

# SQUIRREL

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL

**2011 / 12**





*Founded 1708*

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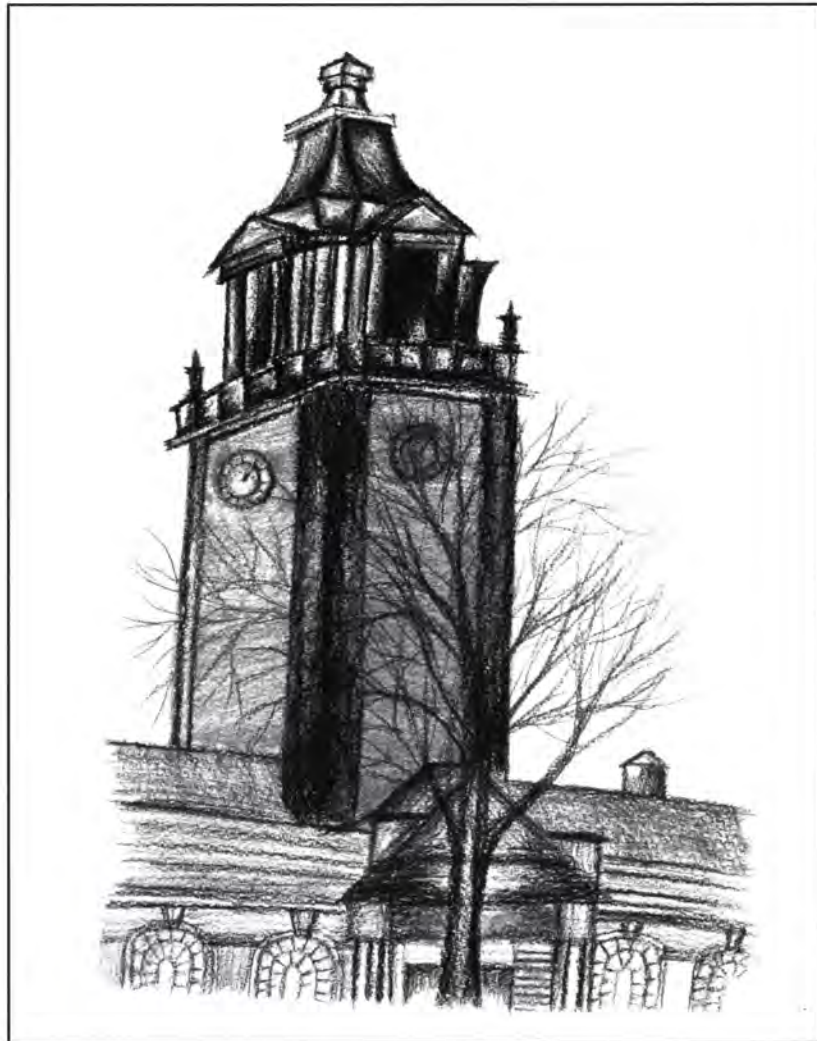
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# LIVERPOOL BLUE COAT SCHOOL

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## SQUIRREL

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL

**11/12**

Editor: Mrs B D G Ludlow

Editorial Team: *Matthew Davies, Surayah Kerswell, William Longworth, Tom McKenna, Emma Murphy and Sophie Tsang*

The Editorial Team acknowledges the contributions of all students and staff involved in providing items within these pages.

*Cover Illustration: Niloofar Sharifi 11Sh 'Liver Birds' (an apocalyptic vision)*

*This page: Anita Pun 11Sh*

# Contents

<b>Editorial</b>	3	<b>School Events</b>	
<b>Headteacher's Report</b>	4	Eton College University Summer School	38
<b>Avete</b>	6	Olympic Swimmer's Visit	62
<b>Valete</b>	7	Oxford Dinner	50
<b>Teacher News</b>	8-12	The Talent Show	25
<b>Student Achievements</b>		Winged Words	31
Atheneum Writer-in-Residence Competition	24	Year 7 Social Evening	12
Bible Project	28	<b>Community Links</b>	
Duke of Edinburgh Awards	19, 62	Levi Tafari Poetry Workshop	35
Entry into Higher Education	14	Parklands High School English Link	35
Exam Results	13	Specialism Community Links	35
Go4SET	26	<b>Creative Writing</b>	48,49 et al.
Jaguar Landrover PFL	31	<b>Drama</b>	
Mathematics Specialism	39	Beauty and the Beast	29
Music Examinations	21	<b>Music</b>	
Orchestras & Choirs	22	Music Society Report	37
Peter Arnold Craft Creative Competition	30	Blue Coat School Choir Tour	41
Physics Olympiads	20, 28	<b>Clubs &amp; Societies</b>	
Plant It Blue	23	Badminton Club	51
Poetry of Place Competition	23	Book Club	51
PRIZES, Scholarships, Awards	17-21	Creative Writing Club	51
Sea Odyssey	28	Current Affairs & Politics Society	51
Sir Alan Tod Scholarship Awards	41	Debating Society	51
Top of the Bench	23	Drama Club, Years 7 & 8	51
Young Person's Film Night at FACT	24	Economics Society	52
<b>School Trips</b>		History Society	52
An Inspector Calls	46	Law Society	52
Art Trip to London	43	Library	53
Auschwitz Trip	34	Medical Ethics Society	53
Blencathra Field Trip	44	Music Society	37
Chester Zoo	43	Philosophy Club	53
Economics & Politics Trip	34	School Nutritional Analysis Group	53
Evening with Carol Ann Duffy	34	<b>School Sports - Boys PE</b>	
Geneva, the UN - Tod Travel	42	Football	54
Germany and Poland Music Trip - Tod Travel	42	Cricket	54
Hamlet at the Young Vic	46	Basketball	54
Journey's End	46	<b>School Sports - Girls PE</b>	
Normandy Trip	44,45	Netball	59
Quarry Bank Mill	40	Athletics	59
Salou Trip	44	Rounders	59
San Sebastian	47	Hockey	58
Skiing - Mera	43	<b>Sports Day</b>	56
South Africa Conservation - Tod Travel	36	Cross Country	57
South Wales Canoe Trip - Tod Travel	42	<b>Prize Quiz</b>	61
Styal Mill	45	Liverpool Blue Coat Brotherly Society	60
<b>Art</b>	32, 33 et al.	<b>Parents' Association</b>	22
		Out of the Blue	63

# Gifts

How many times, for Christmas or a birthday, have you received a gift that you didn't really like? How did you react? Here are some helpful tips which could assist with this difficult situation:

- a) Always open the card first; this buys you some time to brace yourself for the main reaction
- b) As you open the present, try to envisage something you *actually* wanted, and convey your happiness as though you are receiving it
- c) Try to think of a practical purpose for the gift, e.g. 'Thanks, Nan, it's always good to have an extra diary.'
- d) Hug the giver tightly. If your face is buried in their shoulder they will be unable to notice your real reaction
- e) If you start to cry, say 'I'm just *so* happy!'
- f) Repeat to yourself 'It's the thought that counts,' until you feel better
- g) Are you a victim of re-gifting? Don't let on that they received the same gift from you two years before
- h) Ask for the receipt, claiming it is the wrong shape/size/colour
- i) You'll feel better about receiving dodgy stuff if you consider the sobering thought that many people don't get gifts
- j) Congratulate loved ones who choose well. The more enthusiastic you are, the more likely they'll get it right in the future!

However, gifts are not just about receiving: take pleasure out of giving someone help to do something they're struggling with, or by using your talents to assist when a friend needs it. The pages which form this magazine exemplify the prolificacy of gifts and talents possessed and shared by staff and students. *All* students at The Blue Coat School are talented: believe in your ability and use it, not only for yourself, but for all.

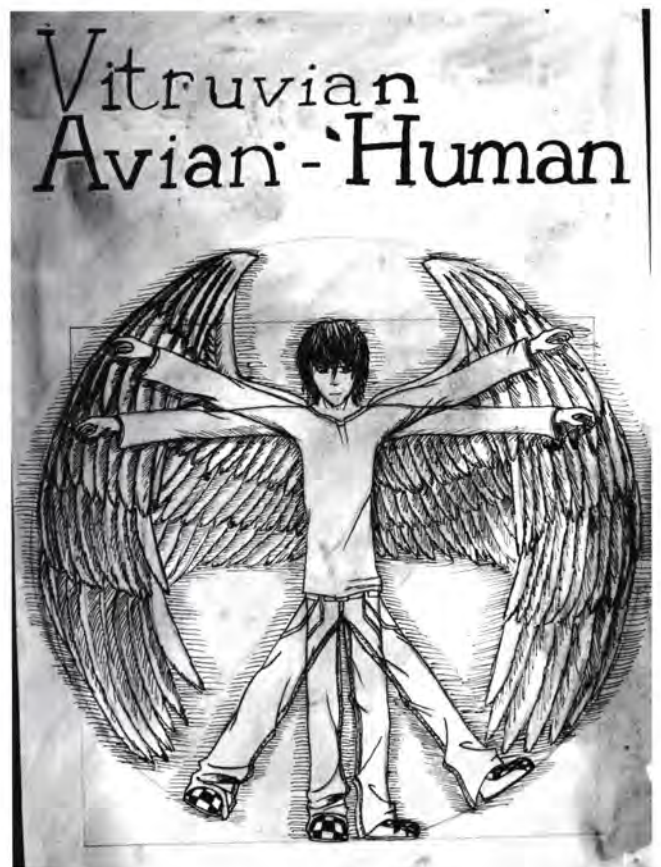
I hope that the past year has been successful and happy for you, and wish you well.

Mrs B D G Ludlow  
Editor

*I am very grateful to the members of the Editorial Team who have given of their free time to research and type items. Thanks to all staff who have contributed: it is their hard work and success, as well as that of the students, which we celebrate within these pages. Thanks are especially due to the Art and P E Departments for the numerous pages they have contributed, to the office staff for all the typing they have done and to Mr L Lander of Crown Printing for his helpful recommendations.*



Tom McIntosh - Yr 8



Anita Chan - Yr 9

## Headteacher's Speech - PRIZEGIVING December 2011

Good evening,

**I wish to begin by extending a very warm welcome to the Right Worshipful Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Sharon Sullivan, our Speaker, Mr David Rowlands, Distinguished Guests, Staff, Governors, Parents, Students and Friends. I am particularly pleased to see so many of our former students here this evening.**

My report will focus on many aspects of school life in the academic year 2010-11. As always, a Blue Coat life is an extremely busy and enriching one where students and staff rise to meet the challenges, seeking adventure and contests for sheer enjoyment. Blue Coat students always perform in style and are often complimented on their contributions to many aspects of life through competitions, activities and charities.

Examination results, coming at the end of the academic year, are the just reward for the students, staff and parents representing the year's hard work and focus. Both at A level and GCSE, students achieved the best ever results statistically, and I would like to focus on particular features of this year. A 100% pass rate at A level, together with 82% of all grades at A\*-B enabled the majority of students, to meet their demanding entry requirements for the University courses of their choice, which was particularly pleasing in view of the difficulties that had been widely reported on accessing places. Fourteen students met their Oxbridge offers, with 10 going to Oxford and 4 to Cambridge.

40 students gained the Extended Project Qualification, enabling 33 Year 13 students to achieve the AQA Baccalaureate.

At GCSE, this was the first year of results for the three year Key Stage 4 course. The students responded very positively to the increased number of GCSE subjects with 9 students achieving all 12 grades at A\* and over 60 students attaining 10 or more A and A\* grades. For the fifth consecutive year, 100% of students achieved 5 A\*-C grades, including English and Maths. This isn't about grade inflation; these students and their teachers work hard to achieve this level of success; Many congratulations to all.

I am proud to report that the School continues to thrive in many other aspects of its varied and stimulating life.

The standard of music continues to be inspirational and adds such enjoyment to each formal occasion. In the Spring term, the ever growing Blue Coat community choir of students, parents, staff and friends performed the choral piece of Carmina Burana. In the Summer recital, a wide variety of orchestral and choral music together with solo items were performed with great skill and enthusiasm, which provided a fitting send off for the Choir on their trip to Lake Garda. Whilst away, the Choir performed in St Mark's Cathedral in Venice, in Verona and Lake Garda itself. It certainly was a demanding yet enjoyable tour. Late in the summer term, we welcomed a choir from St John Septimus Roe School in Australia as friends from a previous tour. They performed both formally and informally for students and staff.

In February, the school performance of West Side Story captivated audiences in Shirley Hall, where the standard of singing, dancing and acting was impressive. The enthusiasm, talent and discipline of all the cast and crew ensure that the Show is one of the highlights of the school year.

Sport continues to be an important part of school life both as enjoyment and competition. The most successful team of the year was the Year 10 boys. With some exceptional performances, they reached

the last 16 in 2 very large National competitions in Basketball and Football with over 1000 entries in both competitions.

In one week in July, Blue Coat cricket teams were in all of the City finals, with the U15 team again succeeding as overall winners, having also reached the last 16 of the Lancashire Cup. Blue Coat students uphold the tradition of being involved in many sports events, competitions and are excellent Sports Leaders. As you can see from the programme, many students also achieved success in the Duke of Edinburgh awards.

Blue Coat students have many opportunities to travel both abroad and within this country. In July, 17 Year 12 students plus 2 staff participated in Operation Wallacea, a scientific fieldwork expedition for 2 weeks in South Africa; one week in the Kruger Park studying elephants and the other by the Indian Ocean for marine biology and also acquiring a diving qualification. It was a great success with many students being inspired to study Biology at University, having gained so much from this wonderful experience.

Other trips included the Annual ski trip for 50 students to the Italian Alps, the Spanish trip to Barcelona for 45 in Years 8&9 and the Spanish Exchange with the School in San Sebastien, which continues to flourish. The School welcomed students from our French Exchange school and the opportunity to go to Normandy for French culture and History was offered and supported by 50 Year 7 students. The History department organized a superb tour of Berlin for Key Stage 4 students and a long weekend in Paris for the Sixth form students.

London was the destination for Politics and Economics students at Easter, the Art department in the summer and the winners of the Specialism prize from Year 7&8.

The students learn so much from these cultural exchanges and educational opportunities. On their behalf, I wish to thank all the teaching and support staff who organise and supervise these trips so that students can benefit.

For the first time, the School engaged with the Confucius Institute at The University of Liverpool and in early 2011 many Year 7 & 8 students enjoyed lessons and practical demonstrations about Chinese culture. In March, the School played host to a delegation from the Luwan district of Shanghai together with the Leader of the Liverpool City council, other councilors, lecturers and staff from the Confucius Institute. All the visitors very much enjoyed the tour of the school. Staff and students have been encouraged greatly to make formal links with schools in Shanghai, while some of the younger students are starting to learn Mandarin. Through this link and friendship the School entered the annual Dragon Boat Race with many other local schools.\* The Year 8 team was successful in building their boat and winning the race in the Albert Dock.

Blue Coat students enjoyed success in many competitions throughout the year. They ranged from Gold certificates for the Senior team for the Senior Maths Challenge with 2 students qualifying for the British Olympiad to a team of 4 Year 9 students winning a design competition 'Go4set' at Lancaster University. Some Year 10 students won a Jaguar Land Rover Enterprise competition and the Year 7 Spelling Bee team reached the regional semi-finals. Poetry and creative writing were also successful with many students having their work published in anthologies or as competition entries.

During the year, each form raised money for their own chosen charity and the School assemblies at key times and raised significant

sums for charities such as Comic Relief. The collection for the Poppy Appeal culminating in our special Remembrance services is another example of the School coming together to help others. The total collected during the year was a staggering £10,442; which is a huge testament to the efforts of the students.

The School is particularly grateful to the Parents Association for its fundraising activities and its support for the many concerts and events. The money raised over last year, and this, has paid for a new minibus which is essential for all these student opportunities. The PA has also awarded a new prize this year for the student who contributes the most support for their events. We all welcome their considerable energy and commitment.

Through our many different endeavours, we enjoy our partnership with Parklands High School; the particular highlight this year being the production of the joint poetry anthology produced by students of both schools and primary pupils in Speke, inspired by working with the poet Levi Tafari. This event led to Parklands students performing in the annual Blue Coat Winged Words.

At the end of the academic year, it is a time when we say goodbye to some of our colleagues as they move either for promotion or to retire. This year, three teachers left to retire:

Mrs Hunter who had been with us for the last 3 years having enjoyed a long career at Belvedere;

Mr Thursby who had taught many students French and Spanish over his 21 years at Blue Coat;

And finally Mr Cowan who has taught at Blue Coat for 38 years; an amazing achievement with wonderful service and an inspiration for the many students of Chemistry.

My special thanks to these three colleagues and to all those members of staff, Governors and committed parents that ensure that Blue Coat really is the total experience for young people, as they forge their own way in the world either by way of higher education or in a chosen career.

The Blue Coat School with all its traditions, ethos and ambitions continues to be a wonderful environment for young people to gain qualifications, to practise new skills, develop as individuals and form lifelong friendships.

This is the end of my annual report.

*Mrs D. A. Silcock*

## STUART CHRISTIE

**Trustee and Foundation Governor  
1996-2011**

Stuart Christie joined The Blue Coat School Foundation as a guardian and then a Trustee, becoming a Foundation Governor in 1996.

He was a solicitor in a leading law firm in Liverpool City Centre and was elected as The High Sheriff of Merseyside in 2004-2005. He therefore brought to The Governing Body expertise and wisdom and served as Chair of Health and Safety Committee for a number of years.

He died suddenly while on holiday in August 2011 on the island of Minorca. A Service of Remembrance was held at St. Mary's Church Grassendale. The church was packed with family, friends and representatives of all the organisations that Stuart had been involved in his fulfilling life, including the Foundation, the Governing Body and the Headteacher, the Head Boy and a Senior Prefect from the School.

Continuing the family connection with The Blue Coat School, Stuart's daughter, Elspeth has become a Guardian and a Trustee of The Foundation.

*Mrs D A Silcock*

## Summer's Day Light

*Surrounded by nothing but God's most natural  
creations,*

*So peaceful and quiet,*

*Too still to move, too relaxed to care,*

*I sit back and bask in the glistening light*

*Beaming down upon my face.*

*Never have I been so alone,*

*Yet so content with the beautiful friends around me.*

*My ears grew fond of the gentle whisper of towering  
trees,*

*Alongside the soft whispers of the flowing river.*

*The natural melody captured my mind.*

*Lying still on the grass,*

*I watched the rays of sunlight bounce off the river*

*Like dancing waves.*

*The gentle placement of the leaves,*

*As they fall to the hot sea of freshly-mowed grass,*

*Which coated the hourglass figure which rested  
upon it.*

*The whole experience was like a melodic gold to  
my ears,*

*And a godly show to my eyes.*

*Emma Carr*

## Miss Cobain

Born in Bristol, Miss Cobain completed a degree in Drama at the Liverpool John Moores University before taking up the position of learning mentor at Blue coat, which involves supporting pupils through social, emotional and behavioural issues that affect them and their studies. Her first impressions of the students are that they are very polite and she is impressed by their behaviour. In her free time she enjoys practising yoga and singing in a contemporary urban choir. Her favourite band is the Red Hot Chili Peppers, but insists that she enjoys listening to anything as long as it isn't screamy. When asked if there are any particular places that she likes in Liverpool, she replies Liverpool One, which she thinks is remarkable. She also enjoys having a meal at Bistro Jacques or Jamie Oliver's restaurant.



## Mr Farrell



We welcome this year Mr Farrell as the newest member of the Business Studies and Economics department. Believe it or not, Mr Farrell actually studied Law in St James' University in Sheffield, before deciding that he preferred economics to sitting in a lawyer's office all day. His interest in economics began while working for the Shell Oil Company. When asked what he thought of the students here, Mr Farrell said they are friendly, polite and very clever.

In his spare time, Mr Farrell enjoys football- both playing it and watching it; he has a season ticket for Manchester United. He is not musical in the slightest, which he says is 'a talent in itself'. Upon closing the interview, I asked Mr Farrell his opinion on Lord Alan Sugar. His reply was short and simple: 'He's not as good as me'.

## Miss Hill

Miss Hill is the newest member of the Modern Foreign Languages department, teaching both French and Spanish. She gained a degree in French and Management in St Andrew's University, and has lived in Bordeaux for a year. Before becoming a teacher, Miss Hill worked for the Esso Company, where she used both French and Spanish regularly. Miss Hill says she has always wanted to be a teacher, and has worked in several schools before coming to teach here (though she says that Blue Coat is the best school she has taught in- of course!).

When she isn't busy, Miss Hill enjoys cooking, swimming and entertaining her young twin boys. She also has an interest in nature, and used to play the piano.

We wish Miss Hill all the best in her time teaching here at the Blue Coat.



## Miss Hayes

Miss Hayes is the latest addition to the Chemistry department. Born in Shropshire, Miss Hayes studied Chemistry in Leeds University, where she achieved a First in her degree. Her favourite subject in school was, of course, Chemistry (no surprises there), and music. Besides her talents in lab, Miss Hayes plays the piano, trombone and the ukulele, and has an interest in musical theatre, having sung in several musical productions while in university, and is currently helping with the vocal coaching in this year's school show, Beauty and the Beast.

Besides music, Miss Hayes has a number of hobbies, including travelling, adrenaline activities and skiing, although not in indoor centres because 'the slopes are too small'. Instead, she goes skiing on holiday, and was on the skiing team for Leeds University.

If she could have a superpower, it would be flying, because she doesn't like planes: 'I like the travelling bit, but not the plane bit!'



Like any experienced chemist, Miss Hayes has had her fair share of disasters in the lab. After thinking for a while (she must have had a lot to choose from!), she tells me of a time when she was at university: the vacuum pump she was working with broke, and a rubber tube flew off and hit her in the face. She ended up with a black eye, a split lip and bleeding gums- not to mention being covered in the substance she was experimenting with! And to make matters worse, she tells me that she was going on holiday later that day- 'all my photos looked like I'd been beaten up!'

In her spare time, Miss Hayes enjoys going to the cinema, shopping, and going to concerts. Her favourite band is Bon Jovi, and she met Russell Howard in Leeds ('he's very nice').

When asked about her first impression of the students here, she says that they are very friendly, very clever and ambitious. Miss Hayes hopes to start a science club for the parents of Years 7 and 8, so they could do experiments at home with their children. 'Maybe next year... I haven't got time this year!'

With her being a Chemistry teacher, of course I had to ask Miss Hayes what her favourite element was. She couldn't possibly choose just one- though she prefers the reactive, exciting metals over the 'unsociable' noble gases.

We welcome Miss Hayes and wish her every success for the future.

## Mrs S Forster

All philosophers of note begin to enquire about the world from a very young age, and Mrs Forster was no exception. After embarking on a series of her own meditations she concluded that she thought, and therefore, quite possibly was. She emerged with a bang into the philosophy scene after graduating from Durham University, leading to the obvious conclusion that the best way to share her ideas was to teach at The Blue Coat School. However that is not to pigeonhole her many other experiences, such as teaching English in Indonesia and being an avid tandem rider, while also secretly desiring to be in a Bon Jovi tribute band. On teaching philosophy at Blue Coat she states, "I just Kant get enough".



## Mr. Phil Williams

Phil joined the Business Studies and Economics department on a twelve month contract in September 2010. This was his first teaching job after 'seeing the light' having worked for many years in the private sector for a number of highly reputable recruitment companies. Phil was therefore able to bring many relevant and interesting examples of how businesses behave to the classroom. It was testament to Phil's natural classroom demeanour and delivery that often I would forget that he was in his NQT year and Phil's bubbly and personable character endeared him to many staff and students alike and we were sorry to see him depart for pastures new in the summer of 2011. He always had an interesting story to tell whether about business or one of his many outside hobbies and on behalf of all at The Blue Coat School, I would like to wish him, his wife and three young children the very best for their futures.

*Mr S Jamieson*

## Helen Hunter

It was with real sadness and regret that we said goodbye in July to Mrs Helen Hunter. We were so lucky to secure her services part time in 2009 as she retired from full time teaching at Belvedere School. Helen was a teacher of A level Chemistry and Biology and had been Head of Sixth Form at Belvedere, so she brought deep knowledge and wide experience with her to the post. In addition, to this, and of greater value, she brought her giving nature.

Helen was always ready to help and would anticipate and resolve potential problems as a matter of course without any fuss. Her classes enjoyed what they saw as her mild eccentricities - stories of Helen and Phil spending their weekends shooting squirrels particularly amusing some

We thank Helen for sharing her experience, wisdom and, above all, common sense with us and wish her a long and happy retirement

*Mrs J Beggs*

## Dave Thursby

'Parting is such sweet sorrow' wrote Shakespeare and so it was when Mr Thursby (Dave) hung up his mortar board for good last summer. A consummate professional, Dave would spend many a working lunch devising stimulating, interactive materials for his students. In the languages department he was by far the most proficient in ICT.

Dave was a loyal and devoted teacher and he notched up a most creditable 21 years' service for The Blue Coat school. Having previously taught for nine years in a school fondly known as 'The Zoo' it was a relief and a pleasure for Dave to teach such academically gifted students. He was an excellent grammarian which is a pre-requisite for a first rate linguist.

Dave is now enjoying early retirement with a recently acquired dog to keep him busy. We wish him all the very best for the future.

*Mrs M Roberts*

**Samantha (Sam) Smith** joined the school in 2009 as a welcome addition to the Pastoral Care offered to Sixth Form. She gave much support to students, whether as a listening ear or a counsellor or as a support to students with Special Educational Needs. She accompanied students to Cambridge University visits and was a valuable source of information on a wide range of topics. Her conscientiousness, care and sense of humour were much appreciated and we wish her well in her new career in Mental Health Nursing.

*Mrs. C MacKenzie*

## Nick Cowan

It is no small matter to be tasked with writing a tribute for Mr Ian Nicholas Cowan, member of the Senior Common Room at the Blue Coat School for these last 38 years, but gradually some ideas have begun to crystallise and I think I can proceed. Nick began his teaching career within these very walls in September 1973 at the tender age of 22. A fresh faced young Cambridge graduate with a true vocation to teaching, he was dynamic, effervescent, energetic, highly fuelled (...I could go on) and threw himself into the ferment of Blue Coat life as a Boarding master. Stories abound from this era. Some may be surprised to read that he was a soul DJ on a local radio station. Others, that he is highly knowledgeable about sport, including football and his beloved Stoke City and cricket. He was less successful playing cricket, appearing once for the staff team in a motorcycle helmet and running out the then head, H.P. Arnold-Craft, who was very serious about sport!

Alarm bells soon started ringing in school (in more ways than one) as Nick's exuberant style of teaching and high octane lessons caused fireworks around the school (also in more ways than one). In 1978, after 5 years as a Boarding Master, Nick (or Basil as some will remember him) rose to be Head of Chemistry, replacing Fred Unwin on his retirement, and in this year was also married for the first time.

As Head of Department he brought the magic of Chemistry and success in studies to large numbers of students. He was, and remains a highly charismatic character and, for many, was a truly inspirational teacher. With Nick the students were always his first priority and he gave up literally countless hours of his time in supporting them, particularly those who showed either special interest in, or aptitude for Chemistry. His knowledge, concern and good advice have also been invaluable to many who, on results day in August, have found themselves a grade or two short and have subsequently found a place at University.

His approach to management was quite "hands off", something particularly appreciated by the rest of the Department and which allowed for easy relationships and bonding of the non-chemical type, often resulting in the consumption of moderately large volumes of red wine. In recent times, Nick has turned his hand to the production of his own wine and he and Brian Jowett have colluded to produce highly prized bottles of Cowan's Creation, Nick's Narcotic and Basil's Blessing. These have been supped by some of the braver members of staff who reported no particular pain as a result.

1986 saw Nick's conversion to Christianity, something which affected him deeply and which changed the course of his life. He was married for a second time in 1996 to Moira, also a committed Christian and, happily, also a teacher of Chemistry, who worked here alongside Nick for a year in 2009.

In all his 38 years at the Blue Coat School Nick has been absent for only 5 days in 2006 when he was rushed to hospital for an operation on a strangulated hernia. Even a stroke, suffered in 2009, failed in its attempt to keep him out of school for a single day. It goes without saying that he has never been on strike. In fact, such is his dedication to the students that he is still coming in to school once a week after 4.00pm to support Oxbridge applicants and others to raise their game above A level.

We wish Nick and Moira well in this transition period of their lives (two in one sentence there for the initiated - if not, ask a Chemist). We know we shall continue to see Nick around school now and then and hope that we can all learn from him the value of enthusiasm in our teaching, respect for knowledge and dedication to the cause.

*Mrs J Beggs*

## Teachers' Marathon Successes

Mrs Rimmer has successfully completed an entire marathon this October, while Mr Ainsworth also finished a half marathon last year! I managed to 'catch up' with them and ask a few questions about their experiences.

*Congratulations on your running successes so far! What have been your greatest achievements?*

**Mrs Rimmer:** The greatest highlight for me was actually being able to run the marathon in October. It was such an achievement as I have never managed to run more than a half marathon before!

**Mr Ainsworth:** It has been an achievement just to survive! I am so pleased that I was able to run 13 miles without stopping! I managed to improve my finishing place within the half marathon by 2,000 places.

*Which charities have you benefitted through your great efforts and why did they appeal to you?*

**Mr Ainsworth:** I first raised money for Breast Cancer research which was also the charity my form had chosen to sponsor. I have also ran for leukaemia research as a member of my form had firsthand experience of knowing someone with the illness.

**Mrs Rimmer:** I support the 23 foundation; (<http://www.jamiecarragher23.co.uk/cw/JC23/pages/23Foundation.htm>) which is also my form's chosen charity for this year. This gives local children in Merseyside the opportunity to achieve their dreams through local clubs, charities and community initiatives. It provides children with a reason to recover from their illness or gives them a means to express their talents. I chose this charity as I had always ran for larger, more national charities such as Breast Cancer Research.

*It has obviously required a great amount of dedication; what is your training programme and how have you managed to fit it in with your busy schedule as a teacher?*

**Mr Ainsworth:** I haven't been that busy! I usually try to run around 3 miles every night.

**Mrs Rimmer:** I spent a lot of time building my fitness up throughout the 6 weeks during the summer holidays. I even took my personal trainer to Spain with me! I try and squeeze my training in after work or in the school gym and I also use my treadmill at home if I haven't got a lot of time.

*What has been the greatest challenge for you over the past few months and how did you overcome it?*

**Mr Ainsworth:** The biggest challenge for me was trying to lose weight. Through my training I have managed to lose around two and a half stone! I'm hoping to be on the front cover of *Bella* magazine next month. (*Fat chance.....Ed!*)

**Mrs Rimmer:** I didn't suffer from any injuries as I kept to a strict programme set by my personal trainer. However, I found it difficult to run during the heat in August. It can be a challenge to try and commit yourself to such a big task when you have children but the biggest thing for me was convincing myself that I could do it.

*What advice would you give to anyone who is interested in running a marathon?*

**Mr Ainsworth:** Just have a go! Join Mr McBride's running club, although it is far too quick for me!

**Mrs Rimmer:** Believe that you can do it and set yourself a goal. The feeling at the end of the marathon is definitely worth all the hard work!

*Mr Ainsworth, I've heard you have begun a new beauty regime since the start of your training..*

It's not really a beauty regime; I just think you need to moisturise more as running causes your skin to become weathered. Forget the stretching, it's all about moisturising!

*Surayah Kerswell*

## Mr York Involved in a Scrap in St Helens

The last time I had competed in a Judo Competition was in the year 2000; it was the Welsh Open in Cardiff, and I just managed to make the U66kg weight group. I got battered (literally), had two fights and lost both by the full score. I put my Judo suit away and called it a day. So when I stepped onto the Judo Mat in Saint Helens on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2012 at 71.7kg at the age of 46, I was understandably nervous. My opponent had a Great Britain Badge on his Judo suit, and he was 37, 9 years younger than me. I lasted the full 5 minutes of contest time and lost only by 3 penalties. Although defeated, I was pleased with the performance and at that stage I did not know that I had lost to one of the Bronze medal winners of the day.



Why had I decided to make a return to Judo, a tough Olympic Sport that requires a high level of fitness and skill? Why had I trained solidly for 10 months? I followed a regime of going to the Gym 5 days a week, Judo once a week, and dieting from 12 stone down to 11 stone 6 pounds (U73 kg). It was because my elder brother James had introduced me to the sport at age of 14; he achieved his Black Belt first, and I wanted to do something that he would have been proud of!

On the day I won two of my five fights, and lost the final fight for the second Bronze Medal after 4.5 minutes! A respectable performance! There were 23 competitors in my weight category on the day.

Unfortunately my brother James passed away on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2008, he had terminal Cancer. The whole family are very grateful to the Nurses who looked after him and the care that he received. Thank you to all Blue Coat School Colleagues, students and their families who sponsored me to raise money (over £250) for MacMillan's Cancer Support

*Mr S York*

## Dr. Wilde's Fantastic 'Five before Fifty'

Approaching the big 5-0 (in summer 2012), Dr. Wilde decided to do something drastic that amazed not only students, but staff too: the '5 before 50' challenge! Encompassing five major sporting events in order to raise money for charity, the challenge pushes the contender to their limits. An 81 mile cycle, The Great North Run, The Liverpool Triathlon, The London Triathlon and The Liverpool Marathon are the events Dr. Wilde chose to compete.

Having sadly lost his father 3 years ago to Liver Cancer, Dr. Wilde felt it his duty to raise money to help a most worthy charity; Cancer Research UK. Although having only competed in a 10k and Sprint Triathlon within the past few years, Dr. Wilde felt he wanted to push himself further than ever before. Thus, he chose the 'five sponsored events before 50' challenge.



To ease him into the challenge, Dr. Wilde chose a huge 81 mile bike ride, called the Etape Caledonia in Scotland! In his own words "This may seem a lot, but this was nothing compared to some of my other events!" Obviously the words of a driven man!

Next, he chose to compete in the Great North Swim. The event is the biggest outdoor swimming competition in the UK and is swum in freezing cold waters in Windermere, Cumbria. Again, Dr. Wilde played down its difficulty in comparison to his remaining three events.

The 2011 Liverpool Triathlon encompassed a 1500m swim in Queen's Dock, a 40k bike ride & a 10k run along the waterfront and was completed by Dr. Wilde in an amazing time of 2 hours! A great achievement indeed! Dr. Wilde felt it his duty to thank the many Yr.12 stewards helping out that day for their amazing encouragement and support.

For his fourth challenge, Dr. Wilde contested the London Triathlon. This occurs at the Excel Centre to allow competitors to swim in London's Docklands, location of some of the most recognizable landmarks in the country, including The Gherkin! In addition to this, Dr. Wilde faced stiff competition, in blazing heat, from celebrities, sporting-fanatics and entrepreneurs such as Richard Branson!

Finally, the event the super teacher found hardest... The Liverpool Marathon! The race is one of the largest in the UK, attracting over 9000 runners. Yet Dr. Wilde managed to complete the race in a more than admirable 5 hours and 45 minutes.



Dr. Wilde told me that the most enjoyable aspect was by far the training and as a result is now a keen running enthusiast! Overall, Dr. Wilde raised a whopping £700. Because of this, Dr. Wilde would like to give a huge Thank You to all students and staff who donated to this very worthy cause. He has promised not to do any more sponsored events for a long time, so no chance of 6 before 60 then Dr. Wilde!?

*Dominic McCaffrey L6C*

## Teachers ...

**Several teachers have been busy raising money for charities, exuding their energy by running and various other fantastic feats of dexterity. See reports for more details on Mr Ainsworth, Mrs Rimmer and Mr Fee.**

Miss Horton became engaged to be married on Christmas Day. We offer her and her fiancé our best wishes for their life together.

If you're wondering why Mr Cain and Mr Langton Miller are looking a bit tired in the mornings, it may be due to lack of sleep. They became fathers last summer. And these are not the only little arrivals. Congratulations too, to Ms Millar on the birth of her daughter. We wish all of them, and their partners, much happiness as parents.

As well as keeping our Blue Coat home in order, Mr Gibson has raised lots of money for charity (notably KIND), through his 500 mile cycle tours.

Don't mess with the awesome Mr York – he has a black belt in Judo! He recently competed in a judo competition and he was sponsored to raise awareness and funding for Macmillan Cancer Care. See his report on previous page for more details.

Congratulations to Mr Llewellyn who has translated a Latin text. He has written a report on this (see full page following).

## Teacher Quotes

*Well, that's one brain cell used up. Now you just have to decide what to do with the other one.*

*In the wise words of Elvis Presley: 'A little less action, a little more conversation'.*

*Actually, a ruler is straight.*

*In the voice of Kelly Rowlands: "You put it down girl!"*

## From Junior Latin to Latin Palaeography

In 1993, I was making my subject choices for GCSE. One afternoon I was taken from Latin class and asked by the Head of the Latin Department to consider doing Latin. I had not really anticipated doing this subject (not least because the Latin class also had to study Additional Mathematics, a subject which terrified me). Eventually I did decide to enrol for Latin. In 2011, I published the first ever critical edition of a work of medieval Latin theology and philosophy. This article is about that journey from being a reluctant junior Latin student to publishing a work of Latin in an international publishing house.

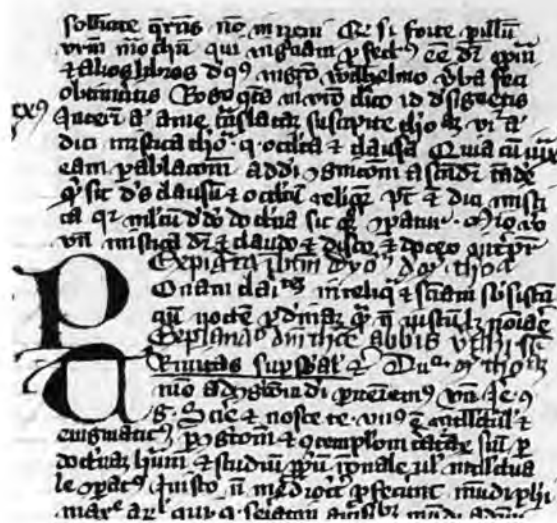
Being able to edit Latin works first of all requires a thorough knowledge of Latin, and that grounding was given to me in the rigorous and excellent Latin department of Saint Malachy's College, Belfast. A solid foundation was laid by Mr G. McNamee who ensured we kept up high standards of Latin in our "good books". At GCSE, Fr. A. McLaverty continued my Latin training and instilled into me a real joy and love for this subject. His enthusiasm for Latin was without limit. Any mistakes were always able to be corrected with – as Fr. McLaverty put it – the chance "to redeem your shattered reputation". My reading of original Latin texts was developed under the watchful eye of Mr. P. Crumme, whose thorough and exacting lessons ensured we were always made to master the Latin text. The knowledge and love for Latin that I gained from these three teachers led me to study Latin (and Greek) at university. The more I studied the language, the more I became fascinated by it and wished to keep reading Latin. Eventually I ended up doing a doctorate during which I edited a book of Latin theology.

The joy of discovering something new is intense. Finding a new star, discovering lost treasure or archaeological ruins, even finding a lost item – being the first person to come across something is exciting. While I was not the first to discover a series of manuscripts which contain works by the thirteenth-century Augustinian abbot of Vercelli, Thomas Gallus, I experienced the excitement of being the first person to bring



those manuscripts to life by editing them and publishing them in two books this year. The books by Gallus are called the "Explanation" (*Explanatio*) and the "Glosses on the Angelic Hierarchy" (*Glose super Angelica Hierarchia*). These are works of theology. Thomas Gallus was very interested in mystical religious experiences which he discusses in these works. He had an influence on the development of mystical theology in the medieval period.

The art of reading manuscripts is called palaeography (from the Greek words *palaios* meaning ancient, and *graphe* meaning writing). A lot of our knowledge of the ancient world comes down to us in the form of written manuscripts, a vast quantity of them written in the medieval monasteries, in particular those of Ireland where Irish monks preserved so many treasures of ancient thought while the rest of mainland Europe was experiencing breakdown and a loss of so much of the ancient heritage. The scribes often used abbreviations rather than full words which means that the reader of ancient manuscripts has to be able to decipher and understand these shorthand words. Also, the style of handwriting has changed so much over the centuries: the palaeographer must also learn to read the various types of script in the manuscripts. The image below gives some idea of the way a manuscript looks



An image from the Vienna manuscript (14th century).

Many of the words are shortened: bars over the words indicate one way in which scribes abbreviated Latin words. My job as a palaeographer is to read and copy down (transcribe) the Latin which is written on such manuscripts. I then have to compare the different manuscripts which contain the text and note where the manuscripts differ (often because scribes made mistakes, perhaps due to tiredness, the cold, or even a lack of Latin!). This process of producing a modern version of the manuscripts is called producing a critical edition. These two books were published this year – eighteen years after I was first persuaded to do Latin in St. Malachy's College!

The knowledge of Latin is an intrinsic part of our cultural and intellectual heritage. It keeps us in touch with the documents which had such a formative influence on the way we Europeans think and act. If there are ever new discoveries of manuscripts, Latin scholars will always be needed to interpret, edit and translate such finds. The Latin language is one of such beauty and exact expression, and the pleasure of reading such a language is the main reason we learn Latin. Being a Latin teacher in The Blue Coat School, Liverpool means I get to communicate this joy of reading Latin to new generations of students. It is always my hope that many students will study this subject at A-Level and at university – and perhaps one day, one of these students will also end up becoming a palaeographer and publishing new works of Latin.

Dr D Lawell

## Headteachers' Delegation to China May 2011

The Confucius Institute, at The University of Liverpool, is part of a worldwide network to promote Chinese Language and Culture. Lecturers from The Institute visited The Blue Coat School to deliver a 4-session programme on Chinese culture to Year 8 and some Year 7 students. We had also hosted a delegation from Luwan District of Shanghai on behalf of the city. So, as part of the continuing programme of promoting exchanges and interest in China, The Confucius Institute hosted a visit of Liverpool Headteachers and Senior School Leaders to a week-long visit to 4 cities there. I was fortunate enough to have this wonderful experience. The delegation arrived in Beijing on Saturday morning after a long flight and little sleep. Even the drive from the airport to the city centre hotel was impressive; the legacy from The Olympics in Beijing was clear and there were many flowers and interesting sculptures.

Beijing is a vast city and home to wonderful buildings and experiences. The population of China is clearly enjoying seeing tourists in its capital city, something only recently available to them. Sightseeing included a rickshaw ride to a traditional housing arrangement. The Forbidden City was simply amazing; the decoration of each building was detailed and extravagant. The number of buildings was extraordinary; each with a distinct purpose, and there are interesting stories about the décor and accessibility to each building. The power and isolation of the Emperor(s) were clearly displayed. Our guide was a graduate student named Bot who, as well as providing details and stories, insisted that photographs were taken at each building. Tiananmen Square is vast and dominated by a large portrait of Mao Tse-tung at Tiananmen Gate. Museums and Chairman Mao's mausoleum surround the square. What an amazing start to our visit.

Next, a visit to The Great Wall. Although an early rise was needed for the journey, we were all very excited to see one of the 'iconic Wonders of the World'. Access was by mountain path plus cable car to a continuous section. It is an amazing construction high in the mountains and does stretch as far as the eye can see in both directions. There were many turrets/shelters on this section. Constructed over numerous years, starting in the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC, its greatest length was reached in Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

There were some wonderful and tacky souvenirs at the market to consider and we received a lesson in 'haggling' by our native guide. Back in Beijing, we visited The Temple of Heaven, an awe-inspiring building, constructed in 1420 for emperors to pray for good harvests. In walking to this building we passed through a wonderful park where a large group of people had gathered for some impromptu singing, Tai Chi and dance, evidently enjoying themselves. In the evening, we were taken to Lao She's Tea House: it is a must see on the tourist trail in Beijing. It is a large building; a beautifully decorated entertainment house with shows by comedians, singers, especially opera, acrobats and dancers. The refreshment is different types of tea, served traditionally.

Monday morning started with a meeting, then a tour and lecture at the Hanban, the Headquarters of The Confucius Institute in Beijing. It is a grand building with many wonderful artefacts of Chinese culture. The work and sayings of Confucius (551-479 BC) underpin the Chinese education system and is revered in almost a religious way throughout the country. They were delighted with a visit from Liverpool.

After the formalities, we went to the Olympic Park to see the Birds Nest Stadium and the Water Cube etc. The impact of the Beijing Olympics could not be underestimated on the landscape of Beijing but

also on the population of this amazing city. It has enabled China to think of itself as a tourist destination, for its own citizens and visitors.

We then flew to Xian, a much smaller city than Beijing or Shanghai, and lively, bright and interesting. Liverpool University has a twin link with Xian Jiaotong University (XJTU) and has a joint university LXJTU in Suzhou.

We stayed at the University's Internal Department for 3 days. It is a beautiful campus and as well as the formal welcome we were made to feel relaxed and an important part of their work. It is from this department that they send graduates and lecturers to England (especially Liverpool) to work in the university and at The Confucius Institute in Liverpool.



Each morning we had a different lecture on Chinese Culture and History, Chinese Education and Chinese progress, very appropriate as it is probably the most historic city in China. It enjoys equal status with Athens, Cairo and Rome as one of the four main ancient civilisation capitals and marks the start of the Silk Road. It has many museums, an enormous city wall (built 8000BC to 5000BC) but the highlight is the Museum of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses. The scale of this museum and archaeological excavations is mind blowing. The main pit (No.1 Pit) opened in 1979 is huge, with columns of different terracotta soldiers and chariots. Work is still going on here. In No.2 pit there are 1000 warriors and 90 chariots. This whole site contains many other pits but the soldiers, chariots etc. are from the Qin Dynasty (246 to 206 BC) and built under the instruction of the first Emperor of China.

We met principals and directors from a variety of schools and visited schools linked with the University.

At the Kindergarten (1000 3-6 year olds), we were treated to various displays. This was the highlight of the day, if not the entire trip. First was the play of 'The Little Matchstick Girl'. We were then invited to join them in singing and dancing games in English. They were simply fabulous. All Chinese children have an English name, which they choose and can change when older. The students were delighted to meet and talk to us. We were also given a Tai Chi demonstration by 5 year olds and a musical recital on very different instruments by a small group of 6 year olds. Kindergarten and primary school students attend between from 8a.m. until 6 each day. It is not all work and the children love each of their activities.

The primary school, (2000 7-11 year olds) The two classes we saw had 50 pupils each. One was an English lesson for 9 year olds. The students were learning 'joined up' writing in English and also the use of adjectives in sentences. All of the instructions for the lesson were in English. The children were very happy to discuss their work and ask us questions; again they all had English forenames, with some unusual ones such as Wilfred and Ralph. The next lesson we saw was I.T. All

## China..(Cont.)

children sat at a double desk in an old fashioned classroom, yet they all had a laptop each. Some of the classes were in the playground practising their 'piece' for Children's Day..

At the Junior High School we had a formal welcome in the Boardroom, a tour of the school, a music competition, involving Western pop songs. They also had visiting students from Australia and Korea. Many students were playing football on the artificial playing pitches on the roof and others watched. There was a fantastic friendly atmosphere throughout the School. In their main courtyard was a statue of Confucius with another saying indicating the importance of learning and self-discipline.

The Senior High School, (5000 aged 16-18) is a selective 'exam entry' school, and a place almost guarantees entry to a top tier University, the principal one being Xi'an Jiatong.. There was accommodation for boarders. We saw the Maths and Science building .The Maths lesson I was able to observe for 10 minutes was similar in content to A level and is taught almost entirely in English. The school has its own running track and artificial football pitch with a stand for over 1000 spectators.

In China, all 17 year olds take a National SATS test, which covers Maths, Science, Chinese and English! It is on this basis that Students are grouped for a tier of Further Education. Nearly all 18 year olds will go to College/ University, often for those who want to be teachers, lawyers, doctors etc. it takes about 8-10 years. Newly qualified secondary school teachers have 3 degrees including a PH.D. The Chinese are looking to base the changes to their education system, away from 'rote' learning and more towards the 'English' way where students are more active in the lessons.

In the evening we went to a show about Chinese cultural history and then to the market; both of which were highly entertaining. Next morning was our final visit to the University, a lecture on the profile of China and then to the City Wall and the historic Shuyuan Gate. Xian is a beautiful, ancient city with very friendly people. We flew to Shanghai and travelled on to Suzhou, one of the most technologically

advanced cities in China. Next morning was the visit to Liverpool Xi'an Jiatong University (LJXTU). We stayed in the Universities Hotel, which serves the ten Universities on that road. At LXJTU courses were taught primarily for Maths, Science, Engineering and Economics; are taught in English and follow the curriculum of Liverpool University. It was here that we met the Chinese and the English Vice Chancellors, the local Headteachers and many graduate students, all of whom were happy to ask or answer questions about education in China or England. There were many exchanges of cards, pamphlets and other sources of information. Chinese people are as interested in England as we are in China.

We went to Grand Canal and a Chinese opera. Out in the evening for our final traditional Chinese meal, nearly all the meals we had were served on round tables with many different dishes, many of which were traditional with stories, myths or legends attached to them. All our hosts were very hospitable and so keen for us to enjoy their traditional food. Many of the dishes were delicious and some were very different. Jellyfish and chicken's feet were just too adventurous for me!!

The next day was to a famous Spiritual Garden and then on to Shanghai. This is the most westernised of the cities that we had seen. The traditional market with the teahouses etc. was a wonderful experience. A walk down the Shanghai Bund was wonderful. There were also some very 21<sup>st</sup> century skyscrapers indicating China's desire to be at the forefront of world trade. Then it was off to the Airport for the journey home via Beijing.

It was an intense, demanding but truly wonderful trip and I would certainly urge all students and teachers to visit this fascinating, historic and friendly country.

As a result of this visit, three different opportunities have arisen for Blue Coat Students. Six Year 12 students are visiting the International Sister Cities Youth Camp in Shanghai for 2 weeks in July. Four younger students will be going with a party arranged by the Confucius Institute to Xi'an and Beijing in the Autumn term. The Blue Coat School have also entered into an exchange/partnership with Xiangming High School, a Senior High School, in Shanghai.

*Mrs D A Silcock*

## Year 7 Social Evening

**Having thoroughly enjoyed my own Year 7 social evening back in 2005, I along with most other senior prefects was eager to return once more to the multi-purpose Shirley Hall, which for this evening was to play home to a night of fun and games.**

The social night, which welcomes new students to the school and allows them to get to know each other better in their first few weeks or so of school, is rightly one of the highlights of the Year 7 school calendar. It has been a staple of the autumn timetable for some time now and is a good event, which serves the dual purpose of helping new Year 7s to bond with each other whilst allowing parents to gather in the canteen to ask any questions about the PA or the school in general.

The Senior Prefect Team, who help administer the event along with Mr Caulkin and Mr Shipgood, have a tradition of dressing up according to a particular theme. Last year's theme was Grease, this year the theme was fairy tale characters. Quite a range of characters were represented from Puss in Boots to one of the three bears, from the big bad wolf to Snow White.



A huge degree of credit must go to Mr Caulkin for organising this event. He crafted a programme of games to last for an hour that was novel and entertaining and captured the attention of Year 7s and senior prefects alike. Whether it was playing 'pass the parcel' or racing the length of Shirley Hall to sit on a balloon in an attempt to pop it, the vast majority of Year 7 students had an enjoyable night, a memory that I can assure them will remain a vivid one for years to come.

*Tom McKenna*

## A level Results

	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total
Art		2	1					3
Biology	7	20	20	12	5			64
Chemistry	5	35	26	9	5			80
Computing		2	3	1	1			7
D & T		1						1
Economics	8	14	3					25
English Language & Literature	3	10	7	2				22
English Literature		8	2	2				12
French	2	7	2		1			12
Geography	1	12	4	2	1			20
Greek	1							1
History	9	14	10	7				40
Information Technology		3	2	2				7
Italian	1							1
Latin	1		1					2
Mathematics	24	24	20	7	1	1		77
Further Maths	4	5	3					12
Music		4	1	1				6
PE	1	1			1			3
Persian	1							1
Psychology	3	7	9	5				24
Physics	5	8	5	6	3			27
Philosophy	1	2	1	1				5
Politics	1	3	7	6				17
Religious Studies	2		2					4
Spanish	1	4	6	3				14
General Studies	23	30	39	32	19	7		150
	<b>104</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	637

## GCSE Results

	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	Total
Art	10	26	11	3	2					52
Biology	61	30	13	4						108
BS	39	33	11	1						84
Chemistry	53	36	15	3	1					108
Chinese	1									1
D & T	18	26	6							50
English Language	53	48	17	5						123
English Literature	40	43	34	6						123
French	15	20	8	10	3					56
Geography	27	47	19	6	2					101
History	39	30	10	6				1		86
Information Technology	68	51	2	2						123
Latin	13	11	2	1						27
Mathematics	67	45	10	1						123
Music	9	16	7	2						34
PE	6	9	10	5			1			31
Physics	48	34	16	9	1					108
Religious Studies	4	7	1							12
Russian	1									1
Science	4	6	3	2						15
Additional Science	3	7	2	1	1	1				15
Spanish	32	24	23	8	6		1			94
	<b>611</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	1475

# Student Achievements

## Entry into Higher Education 2011

Student	University	Subject
Nikhil Aggarwal	Imperial College London	Mechanical Engineering with a year abroad
Catherine Ainsworth	Liverpool	Combined Honours
Juman Al Machhoor	University College London	History
Ashley Ali	University College London	Human Sciences
Nada Aly	Liverpool	Mechanical Engineering (4 years)
Omer Amirzadah	Liverpool	Medicine
Kirsty Anderson	Liverpool John Moores	Business Management
Nathaniel Andrews	University College London	Modern Languages (4 years)
Mohammad Babar	Liverpool	Chemical Sciences (1+3)
Johanna Bailey	Liverpool	Chemistry with Nanotechnology
Jonathan Baker	Edge Hill	Media, Music & Sound
Trina Bandyopadhyay	Liverpool	Architecture
Clare Batterton	Liverpool	Music/Popular Music
Fiona Bennett	Liverpool	Veterinary Science
Matthew Benton	Warwick	Mathematics
Eleanora Bianchi	University College London	Medicine (6 years)
James Blackburn	Liverpool John Moores	History
Fiona Boardman	Liverpool John Moores	Business Management
David Bond	Sheffield	Law
Kate Bond	Liverpool John Moores	Forensic Psychology & Criminal Justice
Andrew Brearton	Liverpool	Chemistry with a Year in Industry
Timothy Brennan	Leeds	English Language & Literature
Jennifer Buchanan	York	Chemistry, Biological & Medicinal Chemistry (4 years)
Layth Bunni	Sheffield	Sociology & Business Management
Daisy Busher	Liverpool	Geology
Alex Campbell	Lancaster	Philosophy, Politics & Economics
Harry Catharell-Hargreaves	Newcastle	Geography & Planning
Laura Caveney	Hull	English
Ivan Chee	Manchester Metropolitan	Accounting & Finance
Georgina Clark	Manchester	Biomedical Sciences
John Close	Oxford	Chemistry
Lewis Coenen-Rowe	Oxford	Music
Caroline Coletto	Liverpool John Moores	Biomedical Science
Danielle Connor	York St John	Psychology
Louis Connors	Liverpool John Moores	Computer Games Technology
Joseph Coughlin	Liverpool	Economics
Duncan Cowan	Exeter	Engineering
Diane Crawford	Sheffield	Psychology
Benjamin Crook	Liverpool	Medicine
Carys Cunningham	Liverpool	Biological Sciences
Ellie Darby	Durham	Natural Sciences
Jack Davies	Liverpool	Mathematics
John Delaney	Liverpool John Moores	Computer Games Technology
Joshua Dixon	Oxford	Theology
Samantha Dolan	Liverpool	Medicine
Peter Duffield	Royal Holloway, London	Physics
Jujhar Dusanj	Queen Mary, London	Economics
Alexander Edwards	Sheffield	LLB in Law (European and International)
Holly Ellis	Oxford	Biological Sciences
Christina Farandos	Leeds	Chemistry (3 years)
Helen Fee	Liverpool	Physics (4 years)
Claire Fielding	Glamorgan	Human Biology
Rebecca Foy	Durham	Law

# Student Achievements

Francesca Fradley	Birmingham	Modern Languages (4 years)
Sean Furlong	Northumbria	Business with Economics
Jonathan Gilchrist	York	Computer Science with Artificial Intelligence
Peter Gleeson	Oxford	Biological Sciences
Louise Goodwin	Royal College of Music	Music
Sanah Gull	Sheffield	Economics
Preeti Gumbhir	Liverpool	Biological & Medical Sciences
Zoe Gundersen	Leeds	Linguistics & Phonetics
Sarah Hamilton	Leeds	Russian B
Jennifer Head	Liverpool	Biological & Medical Sciences
Annabel Ho	Manchester	Mental Health Nursing
Sam Hou	Lincoln	Bio-Veterinary Science
Jessica Houghton	Newcastle	Biomedical Sciences
John Hoyte	Liverpool John Moores	Pharmacy
Rebecca Hughes	Liverpool John Moores	Anatomy & Human Biology
Rebecca Hulme	Newcastle	Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry
Maryam Ismail	Liverpool	Dental Surgery
Jesvin John	Newcastle	Medicine (stage 1 entry)
Mark Johnson	Durham	Physics (4 years)
Matthew Jones	Newcastle	History
Colette Kellgren	Leeds	French
Philip Kelly	Warwick	Mathematics
Christopher Kerr	London School of Economics	Government
David Lang	Durham	Chemistry (International)
James Lee	Sheffield	Economics and Politics
Hua Yong Li	Cambridge	Natural Sciences
Hannah Liu	Manchester	Pharmacy
Liam Loftus	Oxford	Medicine
Naomi Loh-Baxter	Lancaster	Geography
Tim Lui	Durham	Economics
Rachael Lynch	Sheffield	Modern Languages
Louis Maddox	Manchester	Biochemistry with Industrial/ Professional Experience (4 years)
Abigail Manslow	Liverpool	Psychology
Hannah Marnell	Liverpool John Moores	Accounting & Finance
Louis Marshall	Birmingham	Chemical Engineering (Industrial Experience) (4 years)
Qasim Masood	Cambridge	Medicine
Rebecca McDermott	Manchester	Mathematics
Heather McDonald	Leeds	Law (3 years)
James McGowan	Leeds	Economics & History
Christopher McLoughlin	Kings College London	Philosophy
Nicola Michael	Manchester	French & Spanish
Fiona Miller	Leeds	Music
Corinna Milroy	Liverpool	Medicine (based at Lancaster)
Alanna Mok	Liverpool	Economics
Zoe Morrison-Griffiths	Kings College London	Hispanic & Portuguese Studies (4 years)
Craig Morrow	Manchester	Biomedical Sciences
Rachel Moss	Newcastle	Dentistry
Ruqayyah Moynihan	Liverpool	Hispanic Studies & Italian
Michael Mui	Liverpool John Moores	Applied Chemical & Pharmaceutical Sciences
Robin Munby	Sheffield	Modern Languages
Frances Muscatelli	Manchester	Politics & International Relations
Michael Nelson	Cambridge	Natural Sciences
Heather Nielsen	Durham	Anthropology
Lucy Nugent	Salford	Biomedical Science
Niall O'Brien	Leeds	Russian

# Student Achievements

Pippa O'Connor	Liverpool	Business Studies
Silviu Paraoan	Oxford	Economics & Management
Edward Parr	London School of Economics	Economics
James Platt	Manchester Metropolitan	Accounting & Finance
Mark Platt	Liverpool	Biological & Medical Sciences
James Power	Northumbria	History & Politics
Zoe Pulford	Manchester Metropolitan	Physiotherapy
Robert Qi	Liverpool	Chemistry
William Qi	Imperial College London	Chemical Engineering
Lucinda Quinn	Liverpool	International Politics and Policy
Dean Rahman	East Anglia	Business Management
Shaun Rahman	Manchester	Medicine
Samuel Rigby	Nottingham	English and History
Shaun Rigby	Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama	Music Performance
Lee Roberts	Liverpool	Physics for New Technology
Alix Roper	Durham	Physics (4 years)
Barney Rosenthal	Queen Mary, London	Astrophysics
Jonathan Rowlands	Nottingham	Theology
Kit Runnels - Moss	Imperial College London	Chemistry
Jack Ryan	Liverpool John Moores	Pharmacy
Sophie Ryder	Liverpool	English & Modern History
Ramtin Sedghi	Liverpool	Engineering Foundation
Jack Silverstone	Warwick	Biomedical Science
Helen Skinner	Leeds	Medicine
Kathryn Smith	Oxford	History
Rachael Smith	Leeds	History
Sophie Smith	Sheffield	Psychology
Callum Spiers	York	Music
Katherine Stanford	Newcastle	Chemistry
Simon Stead	York	Mathematics (4 years)
Christopher Stephens	Bolton	Computer Games Software Development
Callum Stewart	Liverpool Hope	Fine Art
Caroline Storey	York	Chemistry (4 years)
Katherine Sung	Newcastle	Biomedical Sciences
Leslie Tang	Hertfordshire	Pharmacy
Alex Taylor	Edge Hill	Physical Education & School Sport
Maxwell Thomas-McGenity	Oxford	Philosophy, Politics & Economics
Helen Thompson	Cambridge	Modern and Medieval Languages
Lucy Thompson	Manchester	Medicine (6 years)
Olivia Thompson	Oxford	Classics I
Ellen Tranter	Sheffield	History
Maximilian Tso	Leeds	History
Jenny Tu	Central Lancashire	Pharmacy
Ben Twigg	Salford	Physics
Jack Virtue	Liverpool John Moores	Accounting & Finance
Francesca Wai	Leeds Metropolitan	Primary Education
Rafe Wan	Nottingham	English Studies & Philosophy
Malik Wanis	Manchester	Chemical Engineering with Chemistry
Heather Wark	Liverpool	Physics (4 years)
Elizabeth Whitehouse	Lancaster	Geography/North America
Miriam Whitfield	Royal Holloway, London	History
Lahiru Wijayasiri	Manchester	Accounting & Finance
Luke Williams	Liverpool	Physical Sciences (1 + 3)
Rachel Williams	Manchester Metropolitan	Biomedical Science
Matthew Wilson	Northumbria	History
Amber Wright	Liverpool	Mathematical Sciences

## PRIZE LIST 2010 - 2011 FORM PRIZES

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Fruzsina Bako	John Beirne	Sandor Bako	Jack Porritt
Muhammad Saeed	Amy Wray	Rui Zhong	Katherine Goodwin
Chloe Welsh	Anita Chan	Luke Sullivan	Samuel Tollitt
Philip Thomas	Chloe Wilson	Rebecca Flynn	Olivia Valerio
Lydia Rigby	Eloise Healey	Jessica Hyde	Hayley Rabet
Benjamin Whitfield	James Doughty	Luke Kershaw	Edwin Lau
Natalie Green	Hannah Blanchard	Sophie Haddley	Alice Blanchard
Matthew Stables	Stephen Chen	Tomas Bath	Buneet Gumbhir

## THE MARGARET BRYCE SMITH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

### Year 11

Rebecca Borthwick	Olivia Brown	Stephen Dickinson	Robert Fiske
Kylie Guan	Jack Hackett	Matthew Hodgkinson	Emma Jones
Marharyta Kamarova	Dileep Karthikappallil	Rachael Kelly	Niamh Lawton
Aneish Mangarai	Luke Mintz	Joe Moorcroft-Moran	Robyn Murphy
Benjamin Neo	Richard Pan	Emma Raynor	Anthony Reid
Ellen Robinson	James Rooney	James Russell	Candy Sinclair-Ford
David Thompson	Chantelle Wu	Michael Zhang	

## ACADEMIC PRIZES

### Year 12

Rim Aly	Joanna Baker	Emily Bennett	Bethany Currie
Louise Davis	Anneka Desai	Jack Doherty	Steven Doran
Alero Ejuoneatse	Sophia French	Daniel How	Rebecca Jones
Katarzyna Kalosza	Emma Keenan	Jonathan Kelly	Elise Larkin
Eleanor Marsh	Thomas McKenna	Yasaman Mirkhalaf	Alexander Monaghan
Brogan Moss	Daniel Murphy	Mahdieh Naderali	Gwen Parry
Charlotte Quinn	Marina Ransome	Lara Rimmer	Syafiq Rosidi
Hannah Stringfellow	Lauren Ventre	Callum Watling	Laura Wilson
Janet Wong	Jonathan Woodward	Zhixuan Zhai	Sarah Zhao

## THE MARGARET BRYCE SMITH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

### Year 13

Juman Al-Machhoor	Ali Amin-Nejad	Matthew Benton	Eleanora Bianchi
Jennifer Buchanan	John Close	Lewis Coenen-Rowe	Joshua Dixon
Helen Fee	Peter Gleeson	Philip Kelly	David Lang
Liam Loftus	Louis Maddox	Christopher McLoughlin	Michael Nelson
Edward Parr	Rachael Smith	Kathryn Smith	Simon Stead
Caroline Storey	Maxwell Thomas-McGenity	Olivia Thompson	Helen Thompson

## SPECIAL PRIZES

The Robin S G Makin Prize:	(Chess)	Stephen Chung
Hilda Watson Prize:	(Physics)	Michael Nelson
Old Blues' Association Modern Language Prize		Helen Thompson
D Urquart Prize:	(Library)	Ruqayyah Moynihan
R L Powell Memorial Prize:	(English)	Sophie Drusilla Ryder
W Gregory Prize:	(Stage Management)	Duncan Cowan
L H Leith Memorial Prize:	(Sport)	Andrew Beggs, Matthew Gunson, Charlotte Holmes, Nelson Idama, Theodore Jackson, James Rhodes
F J Worthington Memorial Prize:	(Maths)	Matthew Benton
Fletcher Memorial Prize:	(Junior Maths)	Thomas Geddes
J H Worthington Memorial Prize:	(Lesson Reading)	Joshua Dixon, Christopher Kerr
R C Burns Memorial Prize:	(Service to the School)	Christopher Kerr
Brakell Prize:	(Dramatics)	Olivia Sung
Luke Hoyle Prize:	(Technology)	Pippa O'Connor
Hickman Memorial Prize:	(Junior Technology)	Candy Sinclair-Ford
Blue Coat Arts Centre Prize:	(Arts & Music)	Samantha Dolan, Fiona Miller, Callum Spiers
The Birch Baton:	(Orchestra)	Louise Goodwin
The Music Chalice:	(Academic)	Lewis Coenen-Rowe
The Smallman Prize:	(Contribution to Musical Life of the School)	Shaun Rigby
Cowkeepers' Association	(Magazine)	Thomas McKenna, Shaun Rigby, Jonathan Rowlands, Olivia Thompson, Sophie Tsang, Miriam Whitfield Rebecca Foy, Frances Murphy
The Law Prize:		Juman Al-Machhooor
Sutherland Prize:	(Economics)	Kathryn Smith
H P Arnold-Craft Prize:	(History)	Joshua Dixon
Gwyn Watcyn Prize:	(Politics)	David Bond
Overseas Containers Ltd Prize:	(Geography)	David Lang
F A Unwin Prize:	(Chemistry)	Zoe Pulford
J L Davies Prize:	(Physical Education)	Rachel Moss
Senior Biology Prize:		Jennifer Buchanan, Lucy Thompson, Jonathan Gilchrist
Psychology Prize:		Rebecca Foy, Amber Wright
Computing Prize:		Amber Wright
John Caulfield Prize:	(Sixth Form contribution)	Imogen Cooper, Sarah Hamilton, Emmeline Poole
ICT Prize:		
Peter Arnold-Craft Prize:	(Creative Writing)	
Parents' Association Prize	(Services to the PA at events and support through the year)	Michael Devaney
Friends of the Blue Coat School Prize:	(Exceptional Attendance)	Alshymaa Essa, Grant Helm, Megan Lee, Eleanor Marsh Samantha Dolan
Lady President's Prize:	(Head Girl)	Liam Loftus
Chairman's Prize:	(Head Boy)	

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH BRONZE AND SILVER AWARDS

### Bronze Award

#### Year 11

Jonathan Ashcroft Alana Borkwood Grace Coleman Jamie Court Grace Crichton Nina Desforges  
James Edwards Laura Gillin Buneet Gumbhir Abbie Hoyte Nicole Jackson Conall Jager  
Sham Jagota James Lovell-Kennedy Jenny Morris Lucy Preston Alicia Rice Rachel Rice  
Niloofar Sharifi Caitlin Skarratts Thomas Taylor Drew Whitfield

#### Year 12

Bianca Casaus Benjamin Neo Dileep Karthikappallil Mark Morrow Charlotte Owens  
Charlie Power Anthony Reid James Rooney Joel Sorby

### Silver Award

Rim Aly Melissa Atherton Andrew Beggs Rabeel Chaudhry Jake Cockburn Katie Conry Bethany Currie  
Jack Doherty Steven Doran Sara Edwards Emma Findlay Joey Fong Matthew Gunson Alice Haughan  
Rachel Hayes Georgina Hunt Christopher Jackson Piriya Jeyanayagam Abbie Lunt Elham Mahmoody  
Alexandra Mallon Yasaman Mirkhalaf Lowri Phillips Marina Ransome James Rhodes Timothy Rhodes  
Aiden Riley Nick Turner Jamie Walsh Rebecca Wardle Alexandra Zhong

## BRONZE CREST AWARD or JAGUAR CARS MATHS IN MOTION CHALLENGE

Callum Brennan-Rich Alexander Fleet Natalie Green Ellis Lannigan  
Emmeline Poole Daisy Richmond Philip Thomas

## MATHEMATICS LEADERS AWARDS

Alice Blanchard Kaylyn Chan Christopher Devaney Asmaa Essa Rachel Gu  
Sarah Hamed Charlotte Ho Phoebe Hunter Colin Lim Maizie Montgomery Anita Pun  
Hayley Rabet Alicia Rice Hannah Sturdy Thomas Taylor Abbie Wood

## SENIOR MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE GOLD CERTIFICATE WINNERS

Lewis Coenen-Rowe Jack Davies Daniel Murphy Maxwell Thomas-McGenity Jonathan Woodward Hua Yong-Li

## SCHOOL COLOUR AWARDS RE-AWARDS

### Association Football

Alexander Edwards Matthew Gunson James Platt Peter Robinson

### Basketball

Andrew Beggs Nelson Idama James Rhodes Peter Robinson

### Cricket

Samuel Batterton Andrew Beggs Joseph Hunt Theodore Jackson James Rhodes Peter Robinson

### Hockey

Jessica Dickinson Alice Haughan Charlotte Holmes Alexandra Mallon Ashley O'Meara

# Student Achievements

## AWARDS

### Association Football

Samuel Batterton Aiden Drew Sean Furlong Nick Gall Jonathan Kelly Craig Morrow  
Aiden Riley Lee Smith Mark Smyth

### Basketball

James Edwards Matthew Gunson Grant Helm Theodore Jackson James Lovell-Kennedy Gavin Spruin

### Cricket

James Edwards Matthew Gunson Daniel Harvey Conall Jager Jonathan Kelly Sean Leddy

### Hockey

Sara Edwards Emma Kelly Erin Lee Jenny Morris Timah Julienne-Tabit Sorcha Twomey-Harris  
Abbie Wood Remi Wood Grace Zdesenko

## DISTINCTIONS

### Association Football

Gavin Spruin Liverpool City U15 Team Captain  
Usen Jones Liverpool City U14 Team

### Basketball

U19 Team National Quarter Finalists and Liverpool Runners-up  
U16 Team Liverpool Runners-up  
U15 Team National Runners-up and Liverpool Champions  
U14 Team Liverpool Runners-up  
U13 Team Liverpool Runners-up

### Cricket

U15 Team Liverpool Champions  
U14 Team Liverpool Runners-up  
U13 Team Liverpool Runners-up

### Athletics

Alana Borkwood Year 10 City Champion Shotput  
Samuel Miley Year 8 City Champion 400m  
Adam Moorcroft Year 7 City Champion 400m and 1500m

### Cricket

James Edwards Daniel Harvey Liverpool U15 Team  
Matthew Harrison Joseph Staunton Nathan Wyman U13 City Team

### Hockey

Erin Lee North West of England U15

## PHYSICS OLYMPIAD 2011

**Year 11 (Silver Award)** Jack Hackett

**Year 12 (Silver Award)** Jacob Cinnamond Alexander Monaghan Jonathan Woodward

### Year 13 Physics Olympiad

Gold Award Hua Yong Li

Bronze Award Michael Nelson

*See page 28 for more recent results*

## SUCCESS IN MUSIC EXAMINATIONS

### GRADE 1

Blaise Best-Barton Drums Practical      Andrew Carr Piano & Guitar Practical      Joseph Fletcher Guitar Practical  
 Andrew Graham Piano Practical      Shiraz Khan Guitar Practical      Morgan King Piano Practical  
 Thomas Mullan Drums Practical      Ellen Robinson Piano Practical      Sanjana Rumeskumar Piano Practical & Theory  
 Olivia Stevens Guitar Practical      Chloe Swart Guitar Practical      Stephen White Piano Practical

### GRADE 2

Faye Allen Piano Practical      Michael Bowyer French Horn Practical      Andrew Carr Guitar Practical  
 Katie Chen Guitar Practical      Liam Dunne Guitar Practical      Natalie Green Piano Practical  
 Georgia Jackson Guitar Practical      Annie Loh Piano Practical      Emmeline Poole Piano Theory  
 Cameron Walker Flute Practical      Stephen White Piano Practical

### GRADE 3

Anna Batterton Violin Practical      Catherine Butler Clarinet Practical      Nathan Crist Violin Practical  
 Sandani Gunawardena Flute Practical      Hollie Haigh Clarinet Practical      Drew Hawley-Higgins French Horn Practical  
 Jemima Lacey Piano Practical      Jenny Morris Flute Practical      Amy Perrin Piano Practical  
 Luke Sullivan Piano Theory      Philip Thomas Guitar Practical      Sophie Walters Oboe & Piano Practical  
 Isabella Wignall Flute Practical      Beverley Zhong Piano Practical

### GRADE 4

Joel Best Classical Guitar Practical      Oliver Bradley Great Highland Bagpipes Practical      Catherine Butler Clarinet Practical  
 Alexander Fleet Piano Practical      Angelica Fradley Violin & Flute Practical      Ella Idama Violin Practical  
 Yasamin Marshall Piano & Clarinet Practical      Alexander McWilliam Piano Practical      Yasamin Mirkhalaf Violin Practical  
 Emmeline Poole Piano Practical      Eve Singleton Flute Practical      John Ooi Clarinet Practical  
 Jack Wang Guitar Practical      Velvet Young Piano Practical      Chloe Swart Clarinet Practical  
 Eloise Healey Piano Practical      Samuel Elcock Tuba practical      Lidong Xiao Guitar Practical

### GRADE 5

Katy Ashworth Violin Practical      Ricky Cheung Violin Practical      Joseph Chung Viola Practical  
 Joseph Clarke Trumpet Theory      Kyran Crute Piano Practical      Andrew Eves Clarinet Practical  
 Sarah Davies Voice Practical      Hollie Haigh Music Theory      Isabel Hawkins Flute Theory  
 Jonathan Lam Flute Practical      Music Theory      Abigail Larkin Clarinet Practical      Esther Lawrence Theory  
 Hoi Lam Ng Piano Practical      Charles McAlindin Music Theory      Lara Rimmer Piano Practical  
 Eleanor Roberts Piano Practical      Ellen Robinson Flute      Alistair Rutherford Euphonium Practical  
 Niloofar Sharifi Piano Theory      Benjamin Swart Guitar Practical      Sorcha Twomey-Harris Clarinet Practical  
 Vidyut Vardhan Piano Practical      Jack Wang Flute Practical      Lidong Xiao Piano Practical & Theory  
 Michael Yin Piano Practical & Theory      Lilly Zhong Piano Practical

### GRADE 6

Matthew Cheung Violin Practical      Rachael Chung Violin Practical      Stephen Chung Clarinet & Piano Practical  
 Kyran Crute Double Bass Practical      Joey Fong Piano      Isabel Hawkins Piano Theory  
 Lara Marshall Piano & Violin Practical      Charles McAlindin Clarinet Practical      Richard McNulty Piano Practical  
 Benjamin Neo Guitar Practical      Katherine Neo Piano Practical      Gwen Parry Celtic Harp  
 Niloofar Sharifi Piano Practical      Janet Wong Piano Practical      Nicole Jackson Clarinet Practical

### GRADE 7

Emily Bennett Piano Practical      Rachael Chung Piano Practical      Kyran Crute Flute Practical  
 Claudia Daley Trumpet Practical      Jacky Hou Piano Practical      Oscar Hou Piano Practical  
 Jasper Johns Piano Practical      Maharhyta Kamarova Piano Practical      Jonathan Lam Piano Practical  
 Elise Larkin Piano Practical      Yasamin Marshall Piano & Clarinet Practical      Elizabeth McLeod Piano Practical

Katherine Neo Piano & Violin Practical      Emma Raynor Piano Practical      Alistair Rutherford Viola Practical  
 Kathryn Sayer Violin Practical      Jack Wang Piano Practical      Michael Zhong Piano Practical  
 Katherine Goodwin Violin Practical

### GRADE 8

Alasdair Chatterton Percussion Practical      Adam Gilbert Trombone Practical      Pramath Murphy Drums Practical  
 Eleanor Roberts Flute Practical      Vidyut Vardhan Drums Practical

## Student Achievements

### LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Peter Athans Giancarlo Canetti Matthew Cheung Kyran Crute  
Adam Gilbert Jack Luscombe Alistair Rutherford Kathryn Sayer Sophie Walters

### LIVERPOOL YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Peter Athans Emily Bennett Alex Bond Olivia Brown Matthew Chung Rachael Chung  
Daniel Freeman Adam Gilbert Nikhil Jain Joel Power James Sharples Sophie Walters

### LIVERPOOL YOUTH BRASS ENSEMBLE / SATURDAY MORNING BRASS BAND

Alero Ejuoneatse Samuel Elcock Adam Gilbert Drew Hawley-Higgins Eleanor Marsh

### LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC YOUTH CHOIR

Jessica Hyde Elizabeth McLeod Bethany Nelson Olivia Sung Bethany Wotton

### LIVERPOOL ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL CHOIR

Sarah Davies

### FORMBY BAND

Alistair Rutherford

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## The Parents' Association

Throughout 2011, the Parents' Association has continued to support various clubs, societies, subject departments Winged Words and of course, the School. It's been a very good year since we've seen lots of new parents join the Committee and they have indeed helped us raise funds for the School – and made some friends too!

One of the highlights of the year was at the Annual Prizegiving in the splendid St George's Hall where the first Parents' Association prize was awarded. We've provided sufficient funds for this to run for 25 years and I am sure a few of the current Committee will have retired by then!

You may have seen the School's new minibus and we were delighted to be able purchase such a large and much needed item. It's really nice to see it ferrying pupils around and as I write, we have only one final instalment to make, so we will be looking for the next big project as we head into 2012/13.

Many departments have been helped throughout the year. A new container was bought and successfully installed in the playing field for the Sports department. The English department received donations from us towards cameras for the News Report day and also support for a national competition. We've also helped towards the purchase of a new DT printer, provided funds for the Chess Club and also made a sizeable donation towards the new piano, located in the School Chapel.

The annual quiz was held in March and we raised over £800 for the School. Our quiz master, Alan, never fails to disappoint and yet again delivered a fast paced and highly entertaining quiz, in a packed Shirley Hall. The trophy went to a new team, but it was great to see the previous years' winners there hoping to regain their title!

We couldn't achieve any of the above without the continued support of parents, students and staff. The amount of work which goes into organising events is tremendous and we have a superb team of committed parents who willingly give up an hour of their spare time once a month to attend meetings. Please believe me – the meetings are not formal or indeed boring – we always have something to do but are able to have a laugh at the same time!

Please do get in touch should you wish to join the Committee or just want to help at the occasional event. You will receive a warm welcome and we are always in need of another pair of hands. If you are a student and would like our support for a special project or donation, please send in your suggestions to School and we will do whatever we can to help.

Finally, a very big thank you to our main sponsors Barclays Bank and The House Beauty Spa, Mather Avenue. Their support is truly valued and the Parents' Association would not be as successful without them.

*Best wishes*

*Lyndsay Lynch*

*Chair of The Blue Coat Parents' Association*

### P.A. recent gifts to the School

In December 2009, the Parents' Association made a donation of £12,000 to the Shirley Hall Sound and Light Project and in 2011 they agreed to donate a total of £12,000 towards a mini bus. The Parents' Association has also contributed to many of the school's Clubs and Activities.

## Poetry of Place Competition



I entered the Poetry of Place competition sponsored by the Royal Liver Group, and made it through to the final stages. I attended the prize ceremony in early 2011 at the Royal Liver Building where I won a runner-up prize.

Last autumn, the prize winners received a formal invitation to the centenary celebration of the Royal Liver Building on 1<sup>st</sup> December, which Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh would be attending.

On the day, the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh were escorted into the atrium of the Royal Liver Building and introduced to various guests and local dignitaries. The Duke of Edinburgh came over to the poetry guests. We were introduced to him and he asked each of us about the poems we had written and the meanings behind them. He then joined the Queen at the front of the room and unveiled the commemorative plaque.



After the Queen and Duke had left to visit the Wirral there was a champagne and canapés reception. On leaving, I was presented with a Links of London bracelet charm of a Liver Bird to remember the day.

Being in the presence of the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh was a fantastic experience and one that I will always remember.

*Imogen Cooper*

## Plant It Blue

Plant-It-Blue, for those who don't know, represented the school in the Great Enterprise Challenge. As the biggest ever competition of its kind the Great Enterprise Challenge aimed to bring the spirit of enterprise into Merseyside. Reaching the semi-final, we believe, was a great achievement and the team and school have a lot to be proud of.

On progressing into the semi-final we received grants totalling £350. The grants were spent on acquiring the various components we needed to create the plant arrangements such as baskets, compost and the plants themselves. Through our hard work we managed to make enough plant arrangements to cause Mrs Rimmer to relocate from her now swamped office.

As teaching staff became curious of the wheelbarrow and the trail of compost outside Mrs Rimmer's office they noticed and were

impressed by the quality of our arrangements. This led to staff ordering 2 or 3 arrangements each.

We expanded our sales venue from the staff room into various events held by both the Blue Coat School and Parklands High School. These events combined with the overwhelming response from parents, interested in purchasing our arrangements, contributed to our revenue of over a thousand pounds.

During the course of the project we were able to develop valuable skills such as communication, teamwork and time management. These skills are certainly transferrable and will serve us well in the world of business and employment.

Seeing the whole school community come together to support our project really made an impact on us. We were also made to realise how invaluable that support was and will continue to be to further initiatives run in the school.

So on behalf of the team, I would like to thank all those who contributed, in any shape or form, to what has been a successful venture.

*John Ogundele*

## Top of the Bench

Top of the Bench is a national chemistry competition organised by The Royal Society of Chemistry for students in year 9 to year 11. The competition format is a series of regional heats where each region winner qualifies for the national final at Imperial College London. This will take place on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012.



The Liverpool region heat (which includes the Wirral, Southport, Warrington and Chester) was divided into three separate equivalent events. A team from The Blue Coat School participated in the third of these events on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December in Warrington. The students involved were Stephen Chen and James Doughty (Y9), Connor McKenzie (Y10) and Kaylyn Chan (Y11). Prior to the event the team worked together to produce an A1 size chemistry poster entitled "Water: past, present and future". On the day of the event the students completed a two hour team practical task and a one hour individual chemistry exam.

Only one team would qualify for the final, the team with the highest percentage based upon all tasks. The highest score prior to the Warrington heat was 92%. In addition to finishing top of the Warrington heat, the students also won the regional heat with a score of "almost 100%". Stephen and Kaylyn also won the two individual prizes for top scores in the exams for year 9 and year 10/11.

All four students thoroughly enjoyed the event and are looking forward to taking on the best young chemists the country has to offer!

*Mr S Smith*

## Student Achievements

### Athenaeum Writer-in-Residence Competition

Located near the Blue Coat Chambers, the Athenaeum is a historic club renowned for its Library that dates back to 1848. For the last ten years, the Athenaeum has celebrated creative writing by hosting an annual competition encouraging young people aged 16-19 to apply.

For the 2012 competition, the Athenaeum received 61 entries from girls and boys competing for the grand prize of a year-long membership as Writer in Residence of the Athenaeum. In addition they winner also receives £1,000 spending money, a donation of £100 to the school library, a visit to the editorial department at the Post and the Echo, and the opportunity to read out the winning piece on Radio Merseyside.

The preliminary round invited candidates to submit a creative piece, of up to 1,500 words, that they felt proud to have written. The eight finalists were announced in November, 2011, and included three Blue Coat pupils; Meta Wright, Olivia Sung and Lara Rimmer. The eight finalists were then given a guideline for the final round: as George Orwell wrote a portrayal of a future in 1984, the candidates had to submit their own vision of the future in 30 years' time.

Olivia depicted a future of a utopia where adulthood was prohibited; children remained as children, and any existing adults were forced to live within secret Resistance quarters. In Meta's future, while technology had advanced, the birth of a granddaughter for an elderly, disabled man showed him a shocking concept of 'perfection' in a world where designer babies were the new craze.



*Meta Wright, Lara Rimmer, Mrs Ludlow & Olivia Sung with Mr F. Moran of the Athenaeum.*

The winner was chosen as Lara Rimmer, whose future entailed a blind narrator named Phoenix, who is waiting in hospital for a new medical surgery that enables vision. Phoenix struggles to imagine the sort of world that waits outside, and soon finds that the dream may be better than the reality.

Lara will be Writer-in-Residence at the Athenaeum for the upcoming year. She read her final piece on BBC Radio Merseyside on 9<sup>th</sup> March.

The Athenaeum is a beautiful place— particularly for book lovers, who will appreciate the original editions of novels in the library— and we highly recommend anybody who enjoys writing applies for the 2013 competition.

### Young Person's Film Night @ FACT

There is something fundamentally beautiful about a film that, through its storytelling and cinematography, manages to evoke in us laughter, horror, sadness – especially when the said film is the product of incredibly hard work and youthful dedication. This is why in September 2011, the Art Department ran a Film Club for Years 10 to 13, whose aim was to encourage and support students in producing short films to enter into FACT's Young Person's Film Night. It was to give us the opportunity to channel our feelings and creative impulses by use of an incredibly flexible and inspiring medium. In the proceeding eight weeks, we produced seven short films in total, all of which were entered into the competition. The films were fantastically diverse in content and style, and demonstrated a very mature and effective use of filming techniques. There were fairy-tale animations, horror stories, spoof documentaries, clever use of stop-frame techniques – each told a unique and wholly entertaining story. As an A-Level Art student, I can personally stress how beneficial the process of filming was; producing a short film was very different to anything many of us had done before, and personally, it allowed me to explore various techniques and processes which would later go on to help supplement my Art coursework. Of course, the dedication and support of our Art teachers was invaluable, and helped open our eyes to, quite literally, endless possibilities.

In order to celebrate our efforts and share them with our friends and fellow students, we organised and held our very own Blue Coat Film Night – regardless of whether our films were successful in the competition or not, we would earn that little bit of fame a little closer to home! The event took place at lunchtime in Shirley Hall on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, during which all of the films produced were shown, with a little money being raised for charity from ticket and refreshment sales. From the audience reactions, it appeared as though the Film Night was a sound success!

Nevertheless, while our little school venture proved to be a great development, it was not the end of the journey for us. Overall, 52 films were entered into the competition, and we were delighted to find out that four of the nine shortlisted films had been produced by us, the Blue Coat students. On the evening of the 6<sup>th</sup> December, all the shortlisted films were shown on Screen 2 at FACT and the filmmakers, their families and staff from the Art Department all went along to support them. At this point in the competition, the feeling of pride in ourselves was so great that just seeing our films on the big screen was extremely gratifying, and none of us was prepared to find out that each of the four shortlisted films produced by us received First Prizes in each of the following categories:

- Jessica Jung's **'Paper Tourist'** won the **'Freehanders' Choice'** category
- James Draper and the SLA production team was highly commended in the **'Freehanders' Choice'** category and won **'The Audience Award'** for **'The Boy Who Could Drown in the Rain'**
- Kate Kalosza and Daisy Zhai's **'Rapunzel'** won **'Best Directed Film'**
- Charlotte Spencer's **'Open Book'** won **'Best Film Exploring the Theme of Imagination'**

Huge congratulations must go to all our students who participated in the competition. We are already looking forward to next year's competition!

*Kate Kalosza, Year 13*

## "I'm really 'Up The Junction'..."

A couple of months ago I was idly browsing the fan site of my favourite band, Squeeze {I know, you've never heard of them}, when I saw an article looking for people to take part in a show for BBC Radio 4 about one of their most famous songs, 'Up the junction'. After some deliberation, I sent the producer an email detailing my love of the band and what that song in particular meant to me. Not expecting a reply, I naturally forgot all about it until a few days, a reply and a phone call later, I was booked to go down to London and record an interview, as well as seeing songsmith Chris Difford perform 'Up the junction' live at Clapham Junction. What's Clapham Junction got to do with 'Up the junction' I hear you ask? And who exactly are Squeeze anyway {ask your Dad}? Well Clapham Junction refers to the setting of the song and the first and last lines sum it up well {"I never thought it would happen with me and the girl from Clapham..." and "And so it's my assumption, I'm really up the junction"} respectively. Squeeze are a British Pop/New Wave band first formed in 1975, the core of which is singer- songwriters Chris Difford and Glenn Tilbrook. Together they have written thousands of songs, released 14 studio albums as Squeeze, solo albums, been called 'The new Lennon and McCartney', earned Ivor Novello awards and done more tours than you can shake a stick at! Phew!

'Up the Junction' is perhaps their most famous song {along with Tempted which, worldwide, is the most well-known}, and was their fifth single, reaching the dizzy heights of number 2 in the charts in 1979.

So, the day came and down I went on a super speedy Virgin train, arriving at the famous Euston Station. I then travelled the next morning through the hustle and bustle of London down to Clapham Junction, the busiest train station in England. It was as I imagined it would be. A wet, quintessentially English day with a smell in the air that was, somehow, typically South-East London. The excitement built as I made my way up to the platform where I was interviewed. I was asked various questions about the song and why I felt it was still relevant today. I believe the song appeals as much to 15 year olds as it does to 50 year olds, the tale of finding love and losing it to addiction is one that could apply to any era and is a prevalent theme in Difford's lyrics {Glenn Tilbrook sings it and wrote the music}. I also remembered to mention that 'Up the Junction' is extra special to me as it was the first 7" I ever received {ask your Dad again} and had belonged to my Mum.

After the somewhat ordeal of the interview, Chris Difford, who had also been interviewed about his thought process when writing the song, came up onto the platform where he had a bit of a chat with us {well I nodded in awe anyway}, and then got out his acoustic guitar and proceeded to play 'Up the Junction' live at Clapham Junction. It was amazing to see, as it has never been played there before, and an honour to be able to be so close to the action. It was also great to hear Chris sing it as it is usually Glenn, and I felt Chris' deeper, growlier voice gave the song a different twist. It just shows that all a real musician needs is a guitar, and pen and paper to create magic, as 'Up the Junction' has become to so many people. When asked about what happened to the guy in the song in the end, Chris replied "He moved to Brighton". Right you are Chris, I sense 'Up the Junction: Part 2' coming on!



Hannah Stringfellow

## The Talent Show

When choosing their form charity, L6C decided to raise money for a little-known but greatly-significant organisation, the Magic Foundation, which raises awareness of and gives support to children suffering from rare genetic growth disorders across the world. Based in America and founded by parents whose children suffer from some of these debilitating diseases, it reaches across countries to provide education and commitment to treating and curing the illnesses.

The form realised that for such an important cause it was vital to raise awareness and money in the biggest and brightest way possible – by putting on a school talent show. This happened during the last week of the Autumn term, while the whole school was still in the festive spirit and most people were more than willing to come along



and spend their pounds to enjoy some pre-Christmas entertainment.

It was very much provided – Hamsel Malik of year 7 astounded the 200-strong audience with his deft and illuminating magical performance, and amongst the other performers there were some fantastic acts. Special mention must go to Year 12's BanterAid, fronted by James Draper and Sam Lyons, whose rendition of 'Do They Know It's Christmas?' raised the roof of an appropriately-decorated Shirley Hall. Despite the tightness of the competition, our teachers' judging panel finally announced their star – Caurie Jade, of Year 7, who appeared after a dramatic late entrance before giving a stunning vocal performance of 'Grenade' by Bruno Mars that wowed both audience and panel in equal measure. The judges were Mr Dunkin, Mrs Ludlow and Mrs O'Rourke.

Special thanks must go to both Colin Lim and Robert Gilles of Year 11, whose ever-present managerial abilities have kept many a Blue Coat stage production running as smoothly as possible.

L6C are proud to announce that the proceeds of the talent show, along with the money raised from the Santa Dash, which was entered by several members of the form, amounted to £573.

Olivia Sung

## Kate's Perfect Pancake Recipe

125g plain flour  
 2 eggs  
 120 ml milk  
 120 ml water  
 Pinch of salt. (This batter mixture can also be used for Yorkshire puddings.)

Kate Harris 8Gr

# Student Achievements

## Go4SET

Whilst in Year 9 six of us: Anna Batterton, Bethan Price, Sophie Haddley, Prudence Leung, Jemima Lacey and Samuel Benedict Elcock took part in the Go4SET (science, engineering and technology) competition hosted by EDT. The competition lasted for 12 weeks and during that time we had to come up with a solution for reducing the energy consumption of our school or finding a way to make it cheaper.

Over the course of these twelve weeks we came up with the idea of a device to collect and transfer the kinetic energy produced by the oscillating motion of a door. The device was designed to fit in the frame of a door and a fine wire attached to a motor would be pulled and recoiled around the cog every time the door was opened or closed. We called our device, complete with scale model door, 'Door to the future'. As well as the help from design and technology teacher Mr Ainsworth, we were also assigned a mentor, Chris Arner, from the Jaguar Land Rover Halewood factory.

To give an experience of what the factory was like we were taken on a trip there by Mr Hicks. Whilst there we had a tour of the factory, including the paint floor in which Mr Arner worked. We saw many robots in motion, making each part of the car and learnt about quality assurance and quality control techniques as well as how manufacturing with robotics works.

After 12 weeks we attended the Celebration and Assessment day at Lancaster University in which all of the participants from different schools in the North West attended to be judged on their idea. The three awards on offer were, Pupil's choice, Best Product and Best overall performance. We had to undergo two inspections from judges in which we delivered a short presentation, explained our product and presented them with our report on the whole of the process we underwent.



We were the first team to have to present a fully detailed presentation of everything we did throughout the twelve weeks including manufacturing, other ideas and a school assembly on energy awareness. During this time the judges questioned us and then left to mark us and provide us with feedback later on in the day. Some of our parents attended the awards ceremony held at one of the University's lecture rooms to see who had won each of the three prizes on offer. Unfortunately we did not win the Pupil's choice and the Best Product went to an eco-friendly water pump designed by another school with help from United Utilities. However the prize for Best overall Performance, including presentation, explanation of product and report went to the Liverpool Blue Coat School, winning us a £250 prize for the school.

## 7 Graham Alder Hey Imagine Appeal 2010 - 2011



*Some members of 7 Graham handing over the cheque for £310.00 to Irene from the Imagine Appeal.*

At the Blue Coat in recent years it has become the tradition for each form to select and raise money for a charity chosen by the form. In 2010 - 2011 the charity chosen by the then 7 Graham was the Alder Hey Imagine Appeal. We thought that this was a worthwhile cause as almost everyone in the form had received treatment at Alder Hey at some point. The Imagine Appeal uses a sketch by John Lennon of his son Sean drawn when he was a child. Funds raised by the charity are used to develop the hospital's facilities, provide support for patients and their families and continue research into conditions and treatments.

Over the course of the year as well as research into the charity we collected £310.00 through a non-uniform day, a cake sale and a collection after our form assembly. Our form assembly included a drama production called 'The Girl Who Nearly Died' and we finished off with a rendition of Imagine by John Lennon accompanied by Yunqi on piano and Sorcha on flute.

## Charity Fundraising 7BI



*7 Blundell presenting Marie Currie Cancer Centre with a cheque for £508 raised during spring term from various fund raising activities.*

## Holocaust Trip Prize Essay

**Matthew Davies and Sophia French won a trip to Auschwitz for their prize essays in this competition. This is Matthew's essay, and Sophia has written a report of the trip.**

*Why should we remember the Holocaust?*

In recent years, earnest discussion of the Holocaust has often been obscured by debate over contemporary affairs such as the rise of Zionism and the subsequent Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Placed in the context of the current religious struggles in the Middle-East, the Holocaust is at once more relevant and less dangerous. It is no longer 'the tragedy to end all tragedies' but merely a cog in the perpetual cycle of hatred which is constantly redefining our society. In stepping back and examining the effect the Holocaust has had on social movements since, we are admitting that it has had a far-reaching effect on global history, but by the same token we are treating it merely as 'part of the past' and denying the moral implications it holds for us as a culture. This approach is perhaps valid for those concerned merely with modern-day politics, on a superficial level, but for students of history it is flawed. To characterize the Holocaust as merely 'another atrocity' in an unending cycle of similar events is to belie the stunningly unique nature of the so-called 'final solution' and the vast moral and ethical issues it has unleashed upon our society.

Like much of twentieth century European history, the Holocaust almost seems to belong to another age; cruel, bloody, and starkly medieval in character. For many, the deaths of six million Jews in the nineteen-thirties and nineteen-forties constitute a tragedy more similar to the revolutionary Reign of Terror or the autos-da-fé of the Spanish Inquisition than our comfortably predictable modern lives. This is not the case, and we cannot divorce ourselves from the past so easily. We can clearly differentiate between the Holocaust which sets it apart even from concurrent tragedies such as the Second World War and the Stalinist purges, both of which can boast comparable or greater death tolls. Never before had the entire resources of a nation been employed to the end of exterminating a minority group, demonstrating the terrifying efficiency of human artifice in enacting an agenda of death. The Holocaust represented a 'breaking point' for all the racial and cultural tensions that has been building up over the previous century, and in a similar manner it has come to symbolize human malice since. This was not a political witch-hunt or even brutal 'total war': this was not a crime of human ambition or simple hate. This was death on an industrial scale; a sustained process of dehumanization and genocide that remains chillingly emblematic of the modern age.

Anti-Semitism has been a force in western society for centuries; it is not a phenomenon unique to twentieth century Germany. Many would argue that post-war Germany was fertile breeding-ground for racist sentiment, citing widespread anger at the economic and political follies of the Weimar republic and the disastrous impact of the Great Depression. The culture of death surrounding the Holocaust, however, was not spawned by mere 'ordinary racism', but by expert manipulation, calculated propaganda and the intoxicating power of the media. This was manufactured hatred, and one of the most callously effective propaganda campaigns ever waged. From a psychological perspective, this hatred represents a fascinating dilemma, for it poses questions about how the human race could sink to such depths. For the historian, more concerned with social and political themes, this state-driven hatred and such complex motivations of genocide present challenging moral issues. Detached from academic concerns, though, such fanaticism presents moral and political problems for our society. The victimization of minority groups and the subservience of popular

opinion to the will of the state are age-old issues, and still occur to this day. The campaign against apartheid in South Africa, and the American civil rights movement in the sixties were spurred on by greater awareness of racial issues following World War II. The oppression and criminalization of homosexuals in Uganda has again demonstrated the ability of governments to victimize and eradicate minority groups. The rise in prominence of racial issues and the increasingly tolerant nature of our society has led to the Holocaust reaching a symbolic or even memetic status, whereby it serves almost as a byword for racial hatred and oppression. There is perhaps no better indication of this than a statement made by Jewish MP Gerald Kaufman in 2009 that Israeli forces in Gaza were exhibiting 'Nazi-like behaviour' and that the Holocaust is constantly used as a 'cover' for the actions of the state of Israel in the Middle-East. It is clear that the spectre of the Holocaust continues to dominate global culture, both ordinary and political, in a manner more subtle and far-reaching than the linear progression of history.

In order to delineate the significance of the Holocaust, a description of its sheer horror and scale may suffice. Such a depiction would simply read like an epitaph for the dead, however, being literary and wholly unhistorical in character. Tragedies, of course, are worth remembering, but the Holocaust represents more than that. It is embedded in our cultural consciousness and symbolic of the struggles of our society. If it is the job of the historian to scrutinize the past in order to explain the vagaries of the present, then the Holocaust is supremely significant, because it is at once a startling anomaly and a microcosm of our recent history (and almost certainly of near-future). To deny the significance of the Holocaust is to deny the progress our society had made since then, and to decry the racial and nationalist crises of the early nineteen-hundreds as meaningless. The Holocaust never was 'just another atrocity', but the callous summation of human conflict in the modern era, changing human society subtly yet irrevocably. It is an all-important piece of the puzzle which makes up human history – and crucially, who are we to forge the future if we cannot decipher the past?

*Matthew Davies U61*



*Olivia Davidson - Yr 7*

# Student Achievements

## Physics Olympiads

The hour long Physics Challenge, or the Yr 11 Physics Olympiad, was sat by 34 students on Friday March 9th. The paper was composed of demanding and complex questions that our students found sometimes perplexing, mystifying and occasionally impenetrable! However, after they were marked the results were very pleasing with 9 Silver Awards, 20 Bronze Awards and 5 Participation Awards. Congratulations to all who entered and especially to those students who secured a Silver Award: *Kaylyn Chan, Roy Chu, Robert Gillies, Phoebe Hunter, Colin Lim, David Murphy, Hoi-Lam Ng, David Wong and Andrew Woodward.*

Similarly, 36 students sat the AS Challenge paper of one hour, or the AS Physics Olympiad, on the 16th March and struggled through numerous knotty, problematic, baffling, confusing and ticklish questions! The level of questions this year did seem a little higher than usual but after marking we had 18 Bronze Awards and 18 Participation Awards. Well done to all students who entered this prestigious national competition; as a consequence, they all have a greater understanding and insight into the principles of Physics.

*Mr K G Caulkin.*

## Schools Bible Project

Each summer term, year 8 students, as part of their RS lessons, enter a national creative writing competition, where they are asked to write a version of a New Testament story as if they were there. Amy Wray came joint first in the 2011 competition, and together with her mum and I, we visited the Houses of Parliament to receive her prize from Baroness Cox.

*Mrs Treharne*

## London Blog

It all started on the 5<sup>th</sup> December. I went to school in the morning for my first lesson. It went really long because I was looking forward to going to London. When the bell went I walked to the office and climbed straight in a taxi. We got to Lime Street Station with about half an hour to spare. We also met my mum at the station. When the time came, we climbed on the train. The journey lasted about 2 hours. I spent most of the journey listening to music and reading a couple of magazines. Once we arrived at Euston Station, we got a sandwich and jumped in a taxi, which took us to the Houses of Parliament. We had 10 minutes before we were allowed in so we sat outside and ate our sandwiches. We then walked in and we had to get our pictures taken and have a badge to prove we were allowed to be in there. We found our way to the House of Lords and there we met up with the rest of the winners of the award. We received a tour of the Houses of Parliament from one of the main people behind the whole organisation, Joanna Bogle. After this, we walked to number 1 Millbank, a building which is part of the Houses of Parliament. We had snacks and I received my prize which was The New Jerusalem Bible, a book called 'We Didn't Mean to Start a School' and a book written by our guide which was called 'The Emigrants Friend'. I was presented with these books by Baroness Cox, another member of the organisation. Once the prize giving was over, we got a taxi back to Euston Station. We arrived just in time for an earlier train. We returned back to Liverpool at around 7pm. I had an amazing day and was definitely worth going to!

*Amy Wray*

## Sea Odyssey

On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March I went to St George's Hall to take part in "A Sea Odyssey" letter writing event. We had been set the task of writing a letter from the point of view of a passenger on the Titanic (before she sank!) and out of over 1000 entries from throughout the city, 100 were chosen to take part in this event which will include having our letters exhibited at the Maritime Museum. At St George's Hall we wrote out our letters on White Star Line headed paper, listened to information about the upcoming exhibition, watched a short extract from the play, Titanic, which will be performed for a week in June by West Kirkby Operatic Society, and watched a fashion show. As well as being displayed at the exhibition, each letter will be copied 1000 times and they will all be shot out during the opening of the "Little Girl Giant" (giant puppet spectacular) in town. I enjoyed the event and look forward to seeing my letter in the exhibition.

*Matthew De Asha 7Gr*



This is my letter:

*Cabin No. 15  
Titanic  
12<sup>th</sup> April 1912*

*To All My Family and Friends,*

*I am having the most amazing time on board the Titanic! I just can't describe how fantastic it is, especially here in First Class! It was definitely worth every penny of the one hundred and fifty pounds I paid for my ticket. I simply can't believe I'm on board the biggest ship in the world - and on her first voyage too!*

*The views of the ocean and its life are wonderful, but I've barely noticed them as there is so much to occupy me on board. You wouldn't believe how posh it is - huge state-rooms, grand staircases, fancy dinner services - it's pure luxury! Of course, those in Second and Third Classes aren't quite so lucky - but who cares, when here in First Class we have lavishly furnished cabins, fine gourmet meals with Captain Smith himself, and brilliant entertainment day and night? Would you believe there are over two thousand people on board? (That's passengers and crew.) I've heard that both the ship's designer and the director of White Star Line are on board too.*

*I can't wait until we reach America. I hope we arrive there safely, and in record time!*

*I'll write again soon.*

*Love,*

*Harry.*

# Beauty and the Beast

For an expression of the values of the Blue Coat School, one might attend Prizegiving or Founders Day. However, the school production in February has shown once more how effectively it showcases everything that the school stands for: talent refined by practice and hard work.

In his programme notes creative director James Lacey commented that *'The task of translating a classic film to the stage and honouring a Broadway production that ran for over 13 years is one most schools would shy away from. But at the Blue Coat school staff and students alike have embraced it with style, confidence and large helpings of hope'*. Once again the troop of students involved in the school production have shown that with the same commitment to hard work and accomplishment, a flawless display of even one of the most difficult musicals can be achieved and executed with flare.

In a similar vein to last year's production, this was a highly professional, well planned and faultlessly executed performance. The attention to detail and thorough preparation was evident, as we have come to expect from the powerhouse team of Miss Horton, Miss Hodson, and former Blue Coat alumnus James Lacey.

This lethal triumvirate will, from next year, become only a lethal duo as Beauty and the Beast, was the last production James Lacey will play the role of Creative Director. In my post-play interview with Stuart Campbell, Stuart gave me an insight into just how important James has been to productions in recent years. No production since 2007 could possibly have gone ahead without the hard work and industry of James Lacey, Campbell, 18, who played 'the Beast' claimed. It is likely that school plays will have still been put on and therefore gone ahead but it is near certain that they would not have been anywhere near the quality they have been, without Mr. Lacey. It is therefore fitting that James was given a fantastic send off with an excellent show, especially on the final night. All of us at the Squirrel and the Blue Coat School wish James every success in his future career and hope that he may be persuaded at some point in the future to choreograph and direct one more event.

Tributes must also be paid to Miss Hodson who showed her skill as technical manager of the production and Miss Horton who oversaw an impeccable display of music, as well as all involved in the orchestra. Blue Coat boasts an impressive base of musical talent, which is harnessed by a superb music department. Beauty and the Beast was another opportunity to showcase these talents: an opportunity that was capitalised on. A special mention must go to triangle virtuoso Alasdair Chatterton, whose subtle and delicate performance was lauded by those in the auditorium, produced another stunning performance in what is becoming an impressive career. One cellist remarked that, overall, in terms of synchrony and organisation, this year's showing was the orchestra's best. I would agree.

Similarly, the acting and singing was phenomenal. The lead roles of Belle (Ashley Davies) and Beast (Stuart Campbell) were played with characteristic ease. The singing from the two was powerful and immense. Stuart showed once more how he is a well rounded actor, with considerable stage presence and a remarkable voice. Stuart intends to continue acting beyond Blue Coat,

something I would wholeheartedly encourage him to persevere with. Ashley consolidated her reputation as an extremely talented young



actress, one source close to Ashley saying that her Thursday night performance was her best ever on the Shirley Hall stage. What makes Ashley such an accomplished performer is her ability to deftly control the strength of emotion to put into each scene. She conveys passion without overacting. Neil Walker, though, could easily give Ashley and Stuart a run for their money as star of the show. Neil was great as 'Gaston', and managed to score 8 thumbs up from this critic. He made a potentially difficult role look effortless. It was a commanding display, well worth all the plaudits he received in school and well worth the 8 thumbs up. Jack Kauffman-Harding was very impressive and is my pick as the rising star of the bunch whilst Isabel Hawkins was eminently entertaining playing 'Babette'. Kelsey Walsh sang the title song brilliantly, in the role of Mrs Potts.

A special mention must also go to the student creative team. Stage Manager Sam Elcock did a fantastic job bringing the effects to life (especially the confetti canon). Credit also goes to the set designs of Tayler Spruce and Candy Sinclair Ford.



The crop of actors in Year 13 have consistently produced individually excellent performances whilst also gelling together well as a set. It goes without saying that they will be sorely missed. No good theatre report is good without a cliché and it would seem appropriate at this point to say: the show must go on. It must and there is easily enough evidence to suggest that the younger students, currently in Year 7-12, are ready to inherit the key roles in the school show.

In a year when the Blue Coat School loses James Lacey as its creative director and loses its perennial principal actors, Stuart Campbell and Ashley Davies, the Blue Coat theatre is in a state of transition where new blood must come forward and receive the mantle from these three stalwarts. The biggest loss however of 2012, is one that it will prove very difficult, near impossible, to replace: the school magazine's theatre critic. These pages will never quite be the same.

Tom McKenna

## The Peter Arnold Craft Creative Competition Winners

KS4

### My Little Book of Gifts

Dear Sister Felicity,  
Thank you so much for the present,  
I look forward to when we next meet,  
I have rather been needing the money you sent,  
And now I can buy a one penny sweet!

Dear Cousin Maud,

Many thanks for the lovely new sock,  
Though it's a shame I don't have the pair,  
But one sock is better than none, after all  
It's so nice that you wanted to share.

Dear Uncle Lewis,

Thanks for the wonderful Christmas card,  
I assume you got it free with the car,  
I appreciate you thinking about me this time  
in May,  
I know how busy you are!

Dear Grandad John,

Thank you so much for the tissue,  
It's a shame that it's already used,  
And don't worry about forgetting my name,  
I know that you're easily confused.

Dear Auntie Jane,

Thanks for the delightful new jumper,  
I shall wear it when the occasion arises,  
And the hole in the back is so original,  
You were always so full of surprises!

Imogen Cooper 10GI

### My Christmas

On Christmas Eve the atmosphere in my house was frantic, yet tranquil. I went to bed, warm and cosy, feeling excited about what presents I would receive, in only a few hours. The adrenalin running through my veins was keeping me awake and thoughts of the past December days flooded back into my head....

- Laden with shopping, in town for hours,
- Balancing carefully on a stepladder to hang the decorations,
- Wrapping up presents for all of my family, placing the fragile ones delicately under the tree,
- Eating the chocolates out of my advent calendar, savouring every last one,
- Visiting family and friends who live far away, giving and receiving gifts of all kinds, feeling very contented.

So there I was, lying in bed. Exhausted from all the preparations that had been going on that day, but for some mysterious reason I felt hyperactive therefore not able to fall asleep. I watched the clock for what seemed like forever until I eventually nodded off.

At 7 o'clock I woke up and rushed into my parents' room, feeling overjoyed and eager. Unfortunately for me though, I was sent back to bed, because apparently, it was too early!!

Emmeline Poole 7SH

### Alyosha

KS5

I had never seen him smile like that,  
Not at anyone, not at me,  
But the day I gave him you, my sweet,  
He was so filled with glee.

God's gift, a son at last!  
And all the land was glad,  
Yet all the while, my little prince,  
You hid a secret so sad.

Each time you stumble and you fall,  
Each time you bleed and swell,  
Each time I hear you cry in pain,  
I curse myself to hell.

The mother did this to her son,  
She damned her greatest joy,  
I'm sorry, Nicky, for what I've done,  
And I'm sorry, my baby boy.

Sarah Hamilton

## Winged Words

Winged Words is a traditional annual event in the literary calendar at Liverpool Blue Coat School; greatly enjoyed by students and parents, teachers and governors- every year it gets better and more daring- did you ever realise poetry could be so much fun!

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2011 47 students and teachers lined nervously up to take their place on stage and perform sketches and poems as diverse in nature as is possible to imagine. Two girls from Year 7, Olivia Meadows and Hazel Harding, had the audience in stitches performing the hilarious John Cleese and Michael Plain sketch, 'Fish Licence'. We so hope Eric, the halibut, makes a re- appearance next year- he will be sorely missed. Words of wisdom and hope were delivered so beautifully by Eliis Lannigan who read Kipling's 'If' and who will ever forget the history lesson performed so wonderfully by Ms Holland, recounting Harold's exploits in 'The Battle of Hastings?' This year we had the benefit of working alongside the pupils of Parklands High School, who were invited due to The Blue Coat School's partnership with the school. As a result of the writing workshop, led by poet Levi Tafari earlier in the year, the Parklands students read poems they had written about their home and there wasn't a dry eye in the house.

The event's underlining theme is to present a piece which is important to the performer and to express the vast amount of talent in our community. Sarah Davies and Freya Balchin, regular performers, gave a mesmerising rendition from Oscar Wilde's farcical comedy 'The Importance of Being Earnest.' During the two hours of the evening the attendance of Shirley Hall is moved and warmed by the sheer effort and expression of emotions from the acts, it is a real time for reflection.

Judges pick the best acts from each category and they are rewarded for their excellence. Miss Tyers organises the event and was this year assisted by Mrs Roberts and she believes it gives people of our highly academic society the opportunity to express themselves freely in ways which differ from their everyday school activities.

There are many 'regulars' who have taken part from Year 7 and plan to until Year 13, the tradition is one which will never die out, it seems. The next Winged Words is scheduled to take place on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2012 and preparations for the event have been in full flow for some time; many new acts are set to take part. I highly recommend to any student or member of The Blue Coat School community to take part, or at the very least come to watch another spectacular show!

*Jordan Matthews L6C*

*(And we really MUST mention the great entertainers who were our comperes for the night - Miss Tyers and Mrs Roberts, who provided apt introductions and artistic lines of their own. Ed.)*

## JAGUAR LANDROVER - PARTNERSHIP FOR LEARNING Enterprise Challenge Competition

In November 2010, six students travelled to Jaguar Landrover at Halewood to take part in the competition.

They were:-

Hayley Rabet, Annie Mosley, Andrew Whitfield Form 10 Graham

Hania Aniq Form 10 Bingham

Anita Pun Form 10 Shirley

Paul Jones Form 10 Blundell

The competition had an engineering theme and the students spent the morning looking at various aspects of structures, their strengths and durability etc. During the afternoon the teams were required to design and make a product using an unusual piece of equipment which manufactured 'rods' from rolled up newspapers. They were required to produce a finance report, logo and company slogan and a power point presentation to sell their product for mass production.

The six students worked very well as a team and produced a floor standing lamp design and accompanying extras as required in the competition task criteria. They competed against five other local school teams and the atmosphere during the building of the lamps was 'electric', pardon the pun but the enthusiasm from all the competitors was heart-warming and pleasing to observe.

They were competition winners gaining first place and were presented on the day with an engraved glass trophy (this is now displayed in the show cabinet at the front of school) accompanied by a place each on the 'Jaguar Landrover Off Road Experience.'



Well done team! Liverpool Blue Coat School was well represented.

An Englishman, an Irishman and a Scotsman walked into a bar. The barman said 'Is this some kind of joke?'

I had a ploughman's lunch the other day. Then he punched me.

A woman suddenly realised why she had been gaining weight, when she read the label on her shampoo bottle: 'for extra volume and body.' She decided to switch to using washing up liquid, because that stated on the bottle: 'dissolves fat that is otherwise difficult to remove.'

Did you hear about the two Mexican fire-eating brothers? They were called Hose A and Hose B.

My Chemistry teacher asked me today: 'What is the most important thing you have learnt in Chemistry?' I quickly replied 'Never lick the spoon!'

*Ivan Myring and Sam Jones 8Gr*



*Nina Desforges - Yr 11*



*Velvet Young - AS Level*



*Liwen Huang - Yr 10*



*Kylie Guan - AS Level*



Liwen Huang2 - Yr 10



Rosie Lane - A2 Level



Rae Coldham - Yr 10

### Auschwitz Trip

After arriving at the airport, we took a coach to Oświęcim, the town which the Germans called 'Auschwitz', to see the one remaining synagogue (the town now has a Jewish population of zero, which is understandable).

Entering the synagogue, all the boys had to wear *kibbot* (skullcaps) as a mark of respect. Not a tradition I'd heard of before, but I suppose it's not so different to wearing black at a funeral, or removing your shoes when visiting a mosque.

A rabbi told us a bit about pre-war Jewish life, which was pretty interesting. The last Jew in Oświęcim lived in the house next to the synagogue until he died about ten years ago. His name was Szymon Kluger, he'd been in a concentration camp during the war and by the time of his death he was an utter recluse, only leaving his house to pray in the synagogue. Every morning he used to open the doors of the empty synagogue, and every evening he'd close them – a sign to the world that Judaism hadn't been completely stamped out.

One humorous interlude before I plunge into a description of the bleakest place on earth: the toilets at Auschwitz I cost 1 *zlotty* each to use, but if we mentioned the secret password 'London' at the entrance we were allowed in for free.

The weather was eerily sunny when we arrived at Auschwitz I, which is now essentially a museum housed in the original concentration camp facilities. We were given a lot of information by our guide but the experience itself was anything but dry. Certain 'exhibits' (I use the phrase loosely) such as a massive glass case full of the hair of inmates, another full of confiscated crutches and leg casts, and a corridor lined with portraits of the dead, never fail to have a brutal emotional impact.

Auschwitz II-Birkenau was, if anything, worse. While Auschwitz I is very much an *experience*, carefully presented and controlled in order to provoke the greatest emotional response, Birkenau is far rawer. For a start, it's massive - literally miles of derelict buildings - and largely untouched since WWII. The lack of artificiality only aids, if anything, the palpable aura of despair and evil that suffuses the facility. There is no museum at Birkenau, there are no exhibits, no informative signposts or displays of statistics. There's only the chilling knowledge of the commonplace degradation and impersonal slaughter that once took place there, and then the awful recollection that the people who were brought there to die were just like us.

Birkenau was, in a word, draining. Some people in the group were holding hands or embracing each other for emotional support, which I thought was a very natural, human response.

There's a memorial at Birkenau dedicated to all the victims claimed by any of the sites at Auschwitz. At the end of our visit, we went to the memorial for a sort of sermon from the rabbi who was talking to us earlier. He made some good points - how, for example, if we allow people to be persecuted just because they're 'different', then no-one is safe, and how if we forget the past we'll be doomed to repeat it.

We were all given candles which were then lit, and we were told to place them wherever we wanted. The sight of over two hundred British schoolchildren in 2010 honouring the memory of people who died in Poland over sixty-five years ago was a beautiful thing. I like to think that the victims of the Holocaust would have been pleased that - far from being erased from history, as their captors wanted - their memories were being kept alive. A beautiful moment of tranquillity and human solidarity, and one that I won't forget for a long time.

*Sophia French*

### An Evening with Carol Ann Duffy

When my friends suggested that we go to an event being hosted by Carol Ann Duffy at their local library because it would benefit our English GCSE, I was at first sceptical. However, my curiosity overcame me so I agreed that we should attend. And I'm glad I did as it was certainly an evening to remember.

Carol Ann Duffy is renowned for being a witty, charming and sincere poet and she did not disappoint. In a room packed full of people all eager to see her she beautifully read several poems, some old, some from her new book, which was about to be published. She even agreed to read one poem that had been read at another attendee's wedding! At one point, however, she began to tell a horror story (or one that seemed to be so for my friends and me) about how one of her poems was taken off the curriculum because it was seen to encourage knife crime. As a result a lot of teenager's exams were made worthless. Just a week before our controlled assessment this made us very anxious. So, when we went up to buy her new book and get it signed, we practically begged her to make sure that her poem *Valentine* was not taken off the syllabus. With a kind smile she reassured us that she was sure that wouldn't happen this year. Then she signed our books and that was the end of our brief but memorable evening with Britain's first female Poet Laureate.

*Freya Balchin*

### Economics and Politics Trip

For the second year in a row the Economics Department and Politics Department joined forces over Easter 2012 to provide AS Level students with the opportunity to visit the Bank of England, Houses of Parliament and the UK Supreme Court. This year the trip was enhanced by a talk from a former Deputy Governor of the Bank, Mr Brian Quinn, who also was Chairman of Celtic Football Club from 200-2007. Having the opportunity to stand at the despatch box in the House of Commons enabled students to really visualise how Parliament operates, and to appreciate the history and grandeur of Westminster Palace. The workings and role of the Supreme Court was also an important part of the visit, and showed students a relatively new part of the UK Constitution in action.

The trip included an overnight stay and the opportunity to see a West End Show. This year the students saw 'Billy Elliott' - an excellent production with a political theme since it is set during the Miners' Strike of 1984.

The students (and staff) thoroughly enjoyed the trip and it served as excellent preparation for the forthcoming AS examinations.

*Mr. S. P Jamieson*

## Parklands High School English Link

This has been another exciting year of collaborative events. Some Blue Coat students and I helped at Parklands High School open evening, where Mrs Sharples, Head teacher, encouraged all present by her recount of her experience earlier that day, addressing the Labour Party conference in Liverpool and pointing to the successes that students have achieved. She explained her on-going 'Going for Gold' plan.

I have also helped out on a special revision day in January, for students taking the English Language GCSE the following day. The day was very well planned by Parklands High School English Department and all students were given individual and group tasks to complete.

There has been some team teaching this year, with Mrs Hilton teaching part of Wuthering Heights with Mr Kershaw to a year 13 class. Teachers from Parklands High School have been over to observe members of the English Department at Blue Coat teaching in KS4. Also, some year 10 students have come across to attend revision lessons for English Literature GCSE.

The Poetry Workshop, initiated last year, has recurred, with Levi Tafari again honouring us with his charismatic presence. It is a real privilege to work with him as he has great enthusiasm for writing and performing poetry and instils this into students from both schools. An anthology of the students' poetry has been completed and a celebration has taken place at Parklands High School, which was attended by students, parents, staff, head teachers and governors.

Last summer, Parklands High School students performed poetry and drama at Blue Coat's evening of poetry and drama, Winged Words, and the actors were deemed so impressive that they went home with the prize for best group. Students from both schools involved in the Poetry Workshop took part in this year's event, which was very well received.

I was invited to write an article for the national education weekly paper SecEd on partnership schools, and this was published in June. In it, I detailed the benefits of the partnership, giving examples from our experiences.

For English GCSEs, both schools are using the new syllabus for the WJEC exam board and it has been productive to share ideas and approaches to teaching and learning.

This has been an exciting year of events, joining the two schools with a common purpose: making teaching and learning meaningful and enjoyable for students. I am grateful to all staff involved for their cooperation and participation.

*Mrs B D G Ludlow*



## Levi Tafari Poetry Workshop Parklands High School Link Event

It was a real privilege to have Levi Tafari with us for the poetry workshop again. He is an accomplished writer and performer, and he has also been used by the British Council, European Union and in other countries, e.g. Jordan, India and China to cement relationships between people, on themes such as race and cultural identity. He uses his poetry to communicate his ideas. He spoke to us about the meaning of identity and the students (approximately 80) wrote poems about what 'home' means to them. Some wrote about their own homes, others about the area of Liverpool. Some collaborations were produced, showing students working together. The plan is to have these poems published in an anthology and to subsequently have a celebration event at Parklands CLC, as we did last year, inviting parents, staff, Headteachers and Chairs of Governors. Hopefully, some student poets, from both schools, will perform their poetry at 'Winged Words'. On the day, the students participated well and seemed to really appreciate Levi's charisma.



## Specialism Community Links

It has been another busy year for members of The Blue Coat School involved in a number of projects and activities which not only promoted Science and Mathematics but also helped consolidate the links between the school and the local community. Once again the biggest perhaps commitment by the school is the provision of Science and Mathematics teachers to support the learning of these subjects within four local primary schools. Three of the four schools have benefited from regular visits by Science and Mathematics teachers as well as access to teaching resources such as laboratory equipment. The positive contribution made by our staff and students to the learning of both Mathematics and Science by their students has been acknowledged by both the staff and students of these schools. In addition to the visits by teachers two of the Primary schools benefit from regular Mathematics clubs organised and run by our Sixth Formers.

Our year 9 students ran a series of Funmaths Road Shows for all four Primary Schools in the summer term. These involved the Primary students completing a myriad of challenging Mathematical puzzles and games which had been selected to match the age and ability of the students. The events invariably were a great success.

*Mr B Doherty*

# South Africa Conservation Trip



In 2010 the Biology department, Mr Clayton and Mrs Wilkinson offered lower sixth a new opportunity with a completely new focus.

Seventeen students were selected and signed up for an unforgettable journey; two weeks of conservation management with Operation Wallacea in the breath-taking country of South Africa.



After many hardworking months of fundraising, involving cake sales, discos and car boot sales, we were finally prepared to travel in June of 2011.

Arriving in Johannesburg we were met with an extensive coach journey through the windy roads of Africa but finally landed in Kruger National Park in the Manyeleti Reserve. Each day was utilized to assist conservation work within the park. Along with many inspirational people such as Entomologist Elmé, Bird man Stu and the African rangers we took part in many tasks such as building pitfalls and completed game transects that were vital to Operation Wallacea's research.



Apart from working hard we undoubtedly had some incredible experiences learning about and seeing in the wild many of Africa's remarkable animals.



A week of memorable safari drives and a staple diet of pap was over and although everyone was sad to leave, we moved on to another great camp site in Sodwana Bay. During this week the focus was for all students to learn how to scuba dive and so each day was spent at the beach eating lunch with monkeys and seeing as much of the underwater world as possible; diving with a turtle or spotting a shark became a regular occurrence and a lucky few swam with beautiful manta rays. Fortunately all students became qualified scuba divers and many completed a reef-ecology course as well.

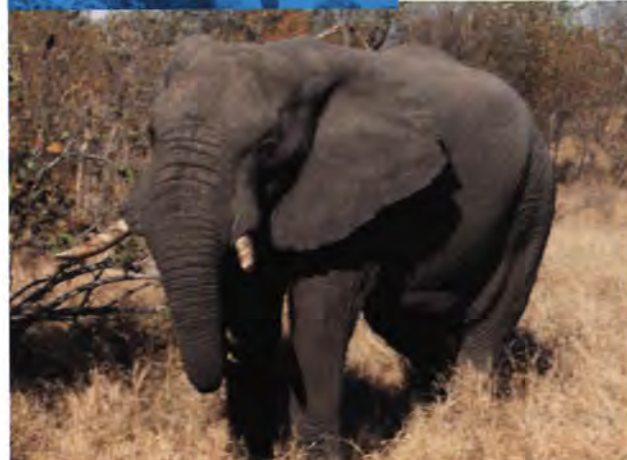


Two weeks passed and it was finally time to travel home, all with treasured memories, knowledge and experiences that will be hard to outshine.

Thank you to Mr Clayton and Mrs Wilkinson for making it all possible and thank you to everyone who made the time spent in South Africa extraordinary.

Thanks to the Tod Travel Scholarship, too.

*Vanessa Ferguson*



## Music Report 2011

Last year's music report was full of the successes of the ever flourishing Music Society, and rightly so, having tackled everything from Vivaldi's *Gloria* to music from *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Yet it also posed the question, 'Could this year be beaten?' A demanding task indeed, but The Blue Coat School Music Society is always determined to outdo itself and 2011 proved to be a superb year.

With a mere twelve weeks until the Spring Concert, rehearsals quickly got underway with the choir tackling its biggest challenge yet: Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, in its entirety. This required getting to grips with a difficult and lengthy piece of music which is also written in three languages but the choir was easily kept amused by the somewhat risqué lyrics (despite the best attempts of Mr Emery to stop us translating them) and the fact that we would be performing music more commonly associated with the X Factor. Help was at hand too, with the expertise of various music teachers, two outstanding pianists and the return of the Choral Society, a group consisting of parents and friends of the school whose support proved invaluable. On the night itself, it was clear from the very first cymbal crash that Mr Emery's ambitious decision had paid off spectacularly and it not only sounded incredible, but was an amazing experience for all involved. The orchestra were not about to let themselves be outdone however; a performance of the first movement of Schumann's *Piano Concerto in A minor* allowed talented soloist Lewis Coenan-Rowe a chance to take to the stage in his final year. The usual range of solo and small ensemble performances showcased students from across the school, including a saxophone sonata performed by Olivia Brown, an Andrew Lloyd-Webber piece sung by Fiona Miller and Olivia Sung, and Gershwin's upbeat *Ain't Misbehaving* performed by Sarah Zhao and Steven Doran. Miss Horton's jazz and concert bands took us from *Spain* (Chick Corea style) to the Titanic to dance with an *Irish Party in Third Class* and finally left us somewhere in *Space and Beyond*.

The summer term saw the school's annual Founders' Day in which the choir performed the well-known and enjoyable *Bridge Over Troubled Water*. Lunchtime recitals also continued, having run since February. These short weekly concerts took place in the school chapel and provided a great opportunity for sixth form students to play in front of a public audience, an audience which steadily grew over the course of the year. We were also lucky enough to welcome professional musicians into the school to perform including renowned organist Ian Tracey and RLPO trumpeter Brendan Ball. Another visitor to the school was Kenneth Hesketh, a Liverpool-born composer whose many concert works are performed by leading orchestras across Europe and North America, who shared his expertise with sixth form students.

As Blue Coat began to wind down at the end of the summer term, things got far more hectic for the Music Society as the choir tour to Italy which had seemed so distant before exams was now terrifyingly close. Innumerable extra rehearsals included a visit from the St Paul's Chapel Choir of the John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School, situated in Western Australia. Having sung and spent a lot of time with the choir during our 2010 tour to Leipzig, but never thinking we might have a second opportunity, we spent a highly enjoyable afternoon spotting familiar faces, sharing memories and performing together again.

The summer concert itself was a chance for the choir to showcase what it would soon be performing in 30 degree heat (more about that to follow...) but for the instrumentalists it was the final opportunity of the school year to take to the stage. Opening with the thrilling *Magnificent Seven Overture*, the orchestra then went on to perform music from *A Phantom Menace*, complete with kazoos! A special

mention (endorsement) must go to the string quartet who, having made an unbelievable amount of money busking, are now becoming a very popular choice for weddings! Solos from leavers Louise Goodwin, Mike Nelson, Sam Dolan and Shaun Rigby among others, were topped off by rousing, and yet more dance-related, numbers from the jazz band. It was a fitting farewell for the many talented year 13 students who were performing in their final concert.

The penultimate week of term couldn't come fast enough, as the Blue Coat choir made a thirty-six hour coach journey to the beautiful Lake Garda in Italy for a week of swimming, sightseeing and singing. Fitting five concerts in around a packed itinerary was no easy task and despite nosebleeds, mosquito bites, various episodes of fainting and a coach with no air-conditioning, the whole choir pulled together and performed brilliantly. We had the incredible opportunity to sing mass in the magnificent St Mark's Basilica in Venice, performing two unaccompanied motets that were greeted with a (very unorthodox!) standing ovation. Our last concert was as part of a small local festival, a friendly and intimate affair that allowed us to relax and enjoy singing a more modern selection. Songs included a Beatles medley and *Stand By Me*, which made for an emotional last night and we thoroughly destroyed our voices by treating the teachers to an ongoing encore during the journey back to the hotel. Many thanks to Mr Emery and the rest of the staff, affectionately named the 'Magnificent Seven', both for running the trip and having far too much fun over the coach's tannoy system on the last night. "This is Helga speaking..." (A full report of the Choir Tour appears under School Trips.)

The first term of the new academic year raced by and the annual Christmas concert was as well attended as always. The candlelit carol service in the school chapel contained many old favourites, with *Adam Lay Y Bounden* sung exclusively by the year 7 choir, and something a bit different in the form of the short, sweet and Russian *Bogoróditse Djévo*. The concert's success was marked by the fact that Mr Emery, previously declaring that O Holy Night was one of the worst carols, was heard to remark, "I actually quite liked it that night..." The rousing festive music that followed was just as well-received, notable were the newly-formed Blue Coat Brass Band making their debut and Chamber Choir performing an *a capella* version of *Jingle Bells*. The final event on the 2011 Music Society calendar was Prize Giving in St George's Hall in which the choir sang the *Hallelujah Chorus* and the orchestra performed the *Festive Overture* by Shostakovich, a piece that finally gave the brass section the moment of glory they'd been waiting for!

The opportunities the Music Society provides to all the students would not be available without the support and leadership of Mr Emery and Miss Horton, so many thanks to them for what has undoubtedly been an amazing year. Mr Miller continuing to accompany and amuse the school choir is also much appreciated, as is the work of all the peripatetic music teachers. Work has already begun on the summer concert, let alone the spring, and with an eagerly-anticipated appearance at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall to end this academic year, the Blue Coat School Music Society can only go from strength to strength in 2012.

### Student Quotes

Was Herpes the god of trickery?

Isn't 'impotence' when you can't have a wee?

'Miss, how much are windows?'

Is Bob Marley dead?

## School Events

# Eton College University Summer School

In the ten days from 5<sup>th</sup> July four students from The Blue Coat School participated in a rigorous, militaristic camp designed to maximise potential specialism in a variety of academically challenging courses. The programme was sugar-coated the "Eton College University Summer School". It was probably the most intensive ten days work of my life, rising with the sun in order to learn until long after it set. A typical day included four hours of actual lessons specific to your subject, which could be followed by up to an additional four hours of homework each night. I know what you're thinking "Eight hours? Pfffft, there are already twenty-four in one day, how many more do you need? And you are there to WORK!" Now this would be a particularly valid argument if eight hours of specialising in your subject was all that was expected of you at Eton College University Summer School, but there is much, much more.

I feel as though now would probably be a good time to mention the fact that although these ten days may have been the most intensive of my life they were also the most rewarding and I absolutely LOVED them. The amount of progress that can be made in only a week and a half is little short of astonishing and the best thing is that the course allows you to develop in all areas of academia; there was a daily lecture (one hour) and tutorial session (also one hour) which covered subjects from history and law to science and civilisation and constantly encouraged the students to debate and question unfamiliar problems and arguments they were faced with. The tutorial was probably my favourite part of the day; it was an unbelievably fascinating hour. The tutorials differed immensely depending upon who your assigned tutor was but I lucked out with Mr Paul Hess, the Eton tutor for Theology and Philosophy. Our tutorials mainly consisted of lounging on the Eton playing fields in the sun drinking Schloer and debating what it means to be human, a most pleasant experience. However what I found most interesting was the amazing variety of things I learnt purely by speaking to students who specialise in different subjects (for the tutorials were held in groups of students who were not doing the same subject). So rather than just specialising in Classics I learnt how to think of and solve problems from the viewpoint of a physicist or mathematician or historian or English student.

Now we're on ten hours of learning a day, which I'm sure you'll agree is a bit heavy. Luckily the lovely chaps at Eton arranged masses of extracurricular activities to participate in in our 'free time' (N.B. inverted commas, participation was mandatory). The swimming pool and tennis courts were opened, rowing boats were out for renting and drama, public speaking, cooking, silverwork and dance workshops were put on. Just in case the enveloped environment of Eton was getting all a bit much you could just walk up the road to Windsor and have a mosey around the shops and castle. We were also treated to a barbeque at the Eton Rowing Lake (where the Olympic rowing competitions are to be held) and were given the opportunity to play the vicious and infamous Eton Wall Game. Basically there were a lot of chances to fulfil some "one in a lifetime" dreams, like eating Eton Mess at Eton. Insignificant though it may seem to some it caused quite a stir in the canteen on the day it was served.

In short, I had a thoroughly excellent time and would absolutely recommend it without a moment's hesitation to anyone who is thinking of going. I spent time with some of the most intelligent and passionate students in the country, people who genuinely LOVE their subject, and some wacky teachers who aided our understanding of masses of material that we are not given the opportunity to explore on the A Level

syllabus. Clichéd though it sounds, I actually did make some fantastic friends and have a lot of fantastic experiences at Eton so even though it is hard work, it is definitely, definitely worth it.

*Bethany Currie U6D*

## Eton College Gifted & Talented Event

The ten days I spent at Eton College were a surreal experience. From watching Matt Dawson attempt to give a lecture on health to a room full of wannabe medics to a fifteen-minute production of Hamlet performed on the lawns in between lessons, the days were hard but never predictable.

I found myself in a tiny class of six facing a formidable teacher who seemed to know everything there was to know about French grammar and was therefore determined to test us on every aspect. At first the jargon he used as he rattled off verb conjugations in quick succession was utterly incomprehensible, but by day three I felt completely at home. I even got to like the fact our teachers insisted on referring to us collectively as "boys".

Eton gave me opportunities that I would never have predicted, a French lecturer from St Katherines College Oxford came in and did a session for us on a Baudelaire sonnet. He pointed out things about the poem that I could never have come up with and gave us some invaluable advice about the Oxbridge interview process.

Other tips came from our tutorials which took place in the houses of our teachers. That was an experience in itself and being served home baked cookies by our Tutor's French au-pair made all of the extra work much more bearable.

On the rare occasions we managed to socialize outside of the library, I somehow got dragged into a mixed doubles tennis tournament, rowing on the river Thames, and a mysterious Eton tradition which resembles a permanent rugby scrum called the Wall Game.

When the last night came, everyone was crying at the thought of leaving one another and I had even managed to forgive most people for attempting to mimic my accent every time I opened my mouth. In ten days you get extremely close to the people that you are living with, and I am so grateful to the Gifted and Talented Fund and to the Summer School for giving me the chance to meet so many diverse, interesting and, in many cases obsessive, people from whom I learned so much.

*Elise Larkin*

## Mathematics Specialism

The Mathematics Department has seen another busy year go by. Our students have taken part in a full programme of enrichment activities, giving them the opportunity to extend and apply their skills through clubs, trips and competitions. In particular 2011 saw the launch of the Blue Coat Specialism Competition for Year 7 students, which ran throughout the year and culminated in a prize trip to London in the Summer term.

### UKMT Mathematics Challenges

Over the past twelve months approximately 500 students have sat the Junior, Intermediate or Senior Mathematics Challenges. These challenges encourage the students to think 'outside the box', working on bringing their knowledge and skills to bear on challenging problems. Students have performed well in these challenges and maintained the high standards set in previous years.

In the 2011 Junior Challenge, Year 7 and 8 students achieved 34 Gold, 47 Silver and 32 Bronze certificates. Congratulations to all students but particularly to Michael Hughes, Joseph Fletcher, Alex Gaffney, Thomas Geddes, Alex Hopkins and Sam Jones who qualified for the next round – the Junior Maths Olympiad.

In the 2011 Intermediate Challenge, Year 9, 10 and 11 students achieved 14 Gold, 55 Silver and 51 Bronze certificates. Particular congratulations go to Joshua Banister, Luke Kershaw, Roy Chu, Jason Yu, David Murphy, Lilly Zhong, Ian Vidamour, Jack Campbell, John Wu and Jacky Hou who all qualified for the follow-up rounds. In the Intermediate Maths Olympiad, Roy Chu and Luke Kershaw achieved Certificates of Merit, and Joshua Banister achieved a Certificate of Distinction, Medal and Book Prize, placing him in the top 50 students in the country in this competition.

In the 2011 Senior Challenge, Year 11, 12 and 13 students achieved 5 Gold, 20 Silver and 33 Bronze certificates. The Gold Certificate winners were Jonathan Woodward, Christopher Lam, Gwen Parry, Daniel Murphy and Joshua Banister. Particular congratulations go to Jonathan Woodward, who qualified for The British Mathematical Olympiad, and to Joshua Banister, who qualified for the Senior Kangaroo.

### UKMT Team Maths Challenge

This is a four person team competition for two Year 8 and two Year 9 students. The four rounds in this event consist of a group round where all four students have 40 minutes to solve 10 problems, a cross-number in which students work in pairs with one pair having the across clues only and the other pair having the down clues! The penultimate round is a head-to-head competition with one team competing against another to finish a set of questions first. The final round is a relay round with pairs solving a problem before racing to hand their answer in and collect the next question to give to the other half of their team – a hectic but enjoyable round!

On Tuesday 29 March 2011 Joshua Banister, Joseph Fletcher, Thomas Geddes and Luke Kershaw represented the Blue Coat School at the regional final of the UKMT Maths Team Challenge in London. The team performed well and finished in a respectable third place out of 22 teams.

### UKMT and Further Maths Network Senior Team Maths Challenge

This competition follows a similar format to the Team Maths Challenge for Years 8 and 9 but for Years 12 and 13, and although the final event is a relay it occurs at a more sedate pace!

In November 2011, Blue Coat was represented by Jonathan Woodward, Gwen Parry, John Ogundele and Richard Pan. The team performed well and after a valiant effort finished in a creditable joint second place.

### Sixth Form Pop-Maths Quiz

The pop-maths quiz is a team competition hosted by the Liverpool University Mathematical Association and Mathematics Society. Teams consist of 4 students who work together to solve problems on a wide range of mathematical topics. Last year nine teams from the Blue Coat School entered the competition and our students claimed the top four places! Our congratulations go to all involved.

### Primary Games clubs

Over the last year sixth form students have run weekly maths games clubs in two local primary schools. Giving up their own time during lunchtime and after school, the sixth formers visited the primary schools and spent time playing games with the pupils there, encouraging their mathematical ability in an enjoyable environment.

### Rathbone's Lecture

The lecture this year was titled 'Casino Royale – The Maths of Gambling'. The talk, for the mathematicians in Years 12 and 13, highlighted some of the ways Maths is used in everyday life. The students enjoyed the interactive elements of the lecture and found the session both useful and entertaining.

### Headstart Maths Course - Royal Holloway University of London

This four day course was stimulating and really helped me to see what studying Maths at University would be like. The course was based around a series of lectures on different topics including cryptology and graph theory. The day was set up with lectures in the morning and afternoon and then free time and group games in the evening. We also had day trips, one of which was to Thorpe Park where we attended a lecture on the maths behind rollercoasters. We also went to Bletchley Park, the secret site of code breaking in World War II, to link with our lectures on Cryptology.

I enjoyed the Headstart course mainly because it was an opportunity to see what studying Maths at degree level was like but also what university life was like. The course also enabled me to meet other people studying the same subjects as me and who wanted to do the same sort of courses at university. I would recommend this course to anyone who is thinking about studying maths at university.

*Anneka Desai*

## Making Maths at Manchester

This two day course at Manchester University was engaging, challenging, fun and gave a useful insight into what studying Maths at university is like. We were placed into research groups of 5 or 6 people and asked to explore a problem, with a little guidance from current postgraduate students and professors, then gave a presentation in front of 5 other groups, who had studied different problems. Because of the complex nature of the topics, there was a lot of scope for varied presentations and enough material to fill the two days.

Along with the main project, we attended several interesting lectures by the professors involved and were able to ask questions about their areas of research, and university life in general. There was also a visit to the Trafford Centre which, along with staying in a hall of residence, gave the opportunity to meet lots of other people wanting to study the same university course as you.

I would really recommend this experience to anybody considering studying maths at university, but be prepared to work solidly on one difficult topic and deliver a clear presentation.

*Gwen Parry*

## Specialism Competition

In September 2010 the Maths and Science Departments launched the Blue Coat School Specialism Competition. Year 7 students were encouraged to participate in a range of clubs, competitions and events throughout the year and gained points for each activity they took part in. Activities included the Coding Workshop, the National Cipher Challenge, the Jaguar Cars Challenge, the Junior Maths Challenge, the Quarry Bank Mill trip, Chess club and problem solving tasks.

In the summer term the students' points were added up and the winners announced. Congratulations go to:

*Philip Thomas, Adam Moorcroft, Callum Dickman, Emmeline Poole, Natalie Green, Luke Phillips, Rachael Brown, Emma Murphy, Jake Odger, Dean Rogers, Nikhil Jain, Sam Jones, Hamzah Malik, Alexander Fleet, Daisy Richmond, Matthew Stables, MorganKing, Farhaan Chaudary, Andrew Carr, Nathan Crist, Rebecca Nielsen, Callum Brennan-Rich.*

These students won a trip to the National Science Museum in London, where they watched a 3D film about life under the sea, explored the museum and spent time in the Launchpad Gallery – an interactive experience exploring the effect of forces, pressure, magnetism and electronics. The students had a fantastic time and were keen to share their experience with the new Year 7 students in September 2011.

The Specialism Competition is running again this year, and has sparked fierce competition among the students, who are keen to participate in all events and win a place on the prize trip to London.

## Coding Workshop - Year 7

I thought the coding workshop was very exciting. Two academics from the University of Liverpool came to school and gave us an insight into the art of code breaking. We looked at the Caesar Cipher, a cipher in which the alphabet shifts forward a specific number of letters. We also watched a video about research into a code breaking method and tried cracking a code using this method – our results seemed to back up the findings from the video! We also heard a Sherlock Holmes story and found out about 'The Dancing Men' code which we cracked as well. I think most people enjoyed the workshop!

## Cipher Challenge

After attending the Coding Workshop in September, 54 Year 7 students (and 11 Year 8 students) took part in the 10<sup>th</sup> National Cipher Challenge. Over 740 schools competed this year in the UK and countries as far as Japan and Australia. The club met every Thursday in the library and worked hard to decipher codes every week. The competition was run by Southampton University, the object being to crack codes in an effort to stop the Tempest Conspiracy and save the world! Each week they were given two challenges to decipher which then provided clues for future weeks. The challenges became more difficult as the competition went on but the students persevered to the end and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. *The Smurfs* team (Emma Carr, Eleanor McGuire and Kate Tinsley) of 7 Bingham consistently cracked every code and went on to win £25. They also came 1<sup>st</sup> in the school's leaderboard and 222<sup>nd</sup> in the overall league against the thousands of teams and individuals all around the world!

*Lucy Walsh, 7 B1*

## The Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge

Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion is a competition in which you model a Formula 1 racing car using computer software. We use maths skills to optimise the setup of our cars and then run simulated races around a Formula 1 track with them. We are in charge of designing the car, the pit team, its speed, which tyres to use and how much fuel to put in the car! We compete in three races throughout the year, and we can qualify for the Bronze Crest Award, a national award in Science and Maths. It is really fun to do and I recommend that if you are in Year 7 or 8 you should have a go!

Congratulations go to Callum Brennan-Rich, Alexander Fleet, Natalie Green, Eilis Lannigan, Emmeline Poole, Daisy Richmond and Philip Thomas. All of these students achieved the Bronze Crest Award for Jaguar Cars Maths In Motion Challenge in July 2011.

*Daniel Chung*

## Quarry Bank Mill Trip - Year 7

Year 7 students attended a Technology trip to Quarry Bank Mill in November. They were encouraged to look out for any links between Technology and Mathematics. In the following Maths lessons they reported back on facts such as the sizes of water wheels, costs of materials, the hours the children worked and the pay that people received for various jobs, comparing the currency from centuries ago with the money used today. They found the lives of the children who worked at the mill particularly interesting, noting the poor conditions they lived and worked in and the small amount of pay they received.

## Sir Alan Tod Scholarship

The Sir Alan Tod Scholarship is a fantastic, once in a life time, opportunity offered to Blue Coat students. Students must make a convincing presentation, displaying their plans and arrangements for what they plan to do with the funds, if they win the award. It is a display of skill and merit, in terms of independent and individual organisational skills. It is a unique opportunity as it is entirely independent of school involvement, and allows students to take infinite gains from, what would previously be inaccessible experiences.

Last year's award winners include, Adam Gilbert who went to Leipzig & Breslau, Charlotte Holmes and Rachel Hayes who went to Australia, Lauren Perez who went to Barcelona, also Alexandra Zhong, with Steven Doran had an award made for the Edinburgh International Festival. Students who went to South Africa include, Emma Findlay, Vanessa Ferguson, James Rhodes, Georgina Hunt, Joanna Baker, Clare Roskell, Elizabeth Peacock, Megan Welsh, Elham Mahmoody, Alice Haughan, Sarah Zhao, Katie Conry, Janet Wong, and Louise Davis. Christina Coll and Elise Larkin went to France, while Carlos Walker-Ravena attended Headstart Course at Imperial College London. Elizabeth Sheerin went to Geneva for her work experience, which she describes as "rate good". Michael Devaney, Will Longworth, Lewis Wooding-Smith, Rabeel Chaudhry, Syafiq Rosidi, Shane Fernandes all went on a four day endurance challenge which involved canoeing 90 miles in South Wales, while also raising money for charity through selling wrist bands. After taking their trips students were expected to show what they learnt through their experiences by presenting them in a school assembly.

### AWARDS 2011

Name	Destination
Adam Gilbert L6J	Leipzig & Breslau
Carlos Walker-Ravena L6C	Headstart Course @Imperial College London
Rachel Hayes L6J	Australia
Emma Findlay, Vanessa Ferguson, James Rhodes	South Africa
Michael Devaney, Will Longworth, Lewis Wooding-Smith, Rabeel Chaudhry, Syafiq Rosidi, Shane Fernandes	South Wales
Alexandra Zhong L6B, Steven Doran L6F	Edinburgh International Festival
Christina Coll	France
Charlotte Holmes L6D	Australia
Georgina Hunt, Joanna Baker, Clare Roskell L6C	South Africa
Elise Larkin L6B	France
Sarah Zhao L6I, Katie Conry L6J, Janet Wong L6G, Louise Davis L6F	South Africa
Elizabeth Peacock, Megan Welsh, Elham Mahmoody, Alice Haughan	South Africa
Lauren Perez U6B	Barcelona
Elizabeth Sheerin L6F	Geneva

## The Blue Coat School Choir Tour

The Blue Coat School's bi-annual choir tour is a much-loved tradition, and 2011's tour to Italy was better than ever.

The forty-hour coach journey to North Italy was a love-it-or-hate it experience – given the sweltering heat of South Germany and Austria during the summer, many people were veering towards the latter! All was made well, however, by a healthy dose of singing on the coach, and that first cathartic glimpse of our final destination: the beautiful Lake Garda. The hotel was comfortable, furnished with a mercifully-cool swimming pool and a stunning view of the lake and surrounding hills – soon enough, we all felt right at home.



A week of varied excitement ensued – from the picturesque lakeside village of Malcesine to Verona's ancient coliseum, to the dizzying rollercoasters of the Gardaland theme park, there was something for everyone, and it was clear that this was a tour that would be difficult to forget. Our irrepressible guide, Reinhard, prevented us from getting lost on many occasions, providing an endless stream of information about the Lake Garda region.

The highlight, of course, as with any choir tour, was the music. Singing Vivaldi's magnificent 'Gloria' in the iconic Byzantine surroundings of St Mark's Basilica in Venice, the city where it was originally composed, was a real treat. Other classics such as 'Ubi Caritas' and 'Cantique de Jean Racine' were performed with real energy, and we were able to add our own choral twist to popular hits such as 'Africa' and 'Stand By Me'.



All-in-all, a triumphant tour. Many thanks to the teachers who gave up their own time to make the trip happen – Miss Horton, Mr Miller, Mr Pearson, Mr Croxton, Ms Murphy and Ms McKenzie – and especially to Mr Emery, whose choral expertise and personal warmth made his inaugural choir tour a resounding success.

## South Wales Canoe Trip

Daniel Little, Lewis Wooding-Smith, Michael Devaney, Shane Fernandes, Syafiq Rosidi and William Longworth took advantage of the scholarship to take a fifty-three mile canoe trip across South Wales. Over the course of four days they stopped at three campsites in the middle of nowhere with local shops being miles away. This meant they had to carry all their possessions within the canoe, which became an issue when Lewis' and Shane's canoe capsized. Shane lost his glasses for the remainder of the trip while Will lost his shoes trying to search for them. This trip required perseverance and independent organisation, however it included many highlights such as cooking bacon on the river bank, the serene scenery and the sense of triumph after five hours of canoeing a day. The trip cost £151 each, and the scholarship covered 82% (£121) of the price, this included canoe hire and camping sites. The trip also made an effort to raise money for charity through different means, including selling wristbands.



## Geneva

Elizabeth Sheerin took advantage of the scholarship and used it to help fund her unique work experience with the UN in Geneva. Her highlights include getting to meet officials and discuss important contemporary issues, while also having the chance to work in one of the most important institutions of our time. Another benefit was the chance to independently travel to Switzerland and meet a broad variety of people from across the world, while also experiencing a diverse environment. Including accommodation, travel and living costs the trip came to £485, however the scholarship subsidised £175 of this bringing



it down to £310. Lizzy says the unique experience was definitely worth the cost and she still reaps the benefits from it, describing the trip as "rate good".

## Germany and Poland Music Trip

Adam Gilbert and six other Blue Coat students embarked upon a tour of Leipzig in Germany, and Wroclaw in Poland. They went with other members of the Liverpool Youth Orchestra on one of the biannual tours offered by the Saturday Morning Music Centre to its senior students. The tour came to £600 including travel and accommodation and the Scholarship subsidised £300. Adam states the tour offered new opportunities to broaden horizons, including visiting monuments associated with Bach and Mendelssohn. They were also required to play two concerts in Germany and two in Poland, which included the site for Chopin's first public recital. It was not all focused on music however, and the group also participated in gold mining, bowling, going to theme parks, and tasting the local cuisine. Benefits include that it was fun, fairly priced, and added a diverse aspect to his personal statement.



by Vineet Talwar (79R)

## Art Trip to London, July 2011

Arriving at Lime Street Station early one summer Monday morning, a group of art students, art teachers and myself waited for a train that would take us to one of the cultural capitals of the world: London. It was unseasonably dark and rainy, but we didn't let the weather dampen our spirits as we boarded our train to Euston. Two hours later, as the train pulled up at the station, we had to hurry off one train only to jump onto another, this time a tube on the London Underground. Despite being weighed down by suitcases and backpacks we all made it through the busy underground station to our train without losing anyone!

Later that day we made our first official Art Trip outing- the destination, The National Portrait Gallery. Armed with sketchbooks, pencils and pens we were not only able to explore the gallery, but document our findings with notes and studies of paintings we thought interesting.

Tuesday saw us head for the two Tate galleries in London: the Tate Britain in the morning, and the Tate Modern in the afternoon. We caught the boat over the River Thames to get from one to the other, passing landmarks such as the Gherkin and the Tower of London on the way. In the galleries we got the chance to see originals of many famous paintings by a variety of artists, including Money, Hirst and Caulfield, to name but a few. It was fun to wander around the maze of rooms, each one containing new works for us to discover. Later in the afternoon we took a break from the galleries and went shopping in Covent Garden, buying presents, finding bargains and marvelling at the district's famous street performance culture.

That night we headed to the water front for a chance to ride the London Eye, and get an overall view of the capital city. When we entered the dome-like carriage it was dark and the raindrops on the window surface glittered at the flash of our cameras as we took photos of London from the air. It was a great experience, unless of course, you're afraid of heights, which luckily none of us were.

On our last day in London we headed to yet another gallery, The Courtauld Gallery, where we saw original Picasso, Monet and Van Gogh paintings. Once again we roamed the rooms, searching for pieces to capture our attention and imagination. I can say without doubt that we all found paintings that inspired us, and I feel that the art trip this year was most beneficial.

I recommend the art trips to any student who gets the opportunity to go; I was not only a lot of fun, but also an enriching experience.

*Candy Sinclair-Ford, L6J*

## Chester Zoo 2012

In February, Biology students embarked upon the enlightening annual trip to the bastion of conservation, otherwise known as Chester Zoo. It would be hard to overestimate the supreme benefits students reaped from rewarding experiences such as observing the animals they study at first hand, and gaining new depths of unparalleled understanding. As it has become entrenched in Blue Coat tradition, students visited a lecture, which this year happened to be on the riveting subjects of classification, and they also plumbed the depths of zoological experts' minds to further understand evolution. The very nature of their studies has certainly been enriched by the knowledge gained in the lecture, and also through the time they had to freely wander the Zoo grounds. Of course it was not all serious work, as students could use the day to develop the nature of their academic understandings through a more relaxed learning environment, which undoubtedly featured play areas and fast food. The Zoo also offers the unrivalled experience of getting to understand the environment of the

creatures kept within its gates, by allowing students to clamber through tunnels much like the many other beasts that inhabit burrows. New experiences were unleashed upon the students who were willing to garner information on animals majestic and mighty, big or small, such as the countless displays of insects which all certainly feature information relevant to each and everyone's Biology course.

## Skiing Mera 2012

This year over sixty students and teachers enjoyed a fantastic week of skiing in the Alpine resort of Mera. The Blue Coat School has been visiting *Alpe Di Mera* since 1990 and we have an excellent relationship with the locals. The brilliant staff of the *Sport Hotel Comparient*, our base on the slopes, contributed to a truly wonderful trip. Sunshine and blue skies provided excellent conditions for skiing, helping the beginner groups to leave the practice slope and take on the highest peak of the resort in only three days. Instructors praised the progress of their groups at the end of the week, and this was echoed in the impressive times achieved in the slalom with the students putting the teachers to shame.



But it wasn't all fun and games for the students, theory lessons in the science and history of skiing were a challenge for the GCSE PE students and some of the younger pupils could be found learning conversational Italian with Mr Adamson and Luca, our brilliant host and skiing instructor. With no major injuries, hospital trips or travel disasters, the trip was a great success and it was evident that all involved were sad to see it come to an end.

*Sam Batterton*



### Salou Trip Review

The year 8-9 trip to Salou in Spain was a fun-filled, interesting holiday. We arrived at the Spanish airport early Wednesday morning and a long coach journey followed to get to Hotel Calypso. The trip lasted 6 days and 6 nights which included many different activities. The hotel was a very welcoming place with relatively large rooms with 3-4 people in each room. During the day many of the activities included:

- A visit to Torres Wine Caves
- A two day trip to Port Adventura which included visiting the theme park and water park
- A day in Barcelona visiting famous monuments such as La Sagrada Familia
- And on the last day we spent a day in Salou, where we practised our Spanish speaking skills by ordering foods.



We would also be able to have some 'free time', this meant either playing in the hotel room or of a night we had the option of going to the beach which is 5 minutes away from the hotel. Overall we would say the Salou Trip was an amazing experience and we would encourage anybody to go there. It was great!

*Eve Singleton and Tallulah Jackman*

### Blencathra Field Trip

As part of the AS Level Geography course, a group of thirty-six Year 12 students made the annual trip to Blencathra Field Centre in the Lake District in early November of 2011. The trip was a two-night residential and involved many different activities and studies of the area.

Soon after we arrived at the Centre, we changed into our waterproofs and walking boots and hiked up Blencathra Mountain to survey the Glenderaterra Beck, a tributary that runs into the River Greta. Armed with hydroprops, clinometers and tape measures, we measured the depth, velocity and gradient of the river until we headed back to the Centre for dinner. The highlight of the day was, of course, the two-hour session in the classroom where we recorded our results on a computer. This was very useful for our Geography Practical Skills exam, which we sat in January 2012.

On the second day, we studied glaciation and learned how the mountains in the Lake District were formed. As glaciation forms a large part of the Geography specification, it was useful to see its effects in 'real life' rather than learning it out of a textbook.

We took a short coach trip to Keswick for the third and final day to look at flood defences in the town. During the free time in Grasmere, many of us visited honeypot sites such as Sarah Nelson's Grasmere Gingerbread Shop and Wordsworth's old house.

All of the students who went on the field trip benefited from the time spent in the Lake District.

*TWO PERSPECTIVES ON:*

### The Year 7 French Trip - Normandy 2011

*Emmeline Pool (8Sh) writes:*

It was a very late (or early) start, depending on which way you look at it, at 12.30am on a very wet Monday morning. Still, at least we didn't have to get up to go to school and, although we were all very excited, eventually everyone fell asleep on the long journey to Dover.

After the Ferry Crossing and a few more hours on the coach, we finally arrived at the Acorn Adventure Campsite. After the boring bit about the camp rules, a bit of unpacking and something to eat, our 'adventures' began with some fun games including one where no-one was allowed to speak – quite a challenge for some of us!!!!!!

After a good night's sleep we woke to yet more rain, but this didn't deter us from a challenging morning of slippery climbing. Following lunch the sun finally came out and we had great fun with fencing and archery outside, especially as you could improve your aim by imagining someone you didn't like!

Wednesday was our sight-seeing day and this began in Arromanches where we visited a theatre to watch a short film about the D-Day landings before going on to the D-Day museum itself. Both the film and the museum were very interesting and I'm sure that we all learned things that will be useful to us when we study WWII in history.

It was then onto Bayeux to see the world famous Bayeux Tapestry. Although we had been studying this in history, nothing could have prepared me for how amazing the real thing actually is. It was fascinating to see all the battle scenes so intricately depicted and the audio commentary brought the scenes to life as we walked the length of the tapestry.

On our way back to the campsite it was time for some retail therapy at a large French supermarket, where our knowledge of the language was put to the test. Not only did we have to translate all the signs, but we had to negotiate the checkout as well.

Thursday, our last full day, was again spent doing activities and we started in the morning by travelling to a nearby lake to do some water sports. You can imagine our surprise when we saw crocodile warning signs posted all around the lake, but felt slightly less nervous when the Acorn staff assured us that only 1 person had been eaten in the last 4 years!!!

After kayaking and some paddling we all arrived back at the campsite fully intact for an afternoon of high ropes.

The evening saw some spectacular performances from both Acorn staff and Blue Coat pupils during the 'Acorn's got Talent!' show. Less singing and dancing, more people dressed up as monkeys and bashing oranges with heads, but it was all good fun and entertaining.

Friday was spent travelling back home and we arrived safely back at school at 10pm. All in all it was a fabulous, fun-filled five days and as well as it being educational, I made a few new friends from other forms.

## Christopher Parr (7 Blundell) writes:

A little after 12 o'clock on the 18th July 2011, a weary and very excited year 7 said goodbye to their parents and clambered onto the coach, eagerly looking for a friend to sit next to on the long journey to France. A quick register and off we went. The whole coach was buzzing with excitement for the best part of half an hour and then all was quiet. Most people were asleep while others were still chatting to their half-asleep friends.

When the sun rose, so did everyone. Still sleepy but too tired to talk. As we approached Dover, there were a few people who realised where they were but others who did not have a clue. We approached the ferry and went to the services. A few people went to the Costa coffee and bought croissants and had coffee, while others on the coach wanted "a few more minutes".

We boarded the ferry and climbed up to the top to see if we could find anything to do. Some people were lying on the ground with sea sickness. A remarkable cure! At last the ferry stopped and we walked back down the staircase that led to our coach. We were now in France! It didn't feel any different although the roads were the other way.

After a long drive, we arrived at the centre. There were big tents standing there. They were our homes for the week. We were shown to our tents and then escorted to the dining tent. For dinner we had chilli con carne with assorted vegetables. What seemed like an early bedtime followed.



On Tuesday, we had breakfast and were sent into our groups for activities. We did paddling until lunch. Paddling was fun but wet. That is why we took extra clothes. After lunch it was high ropes, a multitude of different activities all involving, you guessed it, ropes. That was probably the best activity all week. Dinner followed, Spaghetti Bolognese, followed by the generation game and bed.

It was Wednesday already and it was time for an excursion. First stop the 360 cinema in Arromanches. It was all about the D-day landings in 1944. Next was a museum about the 6th June D-day landings. It told us about what the war was like and how many people were involved. Next stop, the Bayeux Tapestry, famously known for portraying the run up to the battle between the two "heirs to the throne", the Battle of Hastings. It was fantastic how much thought and detail was put into this piece of history. Afterwards we went to the nearby hypermarket E.Leclerc. Back at the centre we had dinner, chicken pasta and then we walked down to the beach and got an ice cream. Yum!! Then it was bed.

Thursday was the last full day. We did archery and fencing until lunch; two types of medieval battle. Then, after lunch, we did rock climbing on real rocks. At dinner it was sausage and mash and then the

widely known "Acorn's got talent"!! Then it was the last time for bed and all luggage was loaded.



Friday. The time was 6am. Time to depart from the Acorn site, perhaps never to return... All farewells said and we left. Back onto the ferry. Back to England. Back to Liverpool, back home.

Thank you to all the staff who came: Mr Fee, Mr Burgess, Mrs Jackson, Miss Papworth and, of course, Mrs Coltart.

## Year 7 Styal Mill Trip

In November 2011 Miss Tabern and a group of staff and associates took the whole of year 7 cohort to visit the Styal Mill Textiles and History Museum. The visit comprising of the full day for pupils was to encourage textiles and historic knowledge within the pupils. There was an added element of a 'bolt on' maths study. They were instructed to make notes of facts and observations during the day to create a resource basis for a study to be continued in school.

The students were guided around the museum and were shown lots of exhibits showing historic and practical detail of the mill and its long historic past. They had the opportunity to see the mill water wheel in motion and to learn about the lives and hardships of the people who worked in the mill in its past.

After lunch they were given the experience of the 'Apprentices' House' and saw the primitives living conditions that were considered acceptable during the Mill's working years. They were given a lesson in the actual classroom where the children who worked in the mill would have gained a very basic education in the 'Three R's' as they were then called which were actually reading, writing and arithmetic.

The students took part enthusiastically and asked useful questions when given the opportunities throughout the day. They then ultimately got to look up the long mill chimney and watch the spinning mules actually working for a little while.

The students behaved immaculately and the mill staff commented that they were 'A pleasure to guide around the museum, the best behaved school they had experienced'; we were encouraged to 'Be sure to come again next year'.

At the end of the visit came the usual souvenir shopping. Students bought their gifts, memorabilia and sweets in an excited but orderly invasion of the mill shop. I would imagine that the takings for that week were much enhanced from their spree. We made a safe and timely journey back to school bristling with all manner of purchases. A show of hands and some cheering showed that the student's opinion of the trip and contents was a positive one. Learning and pleasure combined well.

Mrs V Tabern

# Hamlet at the Young Vic, London

First-time Shakespearean director Ian Rickson's decision to take the concept of Hamlet as psychiatric in-patient, and run with it, was well-executed to the extent of having audience members access the auditorium through a back-door, simulating a passage into a hospital ward. The intention was to provide an insight into the mind of a madman. The audience shares its perspective throughout with Hamlet himself as events unfold in his consciousness. This disturbing viewpoint, which breaks down the distance between the hero's perception and what the audience understands, is sustained by music and lighting. Full houselights guaranteed an often brutal effect, while the affecting music strained to nerve-jangling degree. All of this and Michael Sheen in excellent form as the tortured, tormented and possessed protagonist!

This production triumphed in its tour-de-force, bold enactment of the play-within-a-play that made full and phallic use of Freudian psychology. Other successes included Gertrude's (Sally Dexter) womanly mystique and Ophelia's (Vinette Robinson) demented demise. It failed, to my mind, in its rigid application of the theme, but then again, we are always stuck inside Hamlet's head trying to decide whether "To be or not to be".

*Charlotte Spencer U6B*

### and again . . .

After the lengthy journey at dawn on the Virgin Invader to London, followed by the rushed tube ride onwards to the theatre, everybody seemed more than pleased to sit down, eat lunch, and retire to a seat for a little nap, however as soon as lunch was over we were briskly ushered as a group out of the Young Vic, and escorted to the back door of the building, questioning why, and being completely confused. Upon entering, the theatre was built as a mental hospital, with the group being escorted down winding corridors clad in white quilting, seeing fencing lessons in vast gymnasiums, and being greeted with locked doors, alarms and mental patients escorting us to our seats, once we had been searched, of course. Once everyone was seated the lights dimmed, and like a mirage, or some sort of epiphany, a lone spotlight on the God-like Michael Sheen shone. From then on it was three hours of non-stop thoroughly trippy theatre, portraying Hamlet as a mental patient, with a noxious mixture of Freudian jealousy and psychosis.

The main aim of the trip seemed to be to shed some light on what actually happens in the longest of Shakespeare's plays; three and a half hours, in this case, of cryptic language and extended metaphors has the tendency to leave the taste of iambic-pentameter induced nausea in the mouths of many. Even the advice to watch Disney's *The Lion King*, widely regarded as Shakespeare's main source of inspiration, enlightened nothing of the play, for me at least. However, although the erotic vacuum cleaner scene at the end of Hamlet's directorial debut at the end of Act 3 Scene II left everybody utterly bemused, everybody came away from it at least knowing the basic skeleton to the story. Whether Hamlet has converted the youth to the idea of Shakespeare is unclear, though perhaps the promise that literally every other Shakespearean play is shorter than Hamlet could be enough to win them around, to another. It would definitely appear however that it captivated its audience, bar the woman opposite on the first row who seemed much more occupied with her sandwiches than Michael Sheen, to my absolute dismay.

But don't be tricked into thinking that Michael Sheen was the only star that they could afford to employ in the production; Benedict Wong, as seen in the *Street Countdown* episode of Channel 4's *The IT Crowd* starred as Laertes, and the play featured music from dubious Mercury Prize winner PJ Harvey. Though the questionable credentials of the multi-racial cast lingered throughout, the play was filled with not only drama, but humour, and I think everybody boarded the train back with a sense of achievement, not only for enjoying the play, but more importantly understanding it, however whether or not the production will help us in our English A Level remains uncertain.

*Charlotte Boardman U6D*

## Journey's End

The year 9 trip to the Lowry Theatre in Manchester was a lovely and very interesting trip. We arrived at the Lowry about half an hour before the play was due to start. We went to see the very popular play 'A Journey's End' which centred on a trench in World War One. We were given an insight into what life was like in the trenches and they did a brilliant job of it. The play was very interesting and very informative using facts to put across, either in a comical or serious way, the harshness of their lives in the war. The dramatic ending of the play where one of the very young comrades was sadly shot when all the men had to go on the front line, was one which was very heartfelt and dramatic. I thought the actors did a brilliant job of portraying the emotions of the soldiers when their friend and comrade died. This was relevant as it showed us how the families of the soldiers who died must have felt. We saw the hurt and the sadness in the actors' eyes as though it was very real. This made the play a lot more realistic and interesting for us to watch. The play on a whole was a lovely experience and I think the actors and everyone involved in the making of the play should be very proud as they did a very good job. I would definitely recommend it to anyone who loves history or who would like to learn more about what life was like for a soldier during the war, as this play puts the facts of war across very well and in a way which everyone can understand.

Thanks to Mrs O'Rourke for organising the trip for us and for the other English teachers who came along with us that day.

*Kelly Stewart*

## An Inspector Calls

When the English department decided to take a rather large group of year 11s out for the afternoon, I'm sure the main thing that was on most of the student's mind were what lessons we would miss. However, we were in for a surprise.

After an hour long journey we all tumbled off the coach, were given our tickets by several rather flustered looking teachers, and then fell into the very comfy purple seats of the Lowry Theatre. We didn't have long to wait and after a brief patch of confusion about why an air raid siren was sounding in a play that was set in 1912, we found ourselves being whisked away by a play full of symbolism, set in a world where the upper classes ruled supreme. The highlights consisted of when the Inspector would move throughout the audience, when the Birling Family house unexpectedly fell off its supports and a nicely timed wolf-whistle at the end in response to Sheila Birling's lack of clothing.

It was an excellent play that everyone thoroughly enjoyed and has given all of us a new love of the theatre and a respect for the power of speech.

*Freya Balchin 11Sh*

## San Sebastian 2011

In April 2011 fifteen Sixth Form students, headed by Mr O'Brien and Miss Murphy, departed for the seventh year of the Spanish exchange to San Sebastian in the Basque country of Northern Spain. Following the successful visit to Liverpool in December 2011 by the Spanish students of St Patrick's English School, we were all eager to be reunited with our exchange students on their home soil.

The week began with a train journey down to London Euston followed by a network of tubes to London Heathrow. Mr O'Brien was apprehensive to say the least at the prospect of escorting 15 students burdened with suitcases on the London underground at rush hour, but he managed it admirably, walking off into the distance with us lagging behind in the crowds. Thankfully, we all made it to San Sebastian before nightfall.

Over the weekend we spent time with our respective families and met up with the other students for days out exploring San Sebastian. It soon became apparent that most of us were not prepared for the above average heat wave that had hit the North of Spain for the week of our visit, reaching 30 degrees, most swapped jeans and jumpers for newly purchased swimwear and shorts. We were able to admire the sunshine through the window of classrooms on Monday, as we observed lessons on everything from Maths to Philosophy, whilst experiencing our own taster lesson in the Basque language. Interesting as it was to gain an insight into a typical school day in Spain, the realisation that there was no air conditioning played on our minds. After a tour of the school and a taste of the Spanish cuisine available in the school canteen we were ready to go to one of the two local beaches. As the sun began to set a game of football was in full flow with the pitch marked out on the sand, to prevent any upsets, we avoided an England V Spain set up.

The following day saw a tour of San Sebastian led by a teacher from St Patricks. We developed our understanding of the Basque culture and history of San Sebastian, as we walked around the coast and through the old town. A planned trip up the steep hill of Monte Urgull to reach the Statue of Jesus at its peak, to our dismay, wasn't postponed due to the high temperatures; it was a test of perseverance which proved too much for some. However, the views of San Sebastian from the top were fantastic and made the pain and sweat worthwhile.

Monte Igeldo was also visited, this time reached by a train up the mountain side to a café with breath-taking views. Bilbao was the destination on the Wednesday for shopping, sightseeing and a tour of the famous Guggenheim museum along the bank of the river. Bilbao proved a hit, with some taking the chance to eat tapas and drink the local cider, whilst others visited the failsafe McDonalds to Mr O'Brien's disgust. Our final day trip saw a visit to the historical town of Guernica, the area provided a widened our understanding of the Basque country and the culture itself. A tour of the Guernica Peace Museum and a walk to 'The tree of Guernica' completed our sightseeing for the holiday.



On the morning of our departure, we managed a quick visit to a nearby Holocaust memorial exhibition and found ourselves in a local tapas bar to complete our 'cultural' visit. A few goodbyes and group pictures later, we left St Patricks and our Spanish families and headed back to Liverpool. The week hugely helped our studies at Spanish A Level and was a fantastic opportunity to experience first-hand the culture and traditions of the Basque country. More importantly, we made new friends and enjoyed the sun on the beach amongst the beautiful surroundings of San Sebastian.

Thank you to Mr O'Brien and Miss Murphy for coping with our group and making the trip happen!  
*Sara Edwards U6A*

## An alphabet of '...ologies'

Auxiology- The study of growth.

Brontology- The study of thunder.

Cryptozoology- The study of mythical creatures.

Dysteleology- The study of purposelessness in nature.

Enigmatology- The study of puzzles.

Fromology- The study of cheese.

Gelotology The study of laughter.

Hypnology- The study of sleep.

Irenology- The study of peace.

Japanology- The study of Japan.

Kalology- The study of beauty.

Lepidoptorology- The study of moths and butterflies.

Macrocosmology- The study of the universe.

Nephology- The study of clouds.

Oneirology- The study of dreams.

Philematology- The study of kissing.

Quinology- The study of the cinchona.

Rheology- The study of the flow & deformation of matter.

Storiology- The study of folklore.

Tartarology- The study of hell.

Urbanology- The study of cities.

Vexillology- The study of flags.

Xenobiology- The study of extraterrestrial life.

Zoology- The study of animals.

*Richard McNulty*

## Metaphor Poems

This Poem was 'Highly Commended' in a Young Writers' Poetry Competition

### The Sun

*The Sun is...  
a big ball on fire  
an overheated radiator  
the father of the universe  
a big bright light bulb  
happy and joyful  
a beacon of light  
the caring warmth of the Solar System*

*Kieran Cheung 7Gr*

### Simplicity

*Singing in the shower  
Ice cream on a hot summer's day  
Merry-go-round at a funfair  
Playing football with friends  
Leaping off a swing at the highest point  
Icing the message on a cake  
Carrying a newborn baby  
Ice skating on a cold winter's day  
Teaching a child's first words  
Yo-yos in Christmas stockings.  
Simplicity is Happiness.*

*Anon*

### LOVE

*Love is like the sun  
It makes your mouth go dry.  
Oh, love goes beneath the skin  
And can't be seen by the eye.  
Oh, love is the strongest feeling,  
If broken, people will die inside.  
If people are lucky enough to have it  
Their lives will beautifully collide.*

*Sam Potter 7Gr*

### Volcano

*A volcano is a giant dragon waiting to erupt,  
A volcano is an angry creature, smoking, spitting and roaring,  
The lava is a boiling broth, cooked up by the witches,  
If you go too close you would be guaranteed certain death,  
It has molten breath and pulsing veins,  
Don't go near it when it is in a death-defying mood.*

*Derek Zhao 7Gr*

### Volcano

*Awake it is a burning creature,  
A giant flaming dragon waiting to erupt.  
Whilst dormant it lay peaceful in the valley air,  
but now it shakes the houses and sends fear into  
the people.  
A smoking mountain; bleeding, pouring,  
Waiting to engulf you in its deathly potion...*

*Ellie Brindley 7Gr*

### Volcano

*The volcano was a livid murderer,  
Spurting gallons of intoxicating, foaming ash,  
An incurable artery retching blood,  
Destroying everything permanently that dared to tres-  
pass on its path,  
Rhythmically shuddering, having a fit,  
Slowly, yet gradually meandering its way through its  
mass of violence,  
Never to be under estimated,  
Never knowing who will be its next victim...*

*Zahra Almansoor 7Gr*

### Love

*Love is a breeze which blows in your face.  
You'll never know when love occurs; it just comes to your place.  
And in the gentle blowing breeze, there will become a face  
A face that will love you always, and hold you in a warm embrace.  
The warmth that's wavering in the breeze, why ever turn away?  
And deep inside you a little fire, will warm and burn for the one  
you love.  
And that fabulous feeling deep within, your loved one and you will  
begin.*

*Magda Przbylak 7Gr*

### Thunder

*Thunder is a jolt of anger and jealousy,  
A city's electricity,  
A nuclear reaction,  
A spasm of the heart,  
The centre of a heated debate,  
The mother of a firework,  
A comet's energy,  
A terrified baby's cry,  
The heartbeat of a giant,  
An earthquake.*

*Zahra Almansoor 7Gr*

## Modern Day Romeo and Juliet

### Standing alone

*I'm standing alone, staring ahead,  
At fields full of poppies, red.*

*Wafting gently, in the breeze,  
I long to touch their silent leaves.*

*I long to touch a silky petal,  
But I'm stuck here, with guns of metal.*

*They whisper words into my ear,  
Words which I should never hear.*

*Words of torture, words of pain,  
Words to be repeated never again.*

*I'm standing alone, in a battlefield,  
Standing on land which soldiers will yield.*

*I'm stuck in the mud, my feet like lead,  
Little did I know, there was a gun to my head.*

*Elena Lindsey Yr 10*

*Romeo Montague falls in love with a Capulet, his father's arch enemy. What can we do? He gets his priest to marry them in the church. Romeo gets asboed from the area and so must flee. In this quick, action packed novel which brings the classic Romeo and Juliet up to the modern day guns are fired and blood is shed in a rivalry between two gangs. This book is bound to keep you on the edge of your seat!*

*David Eves 10GR*

*The Montagues and Capulets were always having scraps on the streets of Verona.*

*When Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet met down the Asda and started blagging, they couldn't tell their families, cause it would start beef.*

*When Romeo stabs Juliet's Cousin and is put on a tag, the two neckers have to find a way to continue grafting.*

*Juliet comes up with a plan ending with the two topping themselves at the bus stop.*

*Georgia Staunton 10BL*

*Two sick families don't like each other so they decide to kill each other. This story follows Romeo a lad who thinks Juliet is the one because he thinks she is fit. Set in the grotty neighbourhood of Verona, Montague and Capulet can't stand each other, so the Capulet family are sly to Romeo so he offs himself when he finds out Juliet is asleep. The end.*

*Ben O'Connor 10BI*



*Carmen Zhang - AS Level*

## Oxford Dinner Trip 13th-14th April 2012



I and the rest of the group attending the trip arrived at Queen's college on a sunny Friday afternoon and checked into our rooms. The architecture of the town was stunning however the quad and surrounding buildings on the inside of Queen's college were especially beautiful; tall and grand in their appearance, it was difficult not to feel intimidated by the magnificence of our surroundings. We entered a lecture room to receive a talk about Oxford University and the huge differences it has compared to other universities across the country. For one, Oxford has a college system, whereby every student is assigned to a particular college where they live, eat, sleep, socialise and study. The college system is said to be extremely helpful as students are able to attend to all of their errands within their college. Also, each undergraduate college has around 250-500 students attending, allowing people to interact with others easily and make friends with people studying different courses.

We attended three tours of different colleges – Exeter, Brasenose and St Peter's. Each was similar in its facilities, but the appearance and architecture of all three colleges differed greatly. St Peter's is a college only 50 years old, so its relatively modern architecture differed from that of the older buildings forming Exeter and Brasenose. We were able to see the social rooms, bars, rooms, chapels and dining facilities available for students, which were all very impressive.

After attending the tours, everyone set off to get changed for dinner, which was a three course formal evening dinner in the dining hall of Queen's College. Afterwards, speeches were given by three former Bluecoat students now attending Oxford University, informing us of how they felt when put in our situation – deciding what universities to apply to and for what course. The tutorial system of the university was also explained to us, and also how helpful it was to receive at least an hour's worth of feedback from a world expert in your subject. We then went on a tour around the city at night, passing more colleges and learning some interesting historical facts about the city and buildings around it, at the end of the tour stopping off at an ice-cream shop for some refreshments.

The next day, we were free to go shopping around the town, visiting sweet shops, clothing stores and the Blackwell's bookshop. Overall I found the trip extremely enjoyable and it helped give me an insight into university life in general, whilst also encouraging me to attend open days for as many universities as possible.

*Irum Islam*

### *The Sun*

*I am the great ball of fire,  
Soaring through the sky,  
Whether it's day or it's night,  
I'm always somewhere up high.  
I never play,  
I never eat,  
I never talk,  
I never sleep.  
My friend the moon calls me when it's time,  
To fly around the earth,  
And be bright, and shine.  
In the morning I creep up on the world from  
behind,  
Slowly, stealthily,  
Like I'm part of a crime.  
Silently I rise through the day,  
Very little movement,  
Some may say.*

*But then they wonder how,  
By midday,  
I'm above their heads,  
Yet still miles away.  
Then, like a drowned sailor,  
I begin to sink,  
Plunging through the sky,  
Like I've fallen from the brink.  
People start to wonder,  
Where I have disappeared to,  
But I'm still there really,  
Just far beyond the great mass of blue.  
Wait 12 hours,  
I'll be there once more,  
Bringing light to the earth,  
When you walk out your front door.*

*Eleanor Maguire*

## Badminton Club

During the autumn term our boys and girls teams from KS3 and KS4 were all runners up in the Liverpool South and Central leagues so progressed on to the Merseyside County Round of the Center Parks National Badminton Competitions. These were held in the early spring term and the team of note was our KS3 boys who reached the semi finals but was defeated by Birkdale School in a good match. The team comprised Derek Zhao, Yr 7, Daniel Cheung, Charlie Brooke and Thomas Mullan, all of Yr 8.

Since last October the Badminton Club has met on a Saturday morning from 9-00am until 11-45am in the Sports Hall. A warm welcome is given to all students who attend and, with four courts, everyone enjoys many games throughout the morning.

*Mr K Caulkin*

## Current Affairs and Politics Society (CAPS)

Noticing a gap in the school's extra curricular timetable, Dominic McCaffrey (Chair), Rachael Kelly (Deputy Chair), Sam Liu, Jenny Riordan and Daniel Freeman took it upon themselves to establish and run a, now very successful, Current Affairs and Politics Society. The Society runs during Wednesday lunch times and has been greeted with great enthusiasm (turnout is around 25 each week!). The schedule has involved presentations on key political issues (eg. Votes at 16 & Elected Mayoral Referendums), sessions of Student's Question Time, mock parliaments and even a session of Teacher's Questions!

The society has been a resounding success and is set to run for years to come!

*Dominic McCaffrey & Surayah Kerswell*

## Year 7 & 8 Drama Club

Drama. All about expressing yourself, and hiding your feelings. About being yourself, and playing someone else. About always knowing what you're going to do next, and never thinking about it. Drama brings people together, lets you be who you want to be without ever having to change and you're never too young to see for yourself.

The year 7 & 8 drama club proves that it doesn't matter who you are, you can always enjoy drama. The Drama Club, run by Rebecca Borthwick on a Tuesday lunchtime in C01 and 1.00pm, is something all the members look forward to every week. It's never boring because Rebecca always has something different planned. We do group pieces where we all have to play along in a different scenario and act how we think our character would. Other times, we are given beginnings to scenarios and, in groups, we have to create our own endings.

Drama teaches you to be confident and ambitious, but it really depends on your drama teacher. Our drama teacher is Rebecca Borthwick. She encourages us to be ourselves and follow our dreams and she's very inspirational.

Drama may start with a school lunchtime club- but it could end in something much bigger.

*Chloe-Ellie Welsh, 8Blundell.*



## Creative Writing Club

Creative Writing Club meets on Wednesdays at 1 pm It has a relaxed atmosphere in which we bounce creative ideas off each other and share inspiration. Students have achieved a lot of success in the last year. Three of our students were finalists in the prestigious Athenaeum Writer in Residence Award: Meta Wright, Olivia Sung and Lara Rimmer numbered amongst eight finalists of 61 entries from across Merseyside. Lara Rimmer won first prize. See the separate report for more details. Other competitions we have entered are: 'Poetry Matter'; 'Express Yourself'; WWI Poetry competition to have a poem engraved on the pavement in Lime Street in recognition of the centenary of the outbreak of the war in 2014; John Betjamen 'About My Area'; Wicked; Mini Sagas; Blue Coat School Peter Arnold Craft Creative Writing Competition; BBC 2 500 word story; Luciana Berger inspired competition to win £250 of book vouchers; Poetry Rivals; Slambassadors; The Write Stuff; Foyle Young Poets and Movellas.com. There are always new competitions to enter and ideas to share. We meet on Thursdays at 1pm in WO4. Everyone is welcome to join in,

*Mrs B D G Ludlow*

## Debating Society

Taking charge of Blue Coat's Debating society this year was Nelson Idama (Co-Chair) and Jack Luscombe (Co-Chair). Meeting each Wednesday lunch time in order to deliberate upon social, moral, economic and political issues, motions have ranged from the assassination of dictators to a speed limit on Santa's reindeer.

The society has been extremely enjoyable for all those involved (both the debaters themselves and the floor) and is so popular, that each week is standing room only! It is safe to say that the debating society is key part of sixth form life and is helping many students develop public speaking, analytical and critical thinking skills.

The debating society has, and will, continue to run every Wednesday, for as long as there is one argument, there is an alternative that needs to be aired.

*Dominic McCaffrey (L6C)*

## Book Club

Charles Dickens? Angela Carter? Haruki Murakami? Yes, Blue Coat Book Club loves them all. Of course it's nerdy, but it's about the only place other than a library that you might find Edward Cullen in the same room as Mr. Darcy. We certainly talk a lot behind backs, because we discuss the books we love, the books we hate, the current books and the ones that get adapted to the big screen. We might even throw in discussions about poets and playwrights too. There's normally a book we cover (har-har) – right now it's Capote's Breakfast at Tiffany's, but we've had some Nabokov and Salinger too.

So, do you like your lengthy Russian yawns (War and Peace, anyone?) or do modern books such The Hunger Games (Peeta Mellark is a personal favourite of mine.) keep you on edge? If so, join us.

We can be found lurking in the English classrooms at Lunchtimes on Tuesdays – although sadly it is only open to sixth formers at present – or you can speak to John Anderson, Lara Rimmer or Matthew Davies for more information.

*Lara Rimmer*

### Economics Society

In the autumn/winter term of 2011, Year 12 and 13 students had the opportunity to attend a newly founded Economics society within the school. This provided A-Level economics students with the unique opportunity to hear from leading academics and to truly explore unknown and unfamiliar topics out of the A-Level specification. The majority of academics who visited the society came from the University of Manchester and Liverpool. Out of the 6 talks which took place, amongst the most popular were "Finance"- an exploration into the 08/09 crisis and its causes. An equally popular talk, delivered by a Professor from the University of Liverpool, made many links between Economics and Psychology by exploring various theories belonging to Behavioural Economics. This particular talk allowed students to try to analyse why humans, as economic agents, make specific decisions, and to discover how firms and consumers are typically "safe" and "risk-averse". An additional talk focused on Economic theory involved in two very contrasting scenarios; the market for gold (and what its price suggests about the state of an economy), and also the Somali Pirate Industry.

The newly formed society proved to be an exciting and popular extra-curricular activity within the school and it is very much hoped that future students strive to attract further speakers in order to present similar opportunities to employ "Economic Thinking" in more unfamiliar contexts.

*Brogan Moss*

### History Society

Coming to Blue Coat, I felt that the best way to get involved was to indulge a passion of mine: history. To that end, I set up the History Society, a small but thriving society made up of people between years 10 and 13 who share a love for all things historical. Every Tuesday afternoon from 4-5pm we meet up to eat biscuits and listen to invariably fascinating presentations on anything from Ancient Sparta to the Nigerian Civil War. Organising and running the society has been a highly enjoyable experience for me, as I have had the opportunity to exchange ideas with like-minded - and not-so-like-minded - people.

History society is not just for history students (although they are by all means welcome), but is geared towards people who just find history interesting and want to study what interests them without the stress or constraints of coursework or exams.

So, it is to those people that I extend my invitation. Come along one Tuesday afternoon to C21 and see what we do. Alternatively, just turn up for the biscuits - your choice.

*Marie-Claire Emecheta*

### Year 7 Friendship and Games Club

It's on all week at 1:00pm at lunch. It's on at C03. For anyone who wants fun and make their lunchtime fly by, it's a good place.

They have board games, cards and a couple of my friends learnt new games and said they would get them from the supermarket or they said they already had it and said how good it was.

It's really fun I advise that everyone come. It is fantastic. Those who have come, good. Those who haven't, come, it will be full to bursting.

*Sam Potter 7GR*

### Law Society

The Law Society meets weekly from 4-5pm every Thursday in C12, for lively discussion about legal issues, and is open to all sixth formers. Usually the sessions begin with a presentation about a specific area of the law; in the past topics have included freedom of speech, LGBT+ related laws and capital punishment. We then attempt to apply what we have learnt from the presentation to a few real life case studies. During our discussions, laws are evaluated in terms of ethics, how effective they are, and how they are enforced in order for us to analyse the law from a holistic perspective. Debates can become very passionate on particularly controversial issues, and many people benefit from taking the opportunity to play devil's advocate in order to improve their debating skills.

The Law Society also gives information about legal careers and undergraduate law. This is done in a variety of ways: well-researched presentations, Q&A sessions with current law students, and looking at resources online such as National Admissions Test for Law (LNAT) practice papers. This kind of knowledge is invaluable for anybody intending to study undergraduate law or considering a career in the legal profession in the future.

Later in the academic year we will also be hosting the annual Law Society dinner, a formal dinner for those who regularly attend the Law Society. This always features a guest speaker and so doubles as an educational event as well as a social one.

All sixth formers are welcome to attend Law Society meetings, and we look forward to meeting you in the future; we always have a selection of biscuits provided too!

*For more information, contact Mahdiah Naderali (U6I) or Marie-Claire Emecheta (U6D).*

*Jordan Matthews, L6C, adds:*

Law Society is one of The Blue Coat School's most popular societies and is educational as well as enjoyable on many levels. Various articulate discussions take place and the vast amount of knowledge which is exchanged between students is quite remarkable. It is a society thought highly of in The Blue Coat establishment, due to the spectrum of topics which are discussed. The society has proved so successful that there is even a 'Facebook group' in its honour, where members continue discussions of previous weeks and are informed on the next week's events. This year's annual Law Dinner is set to have more attendants than ever, with speakers who work in the field of Law making an appearance. The skills learnt at the society are very helpful to students hoping to pursue a career in Law, but so much is learnt that it would be beneficial to students for any university course.





## 1st XI Football



Team: M.Gunson (c), J.Kelly, G.Spruin, L.Smith, J.Rhodes, M.Smyth, A.Drew, S.Leddy, A.Gaffney, C.Jaeger, L.Findlay, S.Batterton, J.Hunt, J.Scott and J. Edwards.

Losing the old boys game at the start of the season is said to make you successful in the forthcoming season, and this season proved this myth, winning 6 games so far, most notably with the 12-1 victory over the 2nd XI. The team's defence has been very consistent with solid performances week in week out, the only problem has been finding someone to score. Goal of the season was a tough one to call, however it must go to Joe Hunt for his superb volley against Liverpool College in the 2-0 victory, although Adam Gaffney and Mark Smyth also had brilliant efforts. A great season this year and with a young team it should be just the same next year.

*Matthew Gunson*

## U14 Football

The Year 9 football squad had continued to build on the success and progress made in the previous two seasons. However the new season started slowly as we lost a semi-final held over from Year 8 to Archbishop Beck and were eliminated from the national cup after a 4-3 loss to Kings in Chester. From then on though we hit a rich vein of form as before Christmas we played with skill and passion to beat St Margaret's, SFX and Alsop in consecutive weeks. After defeating All Saints we then went on to beat Shorefields in the Echo Cup and at the time of writing we are awaiting a quarter final against Alsop.

Squad: Michael Harrison, Michael Harkness, Sam Miley, Ryan Gaffney, Kit Stephens, Liam Dunne, Dominic Burke, Natty Wyman, Liam Cors, Usen Jones (Capt), Max Thelen, Tom Fletcher, Alasdair Clark, Blaise Best-Barton, Ben Holsgrove

*Mr J Adamson*

## U13 Football

*Cameron Chalinor (captain), Adam Moorcroft, Matthew Harrison, Daniel Teh, Ben Hicks, Joe Ormesher, Sam Murray, Andrew Nolan, Matthew Cooper, Ciaran Lawton, Thomas Mullan, Jo D-Evans, Alex Tucker, Jake Odger*

Another exciting season saw the boys go on an unbeaten run in the league and the national cup, only to lose to Cardinal Heenan (national champions) 2-1.

In the Liverpool Cup we lost again, to Broadgreen after extra time and sudden death penalties: 3-3 after extra time and 11-10 on penalties.

A big thank you to the boys for all their efforts and to the parents who have supported the team throughout the year.

## 1st XI Cricket



Captain: James Rhodes

Yet again due to exams and rotten weather the cricket season was short and frustrating. We only managed to play 3 matches against tough opposition. Unfortunately we did lose all 3 so my reign as sixth form captain for the last 3 years is yet to see a victory. On the bright side there were some great individual performances from the players and a handful of year 10 students did help out, including; Dan Harvey, Sean 'The Milk' Leddy, Connell Jager, James Edwards and the one and only Mr Gavin Spruin, with a personal best top score of 8 against Formby High School in the Lancashire Cup that brought us close to victory. Looking back at the season there were no other batting contributions that are worth mentioning, sorry boys!

This year saw the controversial return of Jake Cockburn and he didn't fail to impress with a solid 4 runs scored and 1 catch. The best bowling performance by far was Jonny Kelly's debut with the ball at Wirral Grammar School with figures of 4-0-26-4, inspired bowling change by the captain bringing himself off to give the young guns a chance, and they did not disappoint.

Thanks to all the boys that played this season and let's hope we win one eventually, maybe next year.

## U14 Cricket Report

It was another highly successful year for the under 14 cricket team with the boys reaching the Liverpool Schools Final for the second time in three years. Unfortunately, on a beautiful hot, sunny day at Sefton Park Cricket Club, the boys' batting display let them down slightly and the score posted was comfortably reached by an equally talented St. Margarets team. Nevertheless, the boys should be proud at being runners-up in this prestigious competition. As a bowling unit, the team is highly capable and this was demonstrated consistently throughout the season with three of our front line bowlers all representing the Liverpool City team. Moreover, the team's attitude and commitment can rarely be faulted and their enthusiasm for cricket and representing the School is first class. My thanks to all of the boys who represented the team last summer and I look forward to taking many of them on the Barbados Cricket Tour in the summer of 2012, which will be an altogether unique test of their crickering abilities.

*S Jamieson*

## U19 Basketball



Last season for our team was as successful as any, especially considering the amount of work that comes with sixth form. Although we fell short of any silverware, we made it to the quarter finals of the national competition, losing to the eventual champions, and we put in a performance to be proud of in the Liverpool cup final. As our team's time draws to a close, and we are all set to venture off into the real world, I would like to take this opportunity to say on behalf of the whole team, a massive thank you to Mr Rees, our time playing under him has been a pleasure and an honour, a time that we will tell our children about. I would also like to reminisce upon our highlight reel, from our time spent playing in Amsterdam, to our time spent playing in New Jersey, and our time spent genuinely competing with national league sides, amazing when you consider that these teams had thousands of teenagers to choose from, whereas we had only the sixty boys who managed to pass the entrance exam. I would also like to mention all of those who I have had the pleasure to play beside: *James Rhodes, Andrew Beggs, Peter Robinson, Theo Jackson, Grant Helm, Gavin Spruin, James Edwards, Dileep Karthikappallil, Amanvir Sangha, Matty Gunson, Mike McNulty, Jamie Walsh, Aidan Riley, Shakeel Idowu-Alleyene, Syafiq Rosidi, and Jack Luscombe.* Without a doubt my fondest memory of Blue Coat will be my time spent playing basketball.

## U14 Basketball

SQUAD:

*Nathan Wyman(captain), Liam Dunne, Stephen Chen, Ali Rhalibi, Alistair Clark, Max Thelen, Blaise Best-Barton, Sam Russell, Ryan Gaffney, Adam Moorcroft, Jonathan Lam*

## U12 Basketball



## U15 Basketball



*Jonathan Chu, David Murphy, Darnel Ryan, Luke Sullivan, Callum Smith, Liam Dunne, Stephen Chen, Ali Rhalibi, Jacky Hou, Jack Kaufman- Harding, Nathan Wyman*

Last year the U15 Basketball Team had a rather successful campaign, winning the Liverpool Cup, reaching the final of the Nationals and reaching the quarter finals of the other National Competition.

In May of 2011, we reached the National Final in Nottingham, playing in the Nottingham Wildcats area. In the semi-finals of the competition we faced a tough trip to Derby to play West Park High School. Having been down at half time, the team came back to win and book their place in the National final to play Stantonbury High School.

In the final it was a closely fought contest between the two sides, unfortunately with Blue Coat coming out second best. However, reaching the final was a proud achievement for the team nonetheless, with only 50 odd boys in the year.

After coming second in the North West pool to Helsby High School, the team faced a trip to Northampton to play Northampton Boys School. Although Northampton had an England player, the team fought valiantly and were beaten after some controversial refereeing.

The culmination of the season was the Liverpool Cup final hosted at Blue Coat against Calderstones. The final result was another Liverpool Cup for the team, the fourth in four years which rounded off a successful campaign.

## U13 Basketball



## SPORTS DAY

### Year 7

Girls		Boys	
4th Blundell	70	4 <sup>th</sup> Bingham	70
3 <sup>rd</sup>	87	3 <sup>rd</sup> Blundell	93
2 <sup>nd</sup> Shirley	87	2 <sup>nd</sup> Shirley	108.5
2 <sup>nd</sup> Graham	87	-	
1 <sup>st</sup> Bingham	125	1 <sup>st</sup> Graham	128.5

### Year 8

Girls		Boys	
4th Blundell	67	4 <sup>th</sup> Shirley	88
3 <sup>rd</sup> Bingham	75	3 <sup>rd</sup> Graham	109
2 <sup>nd</sup> Shirley	111	2 <sup>nd</sup> Bingham	116
1 <sup>st</sup> Graham	123	1 <sup>st</sup> Blundell	131

### Year 9

Girls		Boys	
4th Graham	39	4 <sup>th</sup> Bingham	88
3 <sup>rd</sup> Blundell	89	3 <sup>rd</sup> Graham	119
2 <sup>nd</sup> Shirley	93	2 <sup>nd</sup> Blundell	132
1 <sup>st</sup> Bingham	120	1 <sup>st</sup> Shirley	142

### Year 10

Girls		Boys	
4th Shirley	80	4 <sup>th</sup> Graham	76
3 <sup>rd</sup> Bingham	89	3 <sup>rd</sup> Bingham	83
2 <sup>nd</sup> Graham	91	2 <sup>nd</sup> Shirley	87
1 <sup>st</sup> Bingham	98	1 <sup>st</sup> Blundell	149

## ATHLETICS - SPORTS DAY

### 4th

Girls		Boys	
Lauren McCoy	Y7	Alex Tucker & Spencer Hou	Y7
Nina Tasker	Y8	Usen Jones	Y8
Rebecca Flynn	Y9	David Murphy & Jonathan Chu	Y9
Sophie Rooney	Y10	Joel Sorby	Y10

### 3rd

Girls		Boys	
Calli Hughes	Y7	Daniel Teh	Y7
Hannah Blanchard	Y8	Stephen Chen	Y8
Hattie Power	Y9	Thomas Bath & Shashwat Singh	Y9
Grace Zdesenko	Y10	Jonathan Ashcroft	Y10

## 2nd

Girls		Boys	
Brooke Evans	Y7	Mathew Harrison	Y7
Eloise Healey	Y8	Nathan Wyman	Y8
Eden Widdows	Y9	Darnel Ryan	Y9
Erin Lee & Jenny Morris	Y10	Robert Rimmer & Luke Findlay	Y10
		Joel Best	Y10

## 1st

Girls		Boys	
Katherine Neo	Y7	Adam Moorcroft	Y7
Mia Gill & Kelly Stewart	Y8	Sam Miley	Y8
Elena Lyndsay	Y9	Luke Sullivan	Y9
Annie Mosley & Alana Borkwood	Y10	Gavin Spruin & Thomas Taylor	Y10

# CROSS COUNTRY

## 4th

Girls		Boys	
Brooke Evans	Y7	Alex Tucker	Y7
Catherine Abraham	Y8	Dominic Burke	Y8
Rachael Cheung	Y9	Nat Makin	Y9

## 3rd

Girls		Boys	
Abbie Lawrence	Y7	Cameron Chalinor	Y7
Chloe Swart	Y8	Blaise Best-Barton	Y8
Catriona Miller	Y9	Shashwat Singh	Y9

## 2nd

Girls		Boys	
Lydia Rigby	Y7	Matthew Harrison	Y7
Hannah Blanchard	Y8	Sam Miley	Y8
Katie Chen	Y9	Ben Hounslea	Y9

## 1st

Girls		Boys	
Katherine Neo	Y7	Adam Moorcroft	Y7
Eloise Healey	Y8	Nathan Wyman	Y8
Rubab Abdi & Lilly Zhong	Y9	Joseph Boyland	Y9

# Liverpool Schools Hockey League



**U18 = 3rd**



**U13 = 4th**



**U14 = 1ST**



**U12 = 2nd**

## **Merseyside County Tournament**

U12 – 3rd

U13 – Finished 3rd in their pool

U18 –

## **National Hockey Tournament County round**

U14 - 1st



Well done to all the girls who have trained and worked hard this year for the school's Hockey Teams.

All years were entered for the League and fought hard during tough matches !

## Netball: 2011-2012 season

The Year 7 team have won their league games except for one draw against St John Bosco and look set to be promoted to the premiere league next year. They have shown great commitment and team cohesion throughout the season and have impressed with their game play. The A team played in a Liverpool School Sports Partnership competition and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> missing out on 2<sup>nd</sup> place by 1 point



The year 8 team have won all except 1 of their league games and also look set to be promoted to the premiere league for next year. They competed in the Liverpool school city championships competition at St Julies where they went through to the semi-finals. Unfortunately they missed out on a place in the finals, but played St John Bosco in play-off and won to finish the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in the city.



The year 9 team continue to play with commitment and flair. They have won all of their league games except for one draw against Childwall and also look set to be promoted to the premiere league next year.



## Athletics

Due to Founders Day only Yr 10 girls were able to attend the annual South District competition.

The following girls qualified for and competed in the City Finals Event and finished in the following medal positions:

Alana Borkwood: Shot Putt: 7.18m = 1<sup>st</sup> place:

### CITY CHAMPION

Annie Mosley, Erin Lee, Lauren Cuddy,

Sophie Rooney:

4 x 100m Relay: 57.09s = 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Erin Lee: 300m: 47.97 = 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Jenny Morris: 800m: 3.00.40 = 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

## Rounders

All teams were well committed to practices and playing matches in the South Liverpool School League. They continue to improve and hopefully will qualify for the finals this year.

### A Limerick

Mrs Roberts' fantastic limerick, performed when she paired up with Miss Tyers to com-père Winged Words last year, is printed here by request:

*There was a young girl from Blue Coat  
Who learnt all her poems by rote.  
All went quite well  
Right up 'til the bell  
When her chewy got stuck in her throat!*

THE

# LIVERPOOL BLUE COAT BROTHERLY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1072458

**Motto: "And may all its proceedings be characterised by brotherly love."**

The Blue Coat Brotherly Society (sometimes known as the "Old Blues' Association") was founded in 1838, with the principle objective of assisting, advising and promoting the well-being of the boys who attended the school. Members of the Society would "look after" Blue Coat boys for at least two years after they left the School, visiting them at home or work, and providing financial assistance where necessary and appropriate. This was of great benefit to the boys, and the care thus shown had a tremendous influence on their lives and careers.

Nowadays there is not much need for this kind of assistance, so the Society has turned its attention to projects that would benefit the School as a whole. Membership is open to all ex-pupils and teachers.

We also have a range of memorabilia on sale, and have published four superb books by former pupils (and teachers) of the School. See inside back cover for details.

All students who are about to leave The Blue Coat School are invited to contact us and be added to our database – you will then be kept up to date with events and news.

Please take a look at our website:

**[www.bluecoatbrotherlyociety.co.uk](http://www.bluecoatbrotherlyociety.co.uk)**

E-mail: [admin@bluecoatbrotherlyociety.co.uk](mailto:admin@bluecoatbrotherlyociety.co.uk)

Post: PO Box 269, Dewsbury, WF12 0BW

Tel/fax: 0844 504 7703

If you are an "Old Blue", you can contact us for a free copy of our latest Newsletter.

*Thank you to the Blue Coat Brotherly Society for its generous donation to the Squirrel Magazine  
- Editor*

## PRIZE QUIZ

*There is a prize for the first person to hand all correct entries to Mrs Ludlow.*

1. Where is the final resting place and memorial stone of Andrew Motion's predecessor?
2. Where is the home of the league football club closest to the River Mersey?
3. What place, in the U.K., was declared the most cultured place in Europe in 2008?
4. Where would you find The Prisoner?
5. Where was Macbeth's Castle?
6. Which is the UK's smallest city?
7. Where was Dolly the sheep's birthplace?
8. Where was the first cricket club in the UK?
9. Which international footballer was paid £300 to head the 'Campaign to Raise Awareness of How Great the Railways are'?
10. In Greek Mythology, who was killed by an arrow through his heel?
11. On a standard Monopoly board, what colour is Leicester Square?
12. Which of the Ivy League Universities was the first to be founded, back in 1636?
13. Which nation were the English at war with when the Mary Rose sank?
14. What is the name of the transparent part of the eye that covers the iris and the pupil?
15. What is keraunophobia?

*Thanks to Mr Newton for providing the prize -Editor*

## PROLOGUE

*Five hundred years ago, in the town of Heroica, a vast thunderstorm had been raging for two weeks, thunder, but no rain.*

*Sitting glumly on his throne, King Richard figures the brave heart was being entertained by the court jester.*

*"Try all you can, nothing will make me happy again," said the King.*

*As the jester was leaving the Princess walked into the hall. Then the King's frown turned into a smile as she ran to him and hugged him.*

*All of a sudden the lightning from the cloud directed a huge bolt of lightning towards the castle's stained glass windows causing them to shatter. The Princess screamed as a swirling vortex of lightning grabbed her and sucked her into the heat of the storm like a giant hand picking up a doll. As she disappeared into the eye of the storm, the centre imploded and the cloud vanished.*

*"Noooooo, my one joy in this world has slipped through my fingers. SQUIRE!!" A small man wearing a feathered cap walked into the room.*

*"Yes your highness," said the man with a quivering voice. "Send word out to the towns people I want all of the most valiant men to try and rescue my daughter, anyone who can rescue my daughter will be greatly rewarded, nothing will stand in my way until she is back to me safe and sound, NOTHING!!!"*

*Matthew Stables 8Sh*

## Olympic Swimmers' Visit

Olympians past and present recently attended the Blue Coat School in Wavertree. Steven Parry, an ex-student of the School officially launched the start of the School's Olympic Celebrations that will run until the start of London 2012.

Steven, a Bronze Medal winner in Beijing 2008 (200m Butterfly) met with the GCSE, AS and A2 PE students before talking to an assembly of over 500 students.

This was followed with a visit from Michael Rock, who recently qualified for the Olympics in the 100m Butterfly. Michael's visit was made possible by local business BMW Williams.

Michael gave a presentation, answered a Q & A session with Year 9 and Year 10 GCSE students and put promising swimmers through their paces via a master class at the Wavertree Aquatics Centre.

PE Teacher Pete Phelan said of the visit "I would like to thank Steven and Michael for giving up their time to visit the school and to speak to the students. It has been 64 years since the Olympics was last in our country and everyone is excited. We have lots of activities planned both Sporting and Cultural to celebrate London 2012. Steven and Michael were both inspirational and motivational and have given our students some invaluable advice on their future aspirations. We all wish Michael the best of luck this year and hope he will emulate Steven and win a medal".



Mr P. Phelan

## Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

The following students successfully completed all aspects of the Bronze Award and received their certificates in March 2012:

### Year 9:

Sana Aniq

### Year 10:

Abbie Hoyte  
Alicia Rice  
Lucy Preston  
Niloofer Sharifi  
Tom Taylor  
Daniel Harvey  
Josh Mottram  
Peter Harrison  
Adam McGowen  
Luke Findlay  
Mani Chellappan  
Hania Aniq  
Laura Gillen  
Rachel Rice  
Grace Crichton

Jenny Morris  
Katie Skarrats  
Alana Borkwood  
Nicole Jackson  
(Nina Deforges)  
Drew Whitfield  
Jonathan Ashcroft  
Jamie Court  
James Edwards  
Connell Jager  
Grace Coleman  
Buneet Gumbhir  
James Lovell-Kennedy  
Sham Jagota

### Year 11:

Ben Neo  
Anthony Reid  
Charlie Power  
Mark Morrow  
Dileep Karthikappalil

James Rooney  
Joel Sorby  
Bianca Cascus  
Charlotte Owens

### Light

What is light?  
Light is life,  
Light is day,  
Light is the only way.  
Light is love,  
Light is warm,  
Light is the heavens from above.

What is dark?  
Dark is death,  
Dark is night,  
Dark is a sorry sight.  
Dark is hate,  
Dark is cold,  
Dark is Hell from below.

What are we without light?  
We struggle to have a life.

Light makes the world go on,  
Imagine it if it was gone.

We need to hold on to the pleasures of  
Light!  
It is such a wonderful delight.

If light is life, Then dark is death.  
If light is love, then dark is hate.

Now you realise how it would be,  
Look after and cherish it.  
Think, if we could not see.

Alice Nicholson

## Raymond Catesby

I have a passion about my family history which is quite interesting and involved in various foul deeds, and some famous conspiracies with Richard III, Elizabeth I, James the First, Churchill, Rudolph Hess, the suspicious death of the Duke of Kent in 1942, D-Day and Diana Spencer, the first battle of the Ironclads and Mark Catesby the "Colonial Naturalist".

I was at the school between 1963 and 1970. I studied and practised architecture for 23 years and then became the Force Architect Liaison Officer for Greater Manchester Police specialising in Designing-Out Crime using psychological and physical means. My role was to sell the concept to politicians, government, local authorities, architects, planners and developers etc. making numerous TV appearances etc about it and held press conferences at Scotland Yard. Since retiring I am involved in stadium security and anti-terrorism advice, covert security work and security equipment. I have been involved in seven near misses with IRA Bombs and been all over the world, including British Universities, lecturing on Crime Prevention, Anti-Terrorist Precautions and Designing-Out Crime.

Robert Catesby (leader of the gunpowder plot), the Spencers (of Diana fame) and the Shakespeares (of William fame) were all near neighbours and sheep merchants or farmers. Robert and William knew each other as children and the Catesby's and Spencer's inter-married. Shakespeare wrote Richard III including one of Catesby's forebears. Richard III had three henchmen who are in the play Lords Lovell, Ratcliffe and Catesby (who he made first speaker of the House of Commons). The public at the time were not happy with these three and Richard whose coat of arms was a Hog, Catesby's a cat, and Lovell's a dog. Somebody pinned the following epithet to the door of Westminster and paid for it with his head: "The Cat The Rat and Lovell the Dog ruleth all England under The Hog!"

Our History teacher was Mr Ratcliffe, I was Catesby, we had a Phil Lovell in class, and Richard Tippin (I), Richard Bates (II), Richard Anderson (III).....this was an amazing coincidence for all the namesakes to be in one history class and tickled both me and Mr Ratcliffe (history teacher extraordinaire). It is rumoured Shakespeare may have been involved with the plot later, certainly Catesby's father was earlier in the 1601 plot against Elizabeth I.

The second is due to me growing a moustache and beard during my A-levels and the period of revision before them....remember sixth form uniform? No sixth form college then!

I duly appeared for the exams with the extra facial hair and various teachers and presumably governors flipped their lids as my parents received the following letter from the headmaster which I still have in my scrapbook of the time. I have just remembered having opened it for the letter that I acted for the Daily Post and Echo as a reporter for a school cruise I went on with the school having won an essay competition.....more of that later.

The letter:

*Dear Mr and Mrs Catesby*

*Report has it that your pleasant young son is sporting a beard. During his period of leave of absence I am not unduly concerned about this minor eccentricity though I confess to not being over pleased about it. To avoid any serious issue developing, I must state now that when the time comes for your son to return to school after the end of his leave of absence, he must be his normal, sparkling, clean-shaven self.*

*Best wishes*

*Yours sincerely*

*H. P. Arnold Craft*

Just brilliant....I returned with the beard and another pupil with long hair and another who had got a temporary job working nights in a bakery and was sleeping in the prefect's study during the day! This was now the period at the end of the exams and up to the end of school and the leavers service. We all got an immediate invite to the heads study for sherry and a chat being prefects and sixth formers. I put my case that I could vote, die for my country go into a pub and consume alcohol legally, and that some teachers were only four years older than me and this beard would give me more authority as a prefect. The head in his inimitable way agreed with all points and said I had debated strongly, made some very good points and showed good logic of which I could be proud of...and then said "but Catesby if you don't go away from here and immediately shave it off I will expel you..in fact all three of you.....(long long silence).....unless you all accept my deal.....you win for me the Merseyside Tennis shield for the third successive year, meaning we kept it, and don't show your face here again until the leaver's day service and for tennis matches. We agreed....and everybody lived happily ever after!

My report on the cruise had to be sent by Marconigram....the number of letters determining the cost. Thus all ands, buts, ifs, etc were taken out by the sender and reinserted by the recipient.

I got into a lot of trouble with my shipmates over this because of the following.

My original report said "those up to eating have had adequate if not delicious food but sea sickness has taken its toll on passengers" .....the Marconigram read "those up to eating had adequate delicious food but sea sickness has taken its toll on passengers".....in the printed paper it read "those up to eating have adequate and delicious food but sea sickness has taken its toll on passengers".....they didn't agree with me when we got back and it was a good job I kept my original script, the marconigram and the article to prove it!

## Craig Curran

Hi Mrs Ludlow,

Thank you for your recent letter and the copy of the Squirrel. I remember the Squirrel from when I was in school which seems like it was yesterday.

I have very fond memories from my time at Blue Coat from the day I started until the day I left. My favourite memory was when my form Blundell won the house cup in year 10. We were definitely the underdogs as Graham and Shirley had most of our football team in them and most of my friends, which made it even better when we won haha! We beat Graham in the first game and we went on to beat Shirley in the final on penalties. We celebrated like we had just won the World Cup but that just shows how much it meant to us.

Like I said, I really enjoyed my time at the school and I made some great friends and I really did get on with my teachers even though I know I was a handful at times haha! Please send my regards to the teachers in particular Mr Phelan as I appreciate everything he did for me and I hope he and his family are well.

Thank you, and if there is anything I can do to help the school in any way please just get in touch; it will not be a problem.

*[Craig now plays for Carlisle United, having had a spell at Tranmere Rovers.]*

### Kieran O'Sullivan

I attended the School from 1998 – 2005 and still look back on my school days as some of the happiest and best times of my life. My favourite subjects were English, French and Spanish, thanks to some inspiring teachers during my time there. I remember my English lessons in Yr 7, our wacky teacher Mr Johnson walking around the classroom on his hands whilst he was teaching. Then in Y8 and Y9, I loved learning French and Spanish with the charismatic Miss Andreo (Mrs Irvine) and Mr Adamson, with a highlight being a football trip to Spain in Yr 9. In Sixth Form, I studied English, French, Spanish and Politics; my favourite subject was English Literature, helped by Mr Gleave's enthusiasm and Miss Casson (Mrs Ludlow)'s encouragement and support with the Creative Writing Club. It was my pleasure to have played football for the school over the years and in Sixth Form I was proud to be captain of the Second XI team; Mr Adamson was the manager and we used to discuss tactics and performances after Spanish lessons.

I left Blue Coat in 2005 and went to study English and Communication Studies at the University of Liverpool and graduated in 2008 with a 2:1 so I can now effectively communicate in English! During my summers at University, I obtained a study visa and lived and worked in New York for two summers and travelled around the USA and Canada which was a great life experience and gave me the 'travel bug'. After University I decided to go travelling before starting my career and went to live and work in Australia for a year. I worked in Brisbane for about 6 months and travelled around the country and absolutely loved it. After returning, I worked for a marketing company in Liverpool for a few months before starting a graduate internship in 2010 at the University of Liverpool in the Student Recruitment and Admissions Office. I have been there for about 18 months and I am now an Education Liaison Officer, going to schools and colleges across the UK and Europe talking to students about Higher Education.

My advice to anyone thinking about applying to University is that there is so much more to University than just getting a degree. For me, University is the opportunity to meet people from all walks of life from around the world and is such an amazing life experience with endless opportunities. University not only gives you the knowledge, skills and experience to prepare you for your future career, but it really opens your mind to the world of opportunities out there.

I am very proud and feel very lucky to have gone to Blue Coat and many of my best friends today are friends from school. I will hopefully be visiting the school over the next couple of years in my current role and look forward to seeing some friendly and familiar faces.

### Steve Parry

The Blue Coat was always the school I wanted to go to as it's where my father went many years before. It's been a wild ride since I left back in 1995 and I always reminisce when I drive past the grand clock tower and Chapel. Since Leaving I spent 4 fabulous years at Florida State University studying Marketing and Finance with my education paid for through a swimming scholarship. Since most American students spend \$30,000 a year in college fees this was a brilliant opportunity and worth all the 5.30am starts throughout my Blue Coat days. Business school helped shape my passion for enterprise and it was whilst in America I decided I wanted to own my own business. Whilst over in America I became only the 3rd British person in History to win the highly prestigious National Collegiate Athletic Association Swimming Championships. This gave me great confidence and I decided to return to Great Britain after completing my studies and become a professional Swimmer.

After retiring from swimming in 2005 I had been European Champion, a multiple Commonwealth Medallist and an Olympic Medallist but my proudest moment was captaining the Olympic Team in Athens Olympics 2004. There were too numerous adventures to go into in this short article but it is fair to say the opportunities sport gave me changed my life. After the swimming career I went into the media presenting swimming programmes on TV and Radio and also covering the Olympics on BBC Five Live. In addition to the media career I spend a lot of time doing motivational talks for big business, showing how the tools and techniques athletes use to become world class can be transferred into business.

Rather than just talk about it, I also decided to start my own businesses in Swimming and Gymnastics getting as many people involved in sport as possible. On the Swimming business we run events and have learn-to-swim schools but also provide temporary swimming pool technology to those who don't have access to swimming lessons. Every year we teach 30,000 kids to swim, from some of the most deprived areas of the country. I work with the World champion Gymnast Beth Tweddle using a similar business model in Gymnastics and this year the business will expand twofold.

Most importantly, in the 17 years since I left the Blue Coat, I have met thousands of people all over the world and managed to experience many different cultures. I believe our experiences shape who we are and am extremely grateful to the Blue Coat for the platform it gave me to take in lots of the world has to offer.

### Final Words

Being an editor of 'The Squirrel' has been challenging at times; especially when you are new to the school and have the task of finding teachers whom you have never seen before! I apologise to any teachers I have called the wrong name due to the rather vague descriptions my friends had given me about the teachers I was supposed to find. However, I

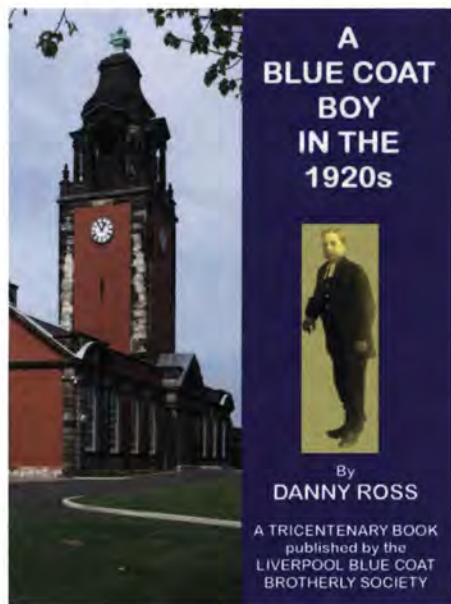
have found it a very enjoyable and exciting experience overall. I particularly enjoyed interviewing Mr Ainsworth and Mrs Rimmer about their successes in running a marathon, and I thank them for their time. I am still hoping to see Mr Ainsworth in 'Bella' magazine next month after his rapid weight loss! I advise anyone thinking about joining the editing team next year to apply as I have not only enjoyed my experience with the team, but I have learnt many invaluable skills which will help me beyond sixth form and university.



Surayah Kerswell

# BOOKS ABOUT THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL

A series of four paperback books by past pupils and staff, published by the Brotherly Society.



**Danny Ross** arrived at the school in 1924, when it was The Blue Coat Hospital, a charitable boarding school for boys and girls. This book was first published in 1996. Danny passed away in 2004 at the age of 90.

**Hugh Stephenson** arrived during the war when the school was evacuated to Beaumaris. He describes the school's evolution into a bi-lateral boys' school, with boarders and day-boys.

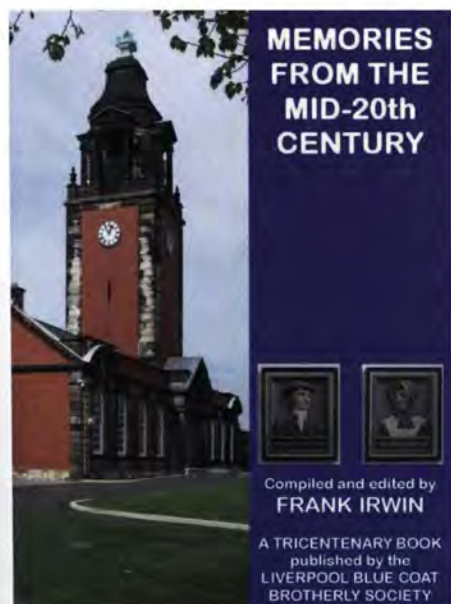


**RECOLLECTIONS OF TWO BLUE COAT BOYS 1944-1955**



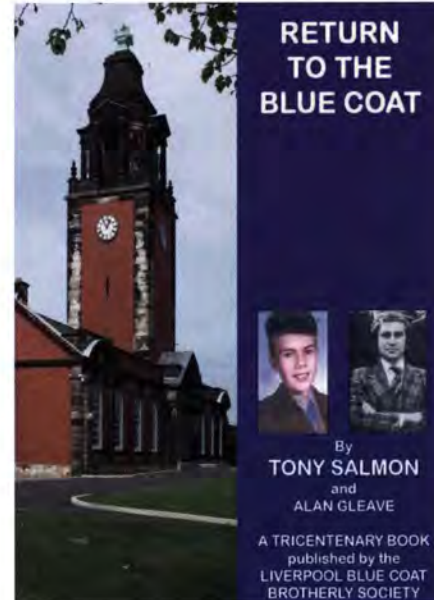
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**Frank Irwin** was here in the 1950s and has collected a wealth of stories from many pupils and a couple of teachers - by far the most comprehensive book in the collection.

**Tony Salmon** was a day-boy in the 1970s and is now Hon. Secretary to the Brotherly Society. He was not exactly the best pupil in the school's history! His English teacher **Alan Gleave** (who was here from 1975 to 2005) co-writes.



**RETURN TO THE BLUE COAT**



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They can be ordered **by post** (cheques payable to "Liverpool Blue Coat Brotherly Society") from PO Box 269, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, WF12 0WB.

They can be ordered individually or as a set **on-line from the Brotherly Society website** using any major debit or credit card. A charge of £1.50 per book (or £5.00 per set) will be applied for post & packing.

**[www.bluecoatbrotherlyociety.co.uk](http://www.bluecoatbrotherlyociety.co.uk)**

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