the hottest day of the trip. We all

hired bikes and rode 14 kilometer around the top of the wall!

We were taught Kung Fu and Tai Chi by a Kung Fu Master by the name of Mr. Power (his main power being the ability to put Mr. Pearson on the floor time and time again). Our visit to a karaoke bar was brilliant because we all sang and it was a great laugh with Mr. Pearson belting out some famous hits.

It had soon come to the end of our time in Xi'an and we were all going to miss it there.

We arrived in Beijing and headed straight to the Forbidden City which was a gigantic 'city' of courtyards and ancient halls. We took some spectacular pictures but the most memorable moment was eating our lunch, KFC, on the step outside of the Hall of Supreme Harmony; one of China's most ceremonial buildings!



## Beijing and Xi'an Cultural Visit 2012 continued.....

This made the locals laugh and our guide George kept on shouting "Come on people! We gotta go!"

At last the time had come to journey to the Great Wall. The structure was fantastic and we took some amazing photos even though we only climbed a tiny section. There was a hand rail up the side of the wall and on the way back down, a few of us slid down it! We were all taking small rocks off the wall as a souvenir and it was one of the best things I've ever experienced in my life.

We went to the Olympic park, Tian'an Men Square and our last destination, the Temple of Heaven which is one of the

largest temple complexes in China.

Our final meal together was a fabulous Peking duck banquet, a meal fit for kings and a fitting farewell to Beijing.

The trip was amazing and we all loved it. We all made some great friends, had some great laughs, and shared some moments we'll never forget. We are all so grateful for the opportunity; going to China and spending it with people we had never met before made it extra special. It was an experience of a lifetime.

By Ben Keegan 9Bi

*For more on the Beijing and Xi'an Cultural Visit please consult the Year 9 notice*



As a recent addition to the school's Modern Foreign Languages Department, students currently in Years 8-9 are now able to study Mandarin and immerse themselves in Chinese culture, through either timetabled lessons or workshops.



The workshops offer students the opportunity to practice their calligraphy and paint masks reminiscent of those seen in Beijing operas. Tai Chi is also a feature of these workshops, taught by specialist teachers.

In addition, students who wish to study Mandarin are taught by Dr.Zhang, who currently teaches



Year 8's after school on Wednesday's and Friday's, and Year 9's who have timetabled lessons in preparation for their GCSE. This voluntary subject will soon be available for Year 7's after Christmas, for those of you who are interested!

Finally, in conjunction with HSBC, the British Council held a Mandarin Speaking Competition, which a group of students attended – they are now eagerly awaiting confirmation of their place in the finals. Good Luck to all those who attended!



I'm very happy I've done this exchange because I've had the chance to visit Liverpool. Before coming to Liverpool I thought there were not a lot of things to visit, but after being here for a week, I have discovered that Liverpool is a city with a lot of interesting places to visit.

I didn't know, for instance, that Liverpool had a port and that it's one of the most famous and important ports in Britain. I've found that the place where the museums are very beautiful and interesting.

I went walking through Liverpool with my partner and I found it really beautiful. I like its houses because they are small and its historical buildings. I have also seen very interesting churches and

cathedrals.

I think the most exciting thing of being in Liverpool is thinking the Beatles lived here. I really enjoyed walking Penny Lane, because I could see the things that The Beatles mention in their song.

My partner has been very kind and I have enjoyed staying with at her house with her family because I've learned many things about the English lifestyle. I find some of their habits interesting like for example they have savoury food for breakfast and they always have tea.

I think it has been a positive experience and I've learnt many things. I look forward to greeting my host when she visits San Sebastian and showing her our interesting sights.



# Key Stage

# 3



## The long journey there and back again...

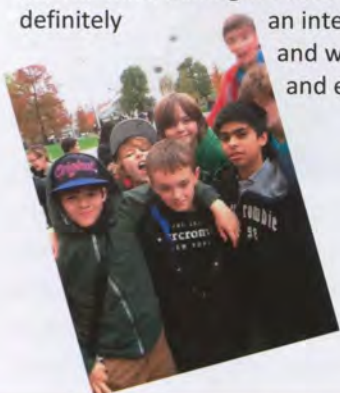
Although it was long, the journey was actually “funny”. Petty dares and rowdy voices – or maybe it was just the 7 Bingham’s/Graham’s – made the trip into a bit of a laugh. With a couple of toilet and lunch stops: the coach trip, even with a bit of subduing, was bundle of laughs!

## “Hakuna Matata!”

The Lion King was amazing! It was good to be sitting next to friends slurping on slushies and coke, eating popcorn – salted or sweet – and MORE sweets (“candy” as the Americans say it). Going to bed late was good as well, although it left a lot of people extremely tired...

## The Natural History Museum

Although I’d already been there, this more educational part of the trip was cool. Wandering around the exiting exhibits, pondering on whether your friend is in front or behind you and sometimes getting lost – certain levels of enjoyment where experienced. Though probably for a lot, not the most exiting attraction – but definitely an interesting one and worth the time and effort.



## The London Eye

If you think the Liverpool Eye is good – the London Eye is by far its superior. The entire structure is 135 metres (443 ft.) tall with a wheel 120



meters in diameter (394 ft.).

From the top, you can see the tallest building in Britain, the MI6 and MI5 buildings, Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament and many others of London’s most iconic landmarks – including, of course, the River Thames.

## Overview

The London trip was exciting and fun. The night in the hotel was good. For me it was really nice to be able to see London, especially with my friends. Even the journey there and back again was fun to be part of, and although it was only for a short time we still had fun and entirely enjoyed our time in London.





## Chester Zoo

At the end of Y7, a trip was organised to visit Chester Zoo. We left school at around 9:15AM, and soon we would arrive happily in pouring rain. The day got off to a good start; we split off into our own groups, and were allowed to explore everything Chester Zoo had to offer. It was very interesting to see how all the different animals had adapted to the British weather.

As well as being a fun trip, we learnt a lot, such as experiencing how meerkats live, by crawling through man made tunnels which represented the living conditions of the animal. The most memorable part of this trip was watching the penguins dive into the water through the clear glass wall.



Also, in the butterfly house, it was great to be able to finally interact with an

animal, and have the comfort of knowing it wasn't going to bite your head off. Unlike many other trips, Chester Zoo offered a wide variety of things to do, which kept us interested for the whole day. Personally, our favourite animal had to be the monkeys, jumping around crazily and completely oblivious to their spectators. Admittedly this was hilarious.



We came home with smiles on our faces and empty sweet packets in our hands, and the constant chatter of shared experiences. We eventually arrived back at school, and the day was topped off when we suddenly realised - no homework - this was certainly the best trip we had been on. On the whole, we would definitely go back to Chester Zoo because it was a fun day out and a great and would recommend it to all Year 7s as it was a brilliant end to our first year.

At the end of July, just before we broke up for the summer holidays, Year 8 went on a day trip to Lightwater Valley, a theme park in Yorkshire. The day started off with a 2.5 hour ride on coaches, now usually coach journeys would be boring and tiring but inside, students were loudly chatting about the day ahead. Nearly all the students beforehand had checked the Lightwater Valley website to see what was in store; there was a map provided which included the location of all the rides and the wildlife shows. This meant that before the day, students had spent time talking about what rides to go on first and which would be the best.



As soon as we got to the park, everyone split up and with the help of the maps given out and rushed to the best rides, there were rides for everyone, for the thrill seekers, the adventurous and for the cautious. The rides were split into three sections: ultimate, mega and mini adventure and most people went for the mega and ultimate adventures. It soon started to rain but we were warned in advance so it didn't affect our bright spirits at all. Lightwater Valley boasted the longest ride in Europe: The Ultimate, and most people tended to go on that first.

Throughout the day we noticed how the queues were rather long for nearly all of the rides which meant there was no time for lunch so we ate it as we queued. Nobody cared because all we wanted to do was go on as many rides as possible. Different people wanted to go on different rides and before we knew it groups would separate. Despite the lengthy queues we tried to go on as many of the exciting rides that we could during our 6 hours at the park .

The day was really successful and as the time that we had to leave loomed, we were secretly downcast as we headed towards the meeting place. As soon as we all came back together we began comparing how many rides we got the chance to go on and which ones were the best. Despite the queues and weather we were soon heading back to the coaches, full of candy and candyfloss, asking about next year and if we could go again.



## Specialism Competition Trip

By Christopher Parr

After a hard year's work completing activities in the Maths and Science departments, the twenty Year 8 students who had collected the most specialism challenge points, were taken on a trip to London and the Natural History Museum. Lime Street station was buzzing when the select group of students stepped onto the platform to board the train to London.

When we finally arrived in Euston Station of London, everybody was staring in amazement at the magnificent station but we needed to get a move on if we were going to get into the museum on time. So we walked across to Euston Square Underground station where we caught the tube to take us to our destination.

When we reached the famous museum, we dropped off our coats and packed lunches in

the cloak-room and we were on our way. For a while, we looked around the museum and absorbed all the information about the Earth's history, from volcanoes to dinosaurs. After lunch, we visited the Darwin Centre where we watched an interactive video of David Attenborough, talking us through the process of evolution and how humans evolved from pre-historic creatures into what we are today. Soon afterwards, it was time to go home.

As we embarked on the tiring journey back to Liverpool, we all wondered what had happened during Sports Day however we knew that we had the better day. Thank you to all the teachers who organised and supervised the trip for doing such a wonderful job and not losing any of us on the way, we wouldn't have been able to do it without you!

## Mandarin Speaking Competition

By Molly Arnold

At 7:48am we left Lime Street station on our exciting journey to London. Arriving at Euston in roughly two hours; Joseph, Sorcha, Georgia, Ben, Dean and I walked to Bloombury Theatre, along with Mrs Zhang and Mr Lennon.

When we had arrived and had registered, we were soon comfortable in the theatre. After a quick introduction from the host and six judges, the competition had started. Three acts in we decided that we needed to practice so we found a secluded, quiet area and with the help of Mr Lennon, tidied up the act.

We remained in our area, nervously watching the clock tick by as we waited for

our turn. Eventually we were called in to the theatre and finally it was our turn to take to the stage. Our nerves soon disappeared as we began performing and we even managed to get a few laughs from the judges. Before we knew it our performance was over and we could finally relax.

During the lunch break we made our way back to Euston Station, where we had a lovely lunch at 'Harry Ramsden's' and even had time for a mooch around the shops. At 3pm we boarded our train and headed home to Liverpool and after another two hours we were soon standing at Lime Street Station waiting to be collected, filled with the memories of our amazing day out.

# Key Stage 4



Last summer, our form 11 Graham decided to organise a fashion cat walk with teachers as models. Money raised would be donated to help for heroes to help improve wounded soldiers in their road to recovery.

To help raise more money for charity, clothes had to be purchased from charity shops and then donated back to them. Teachers such as Mr Pearson, Miss Hodson, Miss Tyers and many more modelled the clothes selected by groups within our form. ( Although Mr Pearson admitted that the clothes bought for him from the

charity shop were too small and thus what he wore at the fashion show was indeed what he himself owned....)

Many were shocked that we had managed to convince our own teachers to shamelessly strut down the runway (Shirley Hall), and then pose at the end while cameras flashed. As expected, there was a huge turnout in the number of students who turned up for the event ,which ultimately raised £400 for charity. Best dressed was Miss Hodson styled by Kate Saleh and Lydia Smith.



After a 6 hour bus trip, and an 8 hour flight fuelled entirely by anticipation, endless supplies of sugar and petrol, we arrived in Barbados! The first thing that struck us was the wall of heat that hit us as we stepped off the plane. We stayed in the Blue Orchids Hotel on the south of the island. The hotel was situated in and amongst the incredible white sandy beaches, crystal blue sea and palm trees that surrounded the island.

The first match was against Grantely Adams School, many of the team found it hard to adapt to the conditions, this led to the team falling cheaply after a fairly good bowling performance and the best batsman being Tom Fletcher by far. After becoming accustomed to the climate we were much better prepared for the second game which was won after an all-round better performance led by Nathan Wyman who also captained the victory.

The following day we went on a jeep safari tour of the island. This was fascinating as we got to know the true nature of the place, which has properties worth millions in contrast to

the poverty stricken part which was very humbling, bringing you back to reality. The best part of the safari was the opportunity to take pictures of the incredible views of the whole island.

Every night we went out to eat at a different restaurant, many of the boys chose to sample the local delicacies such as the Flying Fish and the macaroni pie which was amazing. One of the evening we visited the 'Harbour



lights" club where the boys enjoyed endless (soft) drinks and cabaret dancers.

In the third game we lost after a defiant battle with the bat so in the fourth game we were looking for a solid victory. The fifth game was sadly abandoned due to monsoon rain but the boys enjoyed a games of tape ball

## Barbados Trip continued...

cricket and football against the same opposition. The highlight of the tour for many was off pitch: on the Catamaran Cruise. We were treated to some of the amazing views of the island and beaches. A once-in-a life-time opportunity arose to swim round some of the coral reefs and with Hawksbill Turtles in the iconic waters of the Caribbean. On the cruise there were flying fish popping up everywhere and gliding over waves; sadly they also popped up in our lunch.

Over all, this experience was unforgettable and we would like to thank all the staff for taking the time and effort to take us.



## GO4SET

*By Charlotte Babarinsa & Amy Wray*

On July ,12 of us went to Manchester in order to participate in the GO4SET competition. We would by lying if we had said we got to the competition successfully. Towards the end of the journey the fish that we were using as part of our aquarium were in jeopardy thanks to Mr Ainsworth's brilliant driving.

Throughout the competition we had various assessors surveying the work we had on display. This included our model, both on CAD, physically and other various pieces of folder work

displayed on the boards.

One of the requirements of the competition was to present a pitch to three of the assessors. Although they thought our pitch lacked certain details, they felt that our idea was very innovative.

Finally the award ceremony took place and many different prizes for skills throughout the competition were given out.

On Sunday 12th August 2012, Jessica Hyde, a member of 11 Graham took part in an event that will shape people's attitudes of Britain for years to come. The astounding event in question was the Olympic Closing Ceremony. Jessica is part of the Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Choir, led by Mr Emery, and around 30 choristers were invited to sing the song, 'Imagine' by John Lennon at the 2012 Summer Olympic Closing Ceremony - it was shrouded in much secrecy but now Jess has told us all about the event and the preparation.

### What was the application process like?

The whole choir were away on a residential trip in June when we were asked whether we were free for the first two weeks in August - many people weren't due to holidays but I was free for the days required. We weren't told what was happening, just that it was something special and it would only happen once in a lifetime. At first it was strange because we had to give in random facts like our glove and head size but then when we received our Olympic passes in Mid-July everything clicked into place. We weren't allowed to tell anyone and my family only found out a couple of weeks before I was due to perform!

### What was your role?

We had to sing 'Imagine' by John Lennon during the Closing Ceremony and

the Liverpool Signing Choir were there too. There was a dress rehearsal on the Thursday before the ceremony and we had to get up at 5 o'clock to get the coach down to London, they were long days but it was worth it. There was a recording of the song before the ceremony but I was away for that but I was so pleased I was back for the performance!

### What was the dress rehearsal like?

The dress rehearsal was the day when we got to meet other people and see a complete practice of the whole show. It was in a deserted car park in Dagenham with a sort of huge circus tent constructed in the middle and the stage laid out next to it outside. That was the day we saw so many celebrities perform including the Spice Girls, George Michael, Jessie J, Tinie Tempah, Taio Cruz, Annie Lennox, Brian May and Ed Sheeran. Everyone was really nice and said 'hi' and my highlight was seeing the Spice Girls; I was star struck!



# Olympic Closing Ceremony continued...

## How about the actual night?

The atmosphere on the night was incredible. Backstage was completely hyped up and whilst we were wearing our earpieces we could hear all the live performances from the stadium such as One Direction and Emeli Sandé. Whilst we were getting ready to perform it was hard to stay calm and focused as people like Russell Brand, Take That and One Direction were walking around outside the stadium and said hi to us! When it was time for us to go on stage we had to walk past, and perform next to, the Olympic flame – it was so hot!

We walked out to an immense noise and the constant flashing of cameras from the audience, and we were told to stand silent and focus on something. Of course, I chose the Royal Box - it was something that

would really inspire me. We sung our song and I can't describe how it felt; it was just amazing. This was the culmination of lots of long days and hard work but it was so inspiring to be a part of. We walked off and as soon as we got backstage we were greeted with high fives from hundreds of other hyped-up volunteers. Unfortunately we had to leave pretty much straight away to travel home and after a 24 hour day it was tiring but exhilarating.

## How do you feel now?

Honestly, I still can't quite believe it. I think it's a great experience to look back on and now that I can look back I'm so proud to be British and to have been a part of something as incredible as this. I really appreciate the whole experience and I'm privileged to have played my part. It's something that I will never forget.



## Year 9 Chemistry Competition

By Alex Gaffney

On November 28th 2012, Blue Coat took part in a Chemistry competition in which two Year 9s, a Year 10 and a Year 11 took part. We were competing against several other schools in the Merseyside area and the overall winner of these heats went through to the finals in London.

Our heat was at the University of Liverpool and consisted of three parts; the first of which was a poster which we had to design before the event on a certain topic that we were given. We were given the theme of "Chemistry in everyday life", so decided to focus mainly on Chemistry and computers.

The second part was a practical in one of the University's laboratories, in which we had to separate a mixture of five different substances. The substances were iron filings, salt, ammonium chloride, sand and chalk. We were given a range of equipment to help us and the extraction of certain elements were obvious however others were much more difficult. This resulted in a lot of experimenting, so it was a good thing we had two hours to do it.

After the lengthy and very complicated second stage, we approached the third and final element of the heat. This was a theory examination, which covered a wide variety of topics, from limestone to the atmosphere. The test was incredibly hard and required an extensive knowledge of many topics.

Finally we got the results, first we received news that one person on the Blue Coat team had done exceptionally well on their test and had got over 50 out of a possibly 60 marks. This was Ian V from Year 11, and the examiners informed us that this was one of the highest they had seen. We also got praise for our "excellent drawings, illustrating the method in the practical" contained within the report, which were provided by Owen Bell. Unfortunately we did not get through to the finals of the competition, but I would suggest anyone in KS4 next year to ask if they can do it as it was a really fun day out.

## Natural History Museum

By Kelly Stewart

The Year 10 trip to the National History museum was one which was entertaining yet educational. After being assigned groups in school, we left to arrive at the museum for 10am. On arrival we were greeted by staff and taken to our first sessions. Our first session was a lecture on the history of our ancestors which for me, was really interesting.

We were showing numerous skulls of our ancestors and given tasks to complete on what we had heard in the lecture. Afterwards we all went into the planetarium

where we were taken on a journey through space without leaving our seats. It was fantastic! Lunchtime followed shortly after and during the afternoon we were left to do our activity booklet given to us before we came. We had to look around the museum and find the answers to the questions in the booklet. Overall, it was a fantastic trip and I'm sure everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, just like I did!

I'd just like to say thank you to Mr Dunkin for organising the trip and for the staff that helped us on the day. Thank you!

After weeks of solid revising (well.. for most of us anyway) the agony of GCSE exams was now a distant memory and with many of us looking forward abroad, the evening of July 12 arrived.

For many therefore it was a chance to dress up in smart attire, let their hair down and pray that Mr Shipgood would be merciful in his sarcastic commentary of them. That night boys in ill-fitting tuxedos and the girls in colourful dresses, posed awkwardly for photos taken by their families (mostly mothers) allegedly being told that these were moments they would cherish (or rue) for the rest of their lives.



Mathew Wiseman and Lydia Smith being crowned Prom King and Prom Queen respectively not to mention the best dressed girl and boy award was given to the lovely Evie Hubble and Joel Sorby

The remainder of the soiree was spent shamelessly on the dance floor as practically the whole year hopped around to what the DJ considered good music. All in all the evening ran very smoothly and we would like to thank all the staff who organised the event and to all the students who were present for making the prom special.



The event was held at the beautiful Sefton Park Palm House where there was a bar serving drinks (non-alcoholic of course!) and even a buffet serving food. After the meal drew to

a close it was time for the speeches and presentations of the prizes. This resulted in



# Key Stage 5



At 09.00am on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2012, I arrived at Birkenhead Park to embark upon the first of the 26.2 miles of the Liverpool Marathon 2012. I approached the finishing line alongside the Liver Birds in Liverpool City Centre at 13:00 and confirmed my total running time of 4 hours 30 minutes. It was the biggest physical challenge I have ever completed and required a great deal of commitment, perseverance and dedication to become physically fit enough to run the distance. Training 4-5 times a week was a difficult balancing act with my academic studies, and a strong commitment was required to train in any available spare time, often in the morning before school. From the very first stride to the last push to the finish line, crowds cheered everyone on who was doing the race. As I entered Liverpool after coming out of the Wirral side of the course the streets were lined with people cheering and supporting, there were some familiar faces of family and friends who gave me huge moral support as my body was tiring and every stride was becoming more and more difficult. As the final miles passed by it became more and more real the challenge I was on the verge of completing, in aid of a very special charity, which does so much unknown work for people suffering with mental illness.

Mind, the mental health charity, provides advice and support to empower anyone experiencing a mental health problem. They campaign to improve services, raise awareness and promote understanding. Mind provides help and support directly to those who need it most. Every year, one in four people will experience a mental health problem. Hundreds of thousands of

people are still struggling to get the support they need. The Mindinfo line responds to 25,000 queries a year but a further 17,373 queries go answered due to a lack of resources and money. Mind is an independent charity and relies solely on public and trustee donations.

I raised £850 in sponsorship money for Mind. I would especially like to thank everyone who sponsored me in Bluecoat, I raised £250 solely from donations in school. I hope to carry on with fundraising and I am planning to do the London Marathon, Liverpool Triathlon and John O'Groats to Lands End cycling challenge hopefully in the near future.



## Politics Trip to London

By Ria Griffiths

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November the Lower and Upper 6<sup>th</sup> politics groups headed for London to see a show, meet Luciana Berger, MP for Wavertree and to attend the Politics Conference held at Westminster Methodist Central Hall on 26th November 2012. I was delighted to hear the different MPs put forward what changes they believe should occur and what ought to take priority. Tony Benn (a retired Labour MP) stated that democracy gives people the power to change the status quo and real change only occurs when determined individuals are willing to work together. He was opposed to the EU as he believed it was fundamentally undemocratic and wanted society to broaden its democracy. The conference pointed out the lack of a clear distinction between the major three parties; instead

their representative's proposed similar ideas of a "stronger democracy" with a wider representation of society.

I was gripped and amazed by the independent George Galloway and how charismatic he actually is. He shared his views of the failing political class, and students from all over the country took part in asking specific questions, and in doing so he electrified the debate. Furthermore, Nigel Farage argued that UKIP were the 3<sup>rd</sup> Party in British Politics and no longer a 'single issue' party, yet he failed to point out any real policies that didn't concern the EU. The atmosphere was heated and angry at times and really made us all think about how a politician with charisma can excite debate and anger too.

## The Alchemist

By Fraser Colman

At a time when people from all walks of life are feeling like they're being conned, it's good to know this feeling is not just a modern phenomenon. Deceit, greed and the flaws of man are just some of the aspects of daily life that form the central part of Ben Johnson's *The Alchemist*.

The sharp wit and slapstick humour are just as effective in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as in the 17<sup>th</sup>, and the performances of the actors showcase this to full effect. By the end of the performance they were visibly exhausted and yet no energy was wasted; they put all their effort into creating an

entertaining and thoroughly enjoyable production. Not an easy feat given the Jacobean language used.

My only disappointment was that a hilarious segment, the theft of an audience member's shopping, was not improvised as I had first believed but, in fact, all staged. Although this didn't detract from the entertainment of the play, it confirmed that the whole performance, set and all, was about subterfuge and deception and by the end you are left wondering just what was real and what was all a con.

## Salt Mine Trip

By Kelvin Wong

During my AS Studies in Chemistry I had the opportunity to visit The Winsford Salt Mine in Cheshire. It was a day trip during which we were given a tour by Miners and Chemists that worked there.

With the Miners, we travelled deep underground through shafts that dropped down to 600ft deep. It was extremely dark underground, even the heavy headlamps we were given weren't much help! During our time down the mine we learnt about the processes that were involved in rock salt extraction and the large machinery required wearing down the walls. Furthermore, we experienced what the conditions were like to work in a mine because of the substantial amount gear we carried and the harsh conditions of the dusty air.

Lastly, we were also given the chance to take any amount of rock salt with us home as long as we were able to carry it! Many of

us had taken this as a challenge and attempted to carry as large a piece of rock salt as we could around with us. When we finished the tour underground we were also given a talk and demonstration by a Chemist in a lab about the requirements of the quality of rock salt and the scientific methods they used to test them. Overall the day was very interesting and fulfilling because of the first-hand experience we were provided and the friendliness of the Winsford Salt Mine workers.



## Life In A New School

By Anon

When thinking about the reasons I decided to apply to The Blue Coat School, the first thing that springs to mind is the new experiences I knew I would encounter.

Since September I have enjoyed getting to know lots of different people, all of whom have been very welcoming. In addition to this, I have already been given lots of opportunities; including educational trips, and a wide range of student-led societies and clubs. Although the school environment is very different from what I have previously

experienced, I feel that I have settled in very well and I find the work ethic and sense of community to be very strong. I also think that, along with the rest of my year, I have been able to adapt to Year 12, which of course is VERY different to Year 11.

As I expected it has been a challenge to keep up with the vast amount of work that comes with AS Levels, however I have benefited from the advantages, freedoms and privileges that come with being a member of the Sixth Form at The Blue Coat School.

Paris – a rich bustling cosmopolitan city and one of the world’s most important settlements for more than two millennia. The epitome of European chic, its romantic attraction is obvious when you consider the avenues upon avenues of quaint bistros and art studios of ‘*Montmartre*’ or the beautiful neo-classical stone apartments that line the streets. So when six lads planned to invade the ‘*La Ville-Lumiere*’ for four nights with about a word of French between us all, it is quite understandable that as you read this you become increasingly sceptical.

But I assure you without doubt that the experience was one of the most memorable of our school careers. After arriving at Charles De Gaulle Airport late in the night and reaching our hotel even later that night thanks to a baffling system of Parisian trams and RER metros, we would have probably agreed with the readers’ initial scepticism. Adding to the general distress was the fact that Jordan “Mr-Matthews-Gets-It-Done” had indeed gone and done it – booking double beds for us all, forgetting to pay along the way. Michael Bowyer sulking sitting on the toilet with his head between his hands in the early hours of the morning probably says a lot more than I ever could through words on a page.

The next morning brought a welcome recovery to the team morale. With the Euros and the French Open bringing an

invigorating bustle to Paris, we knew that the week held great things in store. It also helped that we sussed out the metro. It is difficult to summarise the next four days in such a small article but I think the fact that we were able to visit all the major inner-city monuments as well as venturing to Versailles, situated 20km outside of Paris is a testament to the educational side of the trip and our enthusiasm. The sun shone brightly as we walked through Louis’ “gilded cage” – one of the most impressive pieces of architecture.

Looking over to the skyscrapers of *La Défense* from the *Arc de Triomphe*, exploring the vast collection of art and sculptures at the *Musée du Louvre* (honestly we spent at least 5 hours inside and only managed to explore 3 of the 4 floors) and standing at the top of *La Tour Eiffel*’ as Parisian streetlights sparkled below all added to the surreal nature of the trip. The stunning white profile of the *Basilique du Sacré-Coeur*, the grandiose *Notre Dame* Cathedral and of course the *Conciergerie* and opulent beauty of the *Opéra Garnier* are only few amongst the many stunning places and buildings we saw.

Paris was a truly amazing experience, and I cannot stress the potential the Tod Scholarship has to produce an immense trip. With a scribbled list titled “Things to Do...” good company and a lot of luck, you too could have a ball!

# Tod Scholarship—European Adventures

When Mrs. Silcock came into a Sixth Form assembly in early Spring 2012 and informed us that we had the chance to receive money from the Sir Alan Tod Scholarship to go travelling for an educational purpose, I thought to myself that it was an opportunity I simply couldn't turn down.

So Adam Gilbert, who recently left Blue Coat to study Law at Birmingham University, Peter Woods from Calderstones School and I proposed a mammoth eleven day trip around Europe.

Paris, Milan, Salzburg, Prague and Amsterdam.



Our first stop was Paris. We had a long six-hour coach trip through the night from Liverpool to London, followed by a two hour train journey on the Eurostar. Once in Paris, we visited Notre Dame Cathedral, the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe and the Champs d'Elysees, whilst also doing a spot of busking on the steps leading up to the Sacre Coeur! Our next stop was Milan and, after a walk around the city centre on our first day there, we travelled to a small town

The three of us had formed a Brass Trio consisting of Peter on trumpet, Adam on trombone and me on tenor horn. We had formed in early 2012 and if you ever visited Liverpool city centre on a Saturday afternoon you might have seen or heard us! Our aim was to provide street entertainment (or 'busk') in every city we visited. This seemed like a daunting but adventurous plan, as we intended to stay in five cities in five different countries:



## European Adventures continued.....

outside Milan called Bergamo as we had heard that it was busker-friendly. Naturally, we had to try some pizza during our two nights in Italy.



After Milan, we travelled to Salzburg, which was the most cultural and classical music - orientated city we visited. Salzburg was the home of Mozart and we visited his house and entertained the passers-by in 'Mozart Square'.

We also watched an opera on a huge screen with several hundred other people in the city centre, which added to our classical musical experience.

Then it was off to Prague, once again



another very cultural city. We visited the famous Astronomical Clock in the main square and the Charles De Galle Bridge, where we busked to a large, appreciative crowd. From Prague, we travelled for fourteen hours on a sleeper train to our final destination, Amsterdam. Aware of its reputation, we decided to take a bike tour around the city, most definitely the best way to see as much of Amsterdam as possible in half a day! In the evening, we visited a Piano Bar and a Jazz Bar, which enhanced our experience of 20<sup>th</sup> century popular music.



The whole trip cost us around £800 each. However, I was fortunate enough to receive a Tod Scholarship grant of £150 towards the trip, reducing the cost by around 20%. I would say to anyone who is thinking of doing something similar that I benefited greatly both from the planning of the trip and from the travelling itself, as I was able to experience different countries, languages and cultures. This was a trip which I will remember for the rest of my life.

By James Sharples

# University Destinations



# ENTRY INTO HIGHER EDUCATION 2012

Student	University	Subject
Hollie Ackers	University of Nottingham	Veterinary Medicine
Emmanuel Ago	University of Bradford	Clinical Sciences
Matthew Allen	University of Leicester	English
Rim Aly	University of Manchester	Medicine
Ali Amin-Nejad	University of Cambridge	Medicine
John Anderson	University of Leicester	Ancient History & History
Peter Athans	Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music	Music
Melissa Atherton	Loughborough University	History & Politics
Jake Atkin	Liverpool John Moores University	Real Estate Management
Rahatul Azad	University of Liverpool	Chemistry with a year in Industry
Joanna Baker	University of Oxford	Chemistry
Sohini Banerjee	University of Essex	Economics
Andrew Beggs	University College London	Environmental Geoscience
Emily Bennett	Durham University	Economics
Francesca Bird	University of Hertfordshire	Paramedic Science
Charlotte Boardman	University of Kent	English & American Literature
Nathan Bond	University of Sheffield	Mathematics
Ross Booker	University of Manchester	Physics with Astrophysics
Robert Boyle	University of Lancaster	Finance & Economics
Stuart Campbell	Liverpool Hope University	Drama
Jacob Cinnamon	University of York	Physics
Jake Cockburn	Leeds Metropolitan University	Physical Education
Jessica Cody	University of Liverpool	Orthoptics
Christina Coll	University of Liverpool	Biological & Medical Sciences
Katie Conry	University of Liverpool	Astrophysics
Bethany Currie	University of Oxford	Classics I
Ashley Davies	Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh	International Business Management & Languages (Spanish)
Matthew Davies	University of Oxford	History and English
Louise Davis	Newcastle University	Medicine
Olivia Denvir-Parry	University of Leicester	Physics with Astrophysics
Aneka Desai	University of Cambridge	Economics

Jessica Dickinson	Leeds Metropolitan University	Events Management
Jack Doherty	University of Lancaster	Physics/North America
Steven Doran	University of Oxford	Music
Leah Dunn	Liverpool John Moores University	Biochemistry
Amy Edwards	University of Leeds	Economics & Spanish
Sara Edwards	Durham University	Law
Alero Ejuoneatse	Imperial College London	Mechanical Engineering
Marie Claire Emecheta	University of East Anglia	History
Vanessa Ferguson	Liverpool John Moores University	Zoology
Shane Fernandes	University of Liverpool	Mechanical Engineering
Emma Findlay	University of Manchester	Medicine
Joey Fong	Queen Mary University of London	Medicine
Sophia French	University of Leeds	English and Spanish
Sophie Gaffney	University of Glasgow	Economics/Psychology
Nicholas Gall	Royal Veterinary College, (University of London)	Veterinary Medicine
Thomas Gannon	University of Liverpool	Physics
Adam Gilbert	University of Birmingham	Law
Kathryn Glacken	Cardiff University	Optometry
Matthew Gunson	Durham University	Criminology
Vincent Hale	Sheffield Hallam University	Mathematics
Stephen Harper	University of York	Electronic Engineering
Alice Haughan	University of Exeter	Conservation Biology & Ecology
Rachel Hayes	University of Edinburgh	International Business
Niall Hayward	University of York	Computer Science with Artificial Intelligence
Michael Head	University of Liverpool	Mechanical Engineering
Grant Helm	Lancaster University	Economics & International Relations
Michael Henderson	University of Lincoln	Accountancy & Finance
Charlotte Holmes	Liverpool John Moores University	Sport & Exercise Science
Georgina Hunt	University of Sheffield	Medicine
Fatma Ibrahim	The University of Bradford	Clinical Sciences
Nelson Idama	University of Leeds	International Development
Christopher Jackson	University of Leeds	Economics
Yusra Jaffer	University of Liverpool	Law

Rebecca Jones	University of Oxford	Classics I
Kaye Jordan	University of Sheffield	Dentistry
Jessica Jung	University of Liverpool	Architecture
Katarzyna Kalosza	University of Leeds	English & Japanese
Mark Keatinge	University of Liverpool	Physical Sciences
Emma Keenan	Durham University	General Engineering
Jonathan Kelly	Durham University	Economics
Thomas Kinley	Liverpool John Moores University	Engineering & Technology
Christopher Lam	University of Manchester	Actuarial Science & Mathematics
Elise Larkin	University of Cambridge	Modern & Medieval Languages
Megan Lee	University of Liverpool	Hispanic Studies and Italian
Adam Leslie	University of Liverpool	Mechanical Engineering
Amy Lewin	University of Liverpool	History & Hispanic Studies
Jack Lewis	University of Liverpool	Accounting & Finance
Daniel Little	University of Warwick	Engineering
William Longworth	University of Sheffield	History & Philosophy
Jack Luscombe	University of Edinburgh	Medicine
Elizabeth Magee	University of Lancaster	Business Studies
Alexandra Mallon	Leeds Metropolitan University	Accounting & Finance
Eleanor Marsh	Durham University	English Literature & History
Jack Marshall	University of Liverpool	Computing with a Year in Industry
Thomas McKenna		Gap Year
Lucy McKinstry	University of Manchester	Law
Michael McNulty		Gap Year
Alison McNulty	Liverpool John Moores University	Wildlife Conservation
Luke Miller	Aberystwyth University	Human Geography with Economics
Alexander Monaghan	University of Liverpool	Mechanical Engineering
Luke Moorcroft	University of Liverpool	Biological & Medical Sciences
Brogan Moss	University of Warwick	Economics
Daniel Murphy	University of Liverpool	Accounting & Finance
Frances Murphy	Queen Mary University of London	English
Mahdieh Naderali	University of Leicester	Law with French Law & Language
Irene Neophytou	Liverpool John Moores University	Law
Ashley O'Meara	University of Glasgow	Psychology
Sue Pang	University of Nottingham	Pharmacy

Gwen Parry	University of St Andrews	Mathematics
Elizabeth Peacock	Royal Veterinary College (University of London)	Veterinary Medicine
Lowri Phillips	University of Leeds	International Relations
Charlotte Quinn	University College London	Biomedical Sciences
Marina Ransome	University of Leicester	Medicine
James Rhodes	University of Leeds	Ecology & Environmental Biology
Timothy Rhodes	Lancaster University	Economics and Geography
Aidan Riley	University of Warwick	History
Jonathan Riley	Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh	Economics
Lara Rimmer	University of Liverpool	Medicine
Antony Robinson	Swansea University	Engineering
Peter Robinson	University of Kent	Economics
Wan Rosidi	University of Bristol	Mechanical Engineering
Clare Roskell	University of Liverpool	Biological Sciences
Arion Saad	Queen Mary University of London	Medicine
Elena Saavedra	University of Liverpool	Law with Business Studies
Kathryn Sayer	Imperial College London	Mechanical Engineering
David Sefton	King's College (University of London)	Mathematics
Elizabeth Sheerin	University of York	Philosophy/Politics
Charlotte Spencer	Queen Mary University of London	Film Studies
Benjamin Stanley	University of Manchester	Politics, Philosophy & Economics
Fern Stocks	University of Liverpool	English & Philosophy
Hannah Stringfellow	York St John University	Occupational Therapy
Sean Studley	Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh	Mathematics with Finance
Helena Sweeney	University of Manchester	Medicine
Mark Taylor	Liverpool John Moores University	Applied Chemical & Pharmaceutical Sciences
Robyn Tisdale	City University	Business Studies
Rebecca Tsang	University of Lincoln	Law and Politics
Sophie Tsang	University of Sheffield	Orthoptics
Nicholas Turner	University of York	Physics with Astrophysics
Toby Underwood- Hughes	University of Manchester	Physics with Theoretical Physics
Jerin Varghese	Liverpool John Moores University	Electrical & Electronic Engineering

Lauren Ventre	Newcastle University	Modern Languages & Business
Neil Walker	University of Bristol	History
Carlos Walker-Ravena	Imperial College London	Mechanical Engineering
Abigail Ward	University of Liverpool	Psychology
Rebecca Wardle	Liverpool Hope University	Primary Teaching with Sport Studies
Callum Watling	University of Oxford	Economics & Management
Megan Welsh	Liverpool John Moores University	Animal Behaviour
Miriam Whitfield	University of Liverpool	History
Rachel Wignall	University of Liverpool	Geology
Jennifer Williams	University of Leeds	Actuarial Mathematics
Laura Wilson	University of Liverpool	Business Economics
Nicola Winstanley	Liverpool John Moores University	Applied Psychology
Andrew Wong	Peninsula College, University of	Medicine
Janet Wong	University of Liverpool	Medicine
Lewis Wooding-Smith	Liverpool John Moores University	Automotive Engineering
Ryan Woods	Leeds Metropolitan University	Politics
Jonathan Woodward	University of Oxford	Mathematics
Olivia Woodward	University of Sheffield	Business Management & Economics
Mark Woosey	University of York	Computer Science with Artificial Intelligence
Zhixuan Zhai	University of Cambridge	Architecture
Sarah Zhao	Imperial College London	Medicine
Alexandra Zhong	University of Bristol	Economics

**We wish all of our fellow students  
every success in their future  
endeavours.**

UCAS – four letters that seem almost synonymous with hours of stress, drafts upon drafts of personal statements and the bane of Upper Sixth. Ultimately the UCAS process will have a huge impact on your education and future, and it is definitely worth heeding some advice that with the benefit of hindsight we can provide.

UCAS is the process by which you apply to university, so to begin it is quite useful if you start to think about which universities you would like to spend three or four years at, and what course you want to engage in for that time. Try and visit your universities of choice – research and book Open Days.

So what makes up the UCAS process? Well there are two main components – the online database and the personal statement. The latter is a much more complicated and at times frustrating aspect, so the first piece of advice is to fill out your details on the online database as soon as you can. It's as simple as entering in your grades and qualifications, and well worth doing as soon as possible. As for the personal statement, remember that it is 'personal', and should be an accurate reflection of your ambitions and motivations. Starting it is always a daunting task, just take it one sentence at a time, and make every line count.

Although the drafts might drive you

insane, just rest on the fact that with each version it is slowly becoming more refined.

After you have completed these two pieces you are ready to 'Pay and Send' – this is basically sending off your UCAS to the school who will provide references, check your details and finally clear your application. Remember both Miss Holland and Mrs Silcock will look over your UCAS so you can be confident that it's as good as it can be.

Here are just a couple of pointers to end and summarise. Start early, fill out the online database as soon as possible. Communicate with your UCAS mentor – they've seen a thousand personal statements and will definitely be able to guide you along the way. Show your interest and motivation to study your specific course/subject. Be nice to Ms Holland (she's a fountain of UCAS advice). Check, double-check and then triple-check. If you follow these pieces of advice then I can promise you'll be 'Paid and Sent' in no time, and you will be able to sit back and let the offers roll through! Just remember we've been through UCAS already and we're always happy to help if you have any questions, without doubt you'll hear of UCAS time and time again in the near future but other than that good luck!

The Upper Sixth

# Life After Blue Coat



# Philip CLARKE

I have very fond memories of my time at The Blue Coat School between 1971 and 1978. I remember enjoying basketball with Mr Rees and Mr Tittershill and it was while I was there that I started working for Tesco.

My dad, Norman, was a Store Manager and I joined the business when I was 14, working in his store in Allerton on Saturday. He made me want to go into retail, and remains my inspiration to this day.

I loved working in store, talking to customers and working as part of a team, so I carried on part-time during school and my time at Liverpool University, where I studied Economic History. After I graduated, I joined Tesco's Management Training Programme in 1981, which provided me with a fantastic platform to learn an incredible amount about the business.

I spent nine years in store management before moving to buying and then marketing. In 1994 I became Stores Director and a year later I was promoted to Regional Managing Director, before joining the Tesco PLC Board in 1998 responsible for the Supply Chain and Information Technology.

Six years later I became International Director – leading teams across Asia and Europe. It was a huge honour to work

with colleagues in so many different countries and cultures. It was especially exciting to expand into China at a time of rapid growth for the country.

One of the proudest moments in my life was when I was asked to be Group Chief Executive in March 2011. Having been with Tesco all my working life, it is a great privilege to lead the business. My motto is 'never ever ever give up' – I'm passionate about working for Tesco and excited to be a part of it.

Enjoy your time at Blue Coat; it's a great school with great people. And good luck to you all with whatever direction you take in the future.



**"At Tesco we make what matters better, together"**

Born in Liverpool I attended King David, a co-educational school. At that time, keenly interested in medicine, I was planning to study science A-levels. Blue Coat's reputation for sciences was highly regarded throughout the North West and so I applied. When I started there were over 1000 boys and only twenty girls.

Being from a co-educational school you would think I would be better prepared for the psyche of boys. However you would be wrong. It was a culture shock to realise the 'gang' mentality of some of the boys in the school, not to mention their ability to *double entendre* the simplest of expressions. I was not used to such a division of pupils. Some were sporty, some were geeks, and some were 'hard'.

Notwithstanding these minor difficulties I was exceptionally happy at Blue Coat. Many of the pupils in my year were individuals with strong views and great focus. I liked the academic bias and the amazing teachers. I remember how my jaw dropped open as Nick Cowan opened his first Chemistry lesson with: "If you listen to me and work hard over the next 2 years I will guarantee you an A". He was right. I attribute most of my successes to the teaching and dedication I was lucky enough to experience, particularly at school.

It was at Blue Coat that I decided to study law, not medicine, and graduated from Manchester University with a 2:1 degree in Law in 1994, and from Chester College of Law in 1995.

I then travelled around the world for 6 months. Upon returning I commenced my legal training with a niche Manchester intellectual property practice, subsequently specialized in commercial litigation and finally set up and headed the legal

department of Halewood International Limited, an international drinks company based in Liverpool. My job gave me exciting opportunities to travel and to socialise. I even watched Halewood International's horse, "Amberleigh House" win the Grand National at Aintree.

During this time I married, had 2 kids and then considered what I could offer to others. I was involved in the first e-petitions for legal causes, became a trustee and director of Centre 56, a refuge for women and children suffering from domestic violence, and a training centre educating young people about the issue of abuse. It is important to me to play an active role in Liverpool life – a city I have always loved – and to make a visible difference to my community.

Despite my busy life I always find time for music. I play the violin and was a founding member of the light music Phoenix Orchestra. I passionately believe in the expression of music and when time allows, I visit primary schools to play the violin and explain the workings of an orchestra to increase the awareness of young pupils to the magic of music. I am proud to say a number of pupils have taken up instruments as a result of my visits.

I currently work as a solicitor for Rex Makin and teach ILEX to degree level Contract Law. I enjoy both practicing and teaching law, and am looking forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead.



# Amy JENKINS

Life after Blue Coat has been so many things that I never thought it would be. Looking back on my time there, I really did love going to school and thought I had made my mind up about where my life was going to go.

I originally applied to do Psychology at University but due to a number of circumstances (mainly not achieving the results I was hoping for) I ended up studying Working with Children and Young People. I had always known that I wanted to work in this field and had considered going into therapy after my degree but after studying the subject for 2 years I decided that teaching was what I really wanted to do. I have now applied for a primary PGCE course, hopefully specialising in special educational needs.



I have kept in touch with some of my friends from school, drifted apart from others and made some great new friends through University.



Another thing that going to University has allowed me to do is to work at Walt Disney World in Florida over the summer. If you are a full time undergraduate student, you can apply for their Summer Work Experience program. I can honestly say it was the best experience of my life and I would recommend it to anyone. It had always been an ambition of mine to work for Disney but I never imagined that going to University would open doors of opportunity like that.

I've done so much that I didn't expect to do since leaving The Blue Coat School and hope that this continues in my personal and professional life.

# Mr ADAMSON

The Blue Coat School that I returned to as a teacher in 1999 was very different from the one that I started at as a student in 1987. Back then I was one of 90 boys in each year and although the houses of Bingham, Blundell, Graham and Shirley existed (I was in Graham) we were in three forms of R, J, P – I still have no idea what these letters stood for! As a Year 7, it was a daunting place to be, not just the size of the building but the homework and, believe it or not, French! What was that all about?

We were taught in some of the same classrooms as you are now, but the far side of the school (where the flats are) was where the boarders stayed. It seems funny now to think that there was a boarding house in the school and we had three boarders in our class. We used to have a swimming pool down by where the yard is now, and we had many great PE lessons there with Mr Rees and Mr Tittershill. The yard was huge; you will now find the staff car park, dining hall and courtyard where it was. Every lunchtime it was transformed into a massive football pitch with matches criss-crossing the yard and the first years fighting for a small corner in which to have their match.

One of the highlights of my time in school was when our First XI football team were crowned Merseyside Champions in 1993 and Mr Rees still has the photos. What a team we were!

Many of my teachers remain: Mr Rees, Mr Hicks, Mr Keating, Mr Lamb, Mrs Wilkinson, Mrs Beggs, Mrs Roberts, Mr Wellings and

Mr Caulkin. When I left in 1994 to go to University, not for one minute did I ever think that I would return five years later as a French and Spanish teacher! It was whilst teaching English in France that I started to consider teaching in England and when coming towards the end of my PGCE I saw a job advertised for The Blue Coat. Before I knew it, I was sharing a staff room with many of my former teachers!

Although teaching here was strange at first, the help and advice I got from everybody was great and I even got to manage my own football team, which I am still doing all these years later. Another surprise awaited me when I got my timetable and class lists – my younger brother was in one of my Spanish classes!

You will have many great opportunities whilst at this school, so make the most of all the chances that come your way. Many of the friends that you make now will still be your friends for years to come and you will have plenty of memories to look back on in the future.

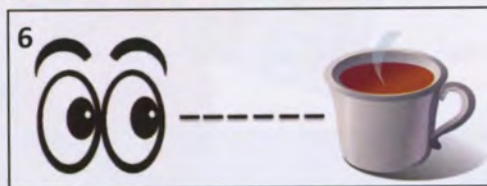
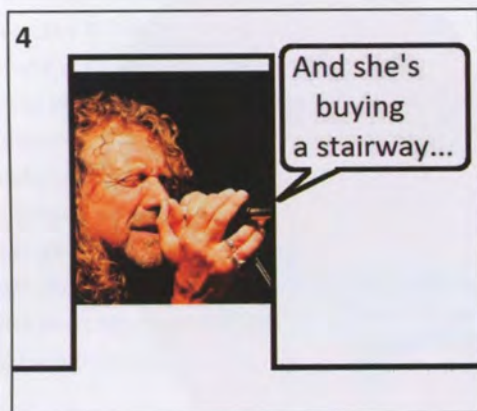
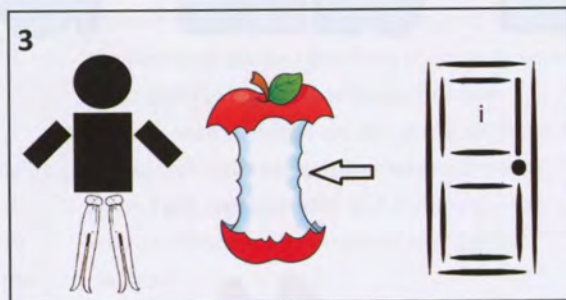
You never know, you might even end up back here as a teacher!



# Fun Stuff



## Blue Coat Related Dingbats

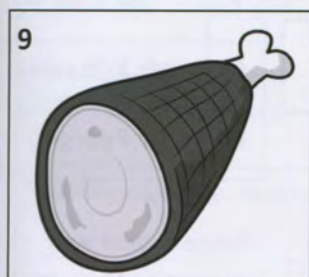
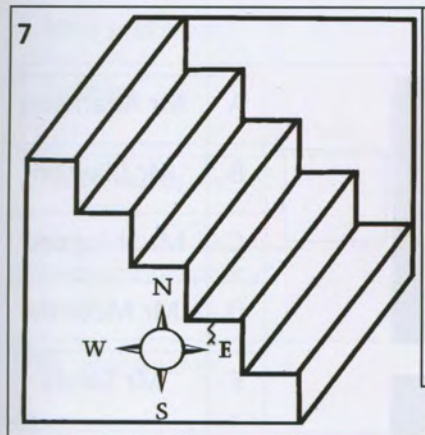


### Answers

1		2	
3		4	
5		6	

# More Fun Stuff

## More Dingbats



### Answers

7	
8	
9	
10	

Please submit your answers to Mrs O'Rourke.

If all the dingbats are correct, you will be entered into a draw to win £20 worth of Liverpool ONE vouchers.

# Even More Fun Stuff

## Teacher, Celebrity Lookalikes

Match the name to celebrity


















A	Mr Adamson
B	Mr Clayton
C	Mr Shipgood
D	Mr McBride
E	Mr Sands
F	Mr Cox
G	Mr Kilhams
H	Mr Pearson

Please submit your answers to Mrs O'Rourke.

If all of your Lookalike answers are correct, you will be entered into a draw to win £20 worth of Liverpool ONE vouchers.

## Teacher Quotes Quiz

Who said what?	Answers
"Ey, Fellas"	
"You're boring me"	
"Electronic telephony"	
"Err whatsaname"	
"Some verbs can be a bit...naughty"	
"Illuminum"	
"Primary objective: Nobody dies"	
"I had some green tea, and whoosh! It went straight through me"	
"Kelvin's off today because he's got a temperature"	
"They told me that when I was older I'd have the body of a god. Turns out it was Buddha"	
"Good eevening..."	
"The best password, is password"	
"One person got 100% in the test. It was Mark. Mark Scheme"	

A	Mr Caulkin
B	Mr Pennington
C	Mr Rees
D	Dr Wilde
E	Mrs Tabern
F	Dr Lawell
G	Mr Caulkin
H	Miss Hodson
I	Mr Doherty
J	Mr Smith
K	Mr Caufield
L	Mr McGreevy
M	Mr Frost

Please submit your answers to Mrs O'Rourke.

If all of your teacher quotes are correct, you will be entered into a draw to win £20 worth of Liverpool ONE vouchers.

## Magazine Competition

The Editorial Team held a competition to find the front cover for our new Squirrel Magazine. Students were asked to design a front cover that reflected The Blue Coat School and its students. We received a number of entries and although Jessie Lau's entry was chosen as the winning design, it was decided that a selection of other entries would also become part of the cover. We would like to thank all of the entrants and we hope you like their ideas as much as we did.

*At first I didn't know how to make my design original and then I thought of this design. It's linked to everyday life at school with the pen and pencil, the balloons are meant to represent the idea of celebrating school life at The Blue Coat School. I included the colourful dragonflies as I thought they would be original.*

*Rida Munir 7BI*

*Our design is called 'Squirrels in Space'. The squirrel on the front is wearing The Blue Coat School uniform to show that the magazine is from The Blue Coat School. The cover is set in space to represent that people can achieve their dreams even if it is a first, such as a squirrel in space.*

*M. Ho, V. Leeper, R. Nimmo, M. Tin-U, H. Li & C. Jennions 7SH*

*The concept of student life that I have tried to encompass is the effort of pupils in all year groups working together to support each other and the school. My design aims to capture the extra-curricular efforts that students go out of their way to achieve, making the school a more enjoyable and welcoming place.*

*Drew Hawley-Higgins 11SH*



