

SQUIRREL

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL

2009/10





PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Chair
Mrs L Lynch

Secretary
Mrs J Findlay

Treasurer
P J Lynch

Is proudly sponsored by
Barclays Bank plc and David M Robinson Jewellers

**We would also like to express our gratitude to our other sponsors,
without whose generosity the Parents' Association would not have
been able to raise the substantial sums which have subsequently
benefited Blue Coat pupils during 2009**

**Aigburth Hall Nurseries
Aston Martin
Beatles Story
Bobbars (Allerton Road)
Comet (Edge Lane)
David Lloyd (Speke)
Direct Instrument Hire
Knowsley Safari Park
Neil Smith Hairdressers (Aigburth)
Oddbins (Allerton Road)
Stratstone of Wilmslow
Tesco (Mather Avenue)
Toni & Guy (Allerton Road)
Williams Mini (Liverpool)
Woodlands Spa (Aigburth)
Wowballs (Albert Dock)**

*Thank you to all parents, staff, pupils, Governors and friends who
have supported the Parents' Association at our events.*

LIVERPOOL BLUE COAT SCHOOL



SQUIRREL

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL

09/10

Editor: Mrs B D G Ludlow

Editorial Team: Zoe Bond, Mathew Costello, David Jeffery,
Shaun Rigby and Olivia Thompson

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

Cover illustration: Daisy Zhai, Year 11

Photograph of Ice Sculpture from Leavers' Ball 2009: Mr S Cox

First published in 2010 by The Blue Coat School
"Squirrel 2009/10" © Blue Coat School MMV
Designed and produced by Crown Printing, Liverpool

Contents

Editorial	3	Drama	
Headteacher's Report	4	Now Playing ...	50
Avete	7	School Trips	
Valete	10	Tod Travel Scholarships - Institute of Marine Science	52
Pupil Achievements		Tod Travel Scholarships - Kerala, Southern India	52
Entry into Higher Education	14	Year 7 Chill Factore Trip	52
Form Prizes	17	The Caretaker	53
Academic Prizes	17	Howarth Report	54
Special Prizes	18	Frankenstein Performance Theatre Trip	54
Mathematics Leaders Awards	18	Chemistry Trip - Year 8	54
Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards	19	The Curious Case of Benjamin Button	55
School Colour Awards	19	Camp Kenya	56
Success in Music Examinations	20	Chester Zoo	56
GCSE Results – Summer 2009	22	Science Trip to Catalyst Museum	57
A level Results – Summer 2009	22	Mock UN Day Politics Department	57
British Physics Olympiad 2010	23	Nuestros Viaje a San Sebastian	58
Science Specialism	23	Oriel, the Boy from Spain	58
The Mathematics Specialism	24	Year 7 PGL Trip	59
Duke of Edinburgh Awards	26	Oxford Dinner	59
Specialism Community Links	27	A Visit to Helmsshore Mill - Year 7	60
Blue Coat Writing Successes	27	Cadbury World	60
Putting the I into Imagine Poetry Competition	29	A Geography Trip to Blencathra	60
The Best Job in the World	30	Blue Coat Students visit Stick 'n' Step	61
Target 2.0	30	Peter Pan-tomime	62
Poetry of Place Competition 2010	31	Students & Staff	
Olivia Sung's Writing Success	34	Girls' Reunion	63
School Events		Prize Quiz	64
Particle Physics, the Large Hadron Collider	35	Blue Coat Parents' Association	64
Reviews of the Enrichment Week	35	Teacher Quotes	65
The Best of British	38	Teacher News	65
Santa Dash 2009	38	Out of the Blue	66
Enrichment Week	39	Just for Fun - Squirrel General Knowledge Quiz	68
Year 12 Enrichment Day	39	School Sports	
The Windows Project	41	Sports Day Results	69
The Royal Marine Band Service	41	Individual Year Champions	69
The Cultural Food Sale	42	Cross Country	69
Year 7 Social	42	Year 9 GCSE PE Group	70
French Exchange Trip - June 2009	43	The Charity Cross Country Race	70
GCSE Religious Studies - Hinduism Day	43	Liverpool Parks Tennis Tournament	70
Clubs and Societies		Badminton	70
Creative Writing Club	44	Year 7 Football	71
Chess Club	44	Year 7 5-a-side	71
Philosophy Club	44	Cricket U12 and U15	71
Parents' Association Gifts to the School	44	Basketball U15, U16, U19, Yr7, Yr8	72
and Parents' Association Report	64	U15 Football	73
Physics Club	45	St Laurence College Trip	73
IT Club	45	Athletics	73
Craft Club	45	KS4 Boys Badminton	73
The Library	45	1st XI Football	74
The Law Society	46	1st XI Hockey	74
Christian Union	46	Netball	74
Snag Report	46	Athletics	74
The Liverpool Blue Coat Brotherly Society	47	Cheerleading	75
Music		Dance	75
Music Report	48	Creative Writing & Art	throughout the magazine
Leipzig Choir Tour 2009	49	Aftershock	80

Welcome to the 2010 edition of The Blue Coat Squirrel magazine. I'm sure you will find items of interest to you within its pages, and perhaps even discover that you are featured. I am very grateful to all staff and students who have helped to compile its contents.

As a school community, this year brings us new opportunities and challenges, which are always embraced with enthusiasm: the A2 exams; a host of staff arrivals; the introduction of a new subject (Philosophy) and clubs and societies expanding.

The Blue Coat School prides itself on its continuous academic success (see Mrs Silcock's 'Prizegiving' speech for specific details). Set your goals at realistic targets this year, but don't forget to include your dreams in your 'wish list'. With courage, determination and ingenuity, you could well find your aspirations being fulfilled.

I hope 2010 is a happy and successful year for you.

Mrs B D G Ludlow
Editor

I am very grateful to the Editorial Team, whose unstinting efforts to type, email, interview and pester have made this magazine possible. Thanks to Mr D Newton of the School Library for the provision of the prize for the quiz; to the Art Department for the wonderful pictures, and to Mr K Caulkin for most of the photography.

Many thanks, too, to all staff and students mentioned within these pages; it is your success that we celebrate.



Sarah Hodgkiss, *A Level*

Headteacher's Report 2009

Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Sir Howard Newby, Distinguished Guests, Members of Staff, Governors, Trustees, parents and students; current and former students whose achievements we are here tonight to celebrate. A very warm welcome to you all.

In the autumn term there were a few remaining celebrations to complete the 300th birthday year, the most notable being the visit of the Duke of Gloucester in November. This was coordinated by the office of the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside and the school was pleased to welcome His Royal Highness, the Duke of Gloucester, members of his Household, plus The Deputy Lord Lieutenant, the High Sheriff, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress and other civic dignitaries to a tour of the school. Our distinguished visitors had the opportunity to meet staff and students, listen to a brief concert, with an exceptional Trumpet voluntary by Peter Athans, and enjoy a lunch in the Boardroom. As a trained architect the Duke was most impressed with the building, especially the mix of the old and the new and he admired particularly our wonderful Chapel.

Our community links have become even stronger this year in a variety of ways. During the year, the Governors of the school were asked to consider supporting Parklands High School in their move to becoming a National Challenge Trust School, so that educational standards can be raised further for the students in the Speke area of Liverpool. In their deliberations the Governors of Blue Coat School reminded themselves of the purpose of the foundation of the school back in 1708, which was to provide educational standards for the young people of Liverpool, and they reflected on the school motto 'Not for oneself but for all,' and so agreed to the partnership.

The Blue Coat School has been joined by other partners, The University of Liverpool, The Royal Liver Assurance Group and Liverpool City Council. Blue Coat currently provides support through Trustees and Governors, including the Chair of Governors as well as contributing to joint projects, such as a Forensic Day through the Science and Maths specialism and Enterprise project days. Our involvement with Parklands has proved to be stimulating and rewarding for all concerned.

The Blue Coat School has submitted a bid to be part of a £350 million Liverpool Secondary School programme, known as Building Schools for the Future, the aim of which is for Liverpool to transform learning. Although this project is in the development stage, it is important that we look forward so that our young people benefit from the investment in Educational buildings and Technology.

The school entered the second year of its specialist school status in Science and Maths with great enthusiasm. There has been a larger programme of enrichment trips, competitions and lectures. All year groups had a dedicated Science Enrichment trip, such as all of Year 10 visiting Jodrell Bank. Many students attended lectures at the Universities. Some Year 12 students worked during their summer holiday at Liverpool University for the Nuffield Bursary.

The annual Rathbone Lecture had a Maths focus this year, the topics being The Maths of Invisibility and Non-Euclidean Geometry. Other events have included the Fun Maths Roadshow, the Inspiration Lectures and workshops on Bridges, Maths and Design and Kite

making. Two challenges that students entered were the National Cipher Challenge and Jaguar Cars in Motion. The academic targets for specialism were met and the excellent work continued to grow and develop with the four partner primary schools.

However, the most impressive statistic from this year is that the number of students going on to study Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths at University is 61, with a further 32 students studying medical related courses. There is a national priority to increase the number in these areas and Blue Coat students are certainly helping to address this shortage. The specialism brings much excitement, interest and opportunities for the students as well as enhancing all aspects of the School, for example in Geography, Physical Education, English and Business Studies. All of this serves to inspire and stimulate staff and students alike as they involve themselves in a range of challenging activities.

September 2008 saw the school become fully coeducational again. The boys and girls that had begun in September 2002 had become young men and women and were starting their final A-level year. This year group had been joined at the beginning of the Sixth Form by some very special students from other schools and colleges from Liverpool and beyond. Expectations were certainly high for this cohort of students. They did not disappoint.

Exam results are always a significant focus for the school and this year was no exception. At GCSE, for the third year running, all the students achieved 5 plus A*-C grades, including English and Maths. 77% of all grades were A or A*; 8 students achieved all A* grades, the best performance so far. There are some phenomenal stories behind those statistics, but there was a unique occurrence for one student. Olivia Thompson, who as well as achieving 12 A* grades, also attained an Advanced Extension Award, a beyond A level qualification, with Distinction in Latin.

I have already mentioned the Year 13 students, for whom the school had very high expectations at A-level. They managed to exceed all the targets that had been set for them. 32 students achieved 4 or more Grade As at A level. There were 9 students who had conditional offers from Oxford and Cambridge and all of them surpassed their required grades so that they were able to accept their places.

Overall, 81% of all grades were at A or B, with an overall pass rate of 99.7%. These are the best figures that the school has ever achieved. Although there are a variety of League tables published at the time of the results, the one that does give an overall picture is The Sunday Times Parent Power tables in November, which combines GCSE and A-level performance. In the best state secondary school tables, the school was placed in 30th place for 2009, an improvement on 60th in 2007, and 57th in 2008. These tremendous achievements mean that the vast majority of students are able to go to their first choice of University. We are very proud of their success.

It is also pleasing to note that in other external exams and assessments, particularly AS, that excellent results are there which augur well for continuing success this year.

The school's Entrance exam continues to attract a large number of students, about 700 from a wide ranging area, and takes place in early October. The organisation and running of this event is a huge operation and can be managed successfully only with the support of many

different groups from the Blue Coat School, staff, parents, Governors, friends, and students, many of whom act as invigilators and guides. A heart felt thank you goes to all those involved.

The Parents' Association has had another successful year especially in raising funds and in making parents feel welcome, an area in which they excel. The organisation of a variety of events, from Student Discos to a sophisticated Casino night ensures all tastes are met. The major focus for their fundraising has been a complete Sound and Lighting system for Shirley Hall. Their loyalty and dedication is a huge asset to our community.

The school play took place in February earlier this year and the choice of production was Thoroughly Modern Millie, a showcase for the acting, singing and dancing talents of Blue Coat students. Although coordinated by members of staff, the main producer and choreographer was James Lacey; a former student who left the school 2 years previously. It is so remarkable to see ex-students willing to give their time and talents to the students of the school. It was an excellent production, which was appreciated by full houses on the three nights, with an additional night for the elderly people from local centres.

Musically the school continued to excel, with the Carol Service and Christmas Concert in the autumn term, the Spring Concert and the Summer Recital all containing a variety of excellent individual and group performances. For the choir, these concerts all led to July, when it travelled to Germany to participate in the International Leipzig Choir Festival. They attended master-classes with Jonathan Wilcocks and performed in 4 concerts and other impromptu performances in a variety of historic venues. This was a truly cultural experience as Leipzig was the home of Mendelssohn, Bach and Goethe. The choir very much enjoyed meeting and performing with other choirs, especially one from Australia. The last concert in the Gevendhaus proved particularly memorable as the choir's rendition of 'Can You Hear Me?' with the sign language drew rapturous applause and a standing ovation; this was a proud and poignant moment for Mr Cook as his last time as Blue Coat Musical Director.

Sport continues to thrive at the Blue Coat School. In October 2008, the Senior Girls Hockey team and the Under 15 Basketball team travelled to Amsterdam and participated in a festival of sport. There were many City Champions in a variety of sports and athletic events. The Dance group, of all ages, have participated in competitions in the City and as cheerleaders in the Manchester Velodrome. There was the annual Dance Show over two nights and they also participated in Liverpool Unites in Dance show for the Rhys Jones memorial fund. Later in the year, 58 students and 9 staff enjoyed a week of skiing in wonderful snow conditions and sunshine during February half term in the Italian Alps. Over the Easter weekend, the school hosted a Festival of Basketball with several teams taking part, including a team from Amsterdam. My thanks to all the staff who coach and support the students, enabling them to participate in so many competitions, activities and festivals.

As you can see from the programme, there are 24 students who gained Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards. More students are now involved in this award and progressing through to the Silver Award. Many year 10 students achieved the new Mathematics Leaders Award and other students have been awarded the Sports Leaders Award. Leadership is certainly a strong feature of the school but we are always looking to provide further opportunities for our students to develop their leadership skills.

Creative Writing has had some wonderful successes during the year

and has established itself firmly with internal competitions and participation in events and competitions in the city and further afield. Highlights of their successes were that 32 students had poems published in an anthology entitled 'The Big Green Poetry Machine', 3 students were chosen from 1300 entries as finalists in the Poetry of Place competition with Olivia Sung winning the special prize awarded by the Royal Liver Group. Olivia was also a finalist in a national competition, winning a cash prize for the school, which will be used for the school play this year, which she has written. Other award winners were Portia Harris and Robert Brennan in senior competitions and Imogen Cooper in a junior event.

The annual prestigious competition, Target 2.0, run by the Bank of England, saw the Blue Coat team win the North West heat and they were runners up in the Northern final.

We know that Blue Coat students enjoy educational visits that enrich and enhance their learning. During October 2008, the History department took Year 10 and Year 11 students to Berlin to see at first hand this iconic city and understand more clearly their GCSE course. In January 2009, led by Mrs Athis, 40 A-level students and the History department went on a 5 day guided tour of Moscow and St Petersburg. Again the awe inspiring buildings of both cities, particularly St Petersburg, ensured a greater comprehension of Peter the Great.

The links with Spain and our partner school, Colegio San Patricio in San Sebastian continue to grow with 38 students participating in the exchange in December in Liverpool and April in Spain and 2 students returning for work experience in June.

In the summer term, the Art department produced an excellent exhibition of the Art portfolio work of the GCSE, AS and A-level students. The standard of the work displayed was extraordinary. In July, the Art department took 26 students to London for 3 days, where they were inspired by visits to a number of diverse galleries and the experience of the capital city.

There is a rich provision of educational visits on offer to our students and they gain enormous advantages from being involved in them. My thanks go to those who organise and support these many ventures.

In July, the school said goodbye to a few members of staff, including four Retirements. These four gentlemen have given remarkable service to The Blue Coat School. Mr Crighton and Mr Singer had taught for over 20 years each in the school, organised and led many activities and have certainly contributed to the success of a large number of Blue Coat students over the years. Mr Cook had taught for over 20 years with his last eight at Blue Coat, where he certainly made a huge difference to the musical life of the school.

Last but not least, Mr Row, who had a teaching career of 38 years, 19 of which as a Deputy Headteacher at the Blue Coat School. He came to the school as a disciplinarian, yet his affection and concern for the welfare and smartness of Blue Coat students were notable and much appreciated by all.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank these four gentlemen for all their tireless efforts, good humour and involvement in the life of the school and wish them all a very happy retirement.

These are some of the highlights of a very busy, exciting and successful year but these activities cannot happen without a large number of people contributing and working together in the organisation, leadership and delivery. My thanks go to everyone, teachers, support staff, parents and governors, whose commitment and

Headteacher's Report

dedication ensure that these rich opportunities are available to the students.

Special moments remind me how lucky, privileged and proud I am to be the Headteacher of this amazing and astonishing school. I hope for all of you that you have particular highlights of your experiences last year that encompass this pride.

For me these are two of these special moments

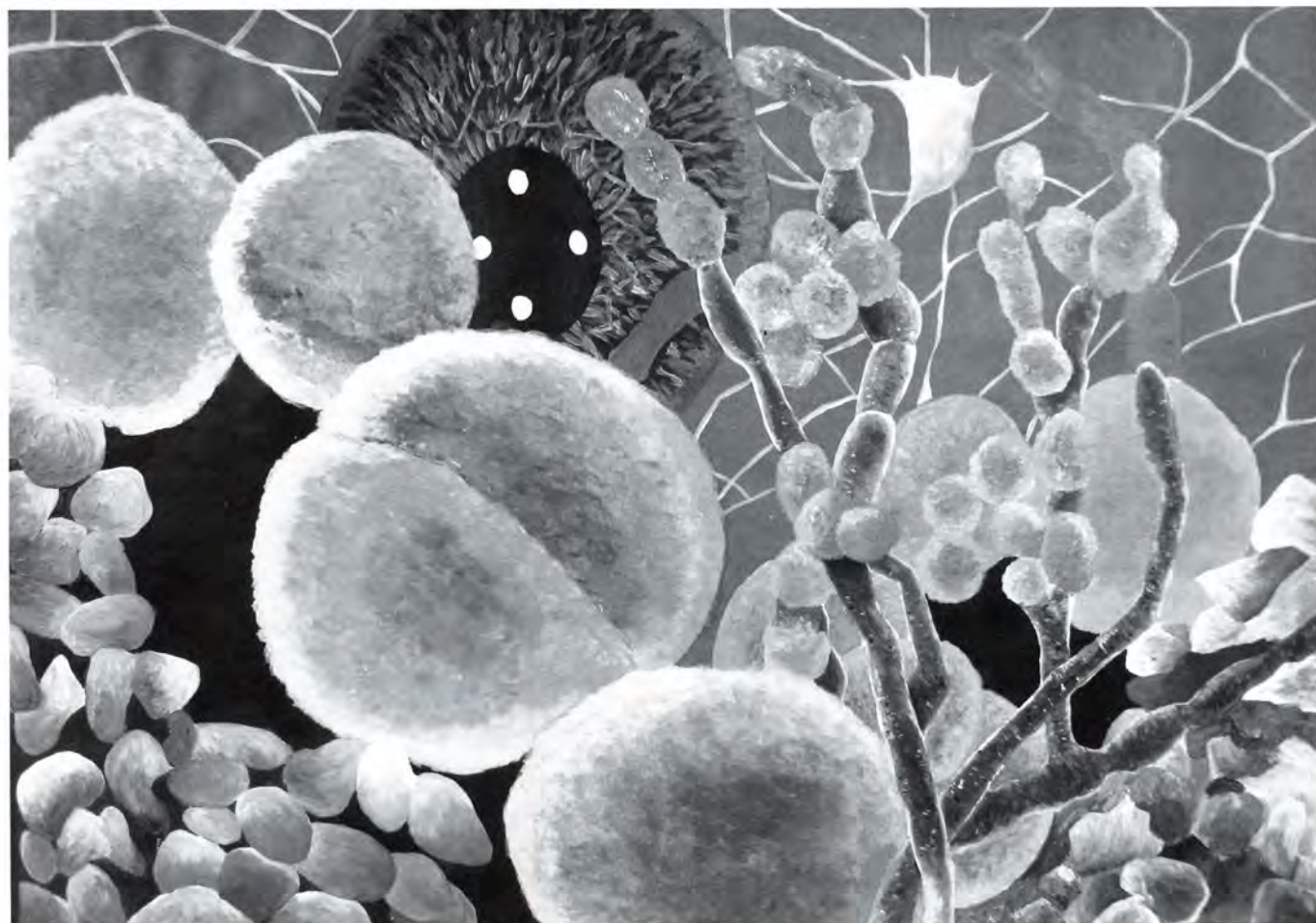
The first was the curtain call of the final evening of the school production in February, the exceptional standard of the performance, the support of the cast, the stage crew, the musicians, lighting and sound all contributing to the direction and team of Mr Kershaw, Miss Horton and the indefatigable James Lacey. The look of pride and enjoyment on all of the students and supporters faces was simply wonderful.

The second example is Results Day in August. The statistics were excellent and the press releases were ready to go; in all of this there is a huge satisfaction in the outcomes. But it is the stories behind those statistics that makes this much more meaningful. The reaction of the

students when they collect their results in the Shirley Hall is dramatic: the tension is high, the relief palpable, the joy apparent as the student checks the result, phones home, if a parent hasn't come with them. Then they share with each other, support each other, share their pleasure with the teachers around them and thank them profusely. They are lively, friendly and just so pleased that all their efforts, commitment and hard work have paid off.

What both of these occasions have in common is that the best efforts of the Blue Coat students are when they are delivering at the very highest standards, supported, challenged and encouraged by staff, their parents and other members of the Blue Coat community. Their considerable achievements are a result of focussed and determined teamwork.

As I conclude this report at the end of 301st year of The Blue Coat School, I can note that the school is looking forward with the support and dedication of so many, all of whom are full of ambition for our students and their considerable talents and abilities.



Alex Zhong, GCSE

Mr Burgess



Mr Burgess is fast becoming a familiar face in the Blue Coat School ICT department where he took up a permanent teaching post at the beginning of this academic year, after holding a temporary job from February to the end of the last school year whilst completing his teacher training. Already at the school for 10 months, Mr Burgess is a hugely welcome addition to the teaching rota at Blue Coat and has already proved a hit with his students.

A local boy at heart, Mr Burgess hails from Wavertree, and clearly couldn't stay away from home for too long! He attended Liverpool University and gained a degree in Computer Science, then took on the extra teacher training course last year to become fully eligible to teach IT.

His first impressions of the Blue Coat School were that it was very smart, with highly intelligent students; Mr Burgess succinctly summarises the school as a 'fantastic working environment'.

In his spare time, Mr Burgess can be found following motor sports at weekends, sitting firmly in the camp of Louis Hamilton and Jenson Button – he says he was 'pleasantly surprised' when Button emerged from obscurity as a brilliant driver this season; he also spends his time living on the edge by racing Indy Cars, home built from kits during his free time at weekends.

Mr Croxton



The newest addition to the BCS phalanx of humanities teachers this year is Mr N Croxton, a History and Politics teacher originally from South Cheshire who, having spent a great deal of his life in the education system, is now dedicating himself to becoming part of it.

Born and raised in Crewe, Mr Croxton first gained an interest in history when he began to research the assassination of JFK; however, he took an undergraduate degree in Politics at Liverpool University from 2003, following it up with a Masters in History, writing a dissertation on the origins of the First World War. He completed his teacher training course at Hope in 2008, spending time in Knowsley Hey and St. Margaret's, before returning to his secondary school in South Cheshire for his first year working as a teacher.

When asked about his favourite periods of study, Mr Croxton says that he is firmly rooted in the 20th century, as his knowledge any further back is slightly 'woolly'! When relaxing Mr Croxton enjoys watching football; he has a season ticket at Manchester City, but emphasises "Not for the glory! I've been with them through the dark times too; I've seen the second division!" Cricket is another favourite sport of our new history teacher, although he says that he's "definitely an awful player!"

During his summer breaks Mr Croxton enjoys travelling, and spent last summer seeing the historical sights around the old eastern bloc of Europe, trying his best to keep up with current affairs, and bemoaning the little time he has to read good fiction novels!

Mr Cosgrove

Footballer. Athlete. Geographer. Reputed son of Danger Mouse. Mr Cosgrove has done it all it would seem! A new addition to the Blue Coat staff as a cover supervisor, Mr Cosgrove can be found in all parts of the



school, performing a variety of teaching jobs. He was educated on the Wirral, before taking a degree in Geography at JMU, following it up with a Masters in European Economics and Politics and secondary teacher training at Edge Hill. He said of the Blue Coat School; 'It's great, far better than any school I have ever worked at before'.

He was a keen sportsman in his youth, playing football for his school and competing in high jump competitions at a high level. Despite being taken out of contact sports and athletics by a ligament injury, Mr Cosgrove still enjoys playing golf, and wearing a golf themed Christmas tie. On top of running a youth club for Warhammer lovers (which he played as a child), Mr Cosgrove is a keen rock music fan, and once worked at the O2 Academy. A devotee of anything with a decent riff, he recently saw Muse on tour. Speculation is also rife about Mr Cosgrove's genealogy; some claim that he is the son of Danger Mouse creator Brian Cosgrove, and secretly a millionaire. However, Mr Cosgrove was tight lipped about this matter during the interview, so if you want the truth you'll have to ask him yourself!

Miss Moss



A Liverpoolian born and bred, Miss Moss has a lengthy CV with near a dozen jobs, including working in bars, banks and now Blue Coat. This, she assures me, is her dream position. Teaching RE and Philosophy, a subject that has only been introduced into the school this year, she says her nickname is 'the predictable': 'Mossy'.

She gained her qualifications from Manchester University, then took a break to have lots of holidays, before completing her PCGE last year, and loves philosophy due to the fact that there aren't specific answers, she enjoys the debates that 'can go on and on'.

Often seen on her bicycle cycling to school, she tells me that the only things she does in her spare time is indeed cycling, dancing (especially around the house) and eating.

She is incredibly impressed with the 'avid learners' that she has encountered in Blue Coat and cannot wait to spend more time getting to know everyone in the our community.

Mr Pennington



Stepping into a Deputy Head position this year is Mr Pennington. This is his fifth school and, according to him, it is has the 'nicest pupils'. Growing up in the leafy suburbs of Knowsley, before studying Maths at Liverpool University, he tells me that he likes the endearing scousers that he has met along the way. However, he has one admission, and he believes this is the best way to out it: he supports Manchester United! Apart from watching the Red Devils, he also enjoys watching cricket, but doesn't play due to his 'old age'. Aside from sport and at the risk of sounding boring, he has 'no hobbies' but he and his wife are relentless X Factor viewers. As for a nickname, he doesn't want to disclose it, However, apparently, it isn't that difficult to guess it.

Mrs Davies



The newest addition to the English department, Mrs Davies, is enjoying spending time in Liverpool and discovering the passion that we have for our city and culture. She lives in Wales, studied at Bangor University and previously taught in Chester. She is certainly a media maestro, having run a news reporting competition with the BBC and she is now hoping to inject Blue Coat

with the bug for journalism and competitions with both BBC and ITV.

Providing a diversion from her English studies are her two teenagers Rachel and Max, and her dog Peanut. Living by the coast means that she can relish beautiful scenery whilst walking Peanut. She tells me that she is learning to play the piano 'very badly'. However, from what I can see, she seems to be doing a good job with teaching, and I am sure that her musical efforts are better than she says they are.

Mrs MacKenzie



This academic year Blue Coat has undergone a radical shift in dynamics; with the retirement of a number of teaching powerhouses, great replacements have been needed to try and fill the vacuum left.

Mrs MacKenzie, the new head of 6th form, has proven a more than adequate appointment, making a sterling impression upon all staff, parents, and pupils since what she described as a 'surprising' start in September. Having overcome the hurdle of being unable to find the matches in the labs at the beginning of the year, Mrs MacKenzie spent her first few weeks busily getting to know as many students as she could meet. When asked about her 'scary' ability to remember everyone's name, Mrs MacKenzie is fast to assert her opinion that 'it is the individuals' which make the school, and is proud to say that 'the students tipped it' when she was offered the job!

Mrs MacKenzie was educated at an all-girls school on the Wirral before moving on to study a degree in Chemistry at Somerville College Oxford. After leaving university, she decided that working in a lab was unbearable, and after a stint in the civil service settled upon teaching as her profession of choice. She held a post as a Chemistry teacher and Head of Middle School at St. Mary's in Crosby, and allowed her love of teaching to flourish.

Mrs MacKenzie says that after her 40 minute commute home, she likes nothing more than relaxing with a glass of wine and her life-size David Tennant cut-out ('his Doctor just seems so sensitive, he needs a woman's touch'). Her hobbies include hiking, reading and visiting the Philharmonic, when she isn't performing 'inevitable taxi duties' for her two children! Mrs MacKenzie's favourite authors are CJ Samson and Rosie Thomas, and she thoroughly enjoys watching Saturday prime-time; Merlin, Doctor Who and X-factor, as well as Spooks and Fawlty Towers when she has the chance for a rest!

Mr Simon Emery



Mr Simon Emery has a lot of work on his hands. As well as becoming Director of Music at a new school after sixteen years at St Mary's College, Crosby, he has two other hectic jobs: musical director of the Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Choir, and father to four children under 7, including a set of two year old twins!

Born in Middlesbrough and brought up

in Bristol, Mr Emery studied Music and Theology at Birmingham University. He completed his PGCE in Liverpool, and now considers it his home; he lives near Blue Coat, of which his first impressions are 'extremely positive'. In his spare time, he supports Middlesbrough FC and Sale Rugby Club, and enjoys outdoor activities such as climbing and running.

Asked how he feels about stepping into the shoes of his predecessor Martin Cook, he says that apart from continuing with the obvious success of the Music Department, one of his biggest challenges is to develop his own repertoire of classic quotations!

He is particularly struck by the standard of musicianship and the 'huge' potential of the Blue Coat students. He plans to take the choir through local and national competitions, and to increase the profile of the orchestra, finally putting Blue Coat on the map via concerts and venues outside of the school! There are also plans to introduce both a chamber choir and a 'choral society' for staff and parents to join too. We are sure that the Music department will prosper under Mr Emery's enthusiastic leadership and look forward to a very bright future.

Mr David Mercer



Mr Mercer was born and bred right here in Liverpool. He went to Calderstones School and started a degree in Mechanical Engineering at Liverpool University, before switching to Physics, quoting 'Physics is an essential discipline that lies at the heart of many phenomenon.' He spent three years doing research work in the USA and France before returning to complete a PGCE at Blue Coat. He finds his first teaching post

rewarding and fulfilling, and one of the few jobs in which he can go home thinking, 'I've made a difference.'

Mr Mercer has ambitions to take students out of the classroom and into interactive learning via Physics trips. He is visibly and infectiously passionate about his subject and plans to dispel the myth that it is 'boring' or 'too difficult'; he says it is one of the most interesting subjects available, and that he aims to make it attractive to everyone.

Outside of school, Mr Mercer is a fully qualified scuba diver. He confesses that he does not follow football, although he supports Liverpool FC along with his family. If he hadn't become a Physics teacher, he would have been a mechanic, and his dream is still to own his own garage.

On Blue Coat, he says that he 'hasn't had a bad day so far!' He is impressed with both the students' dedication to learning and their outstanding conduct. When he applied for the permanent post of Physics teacher, he says he wouldn't have known where to go if he hadn't got it! Luckily he did, and, as he says, 'it's fantastic'.

Mr David Atherton



A native of Liverpool and a former pupil of Merchant Taylors', Mr Atherton studied Chemistry at Sheffield, and Sports Management at UCLAN, before working for a period in sales. He received his teaching certificate in Liverpool, and his first teaching position is here at Blue Coat – he is 'loving it', and finding everyone to be friendly, 'even the kids'.

In his spare time, Mr Atherton shows a keen general interest in sport. He is Captain of A.F.C. Massams and his local darts team, respectively. He is 'a blue, through and through', and is open to coaching the school football teams. Mr Atherton is also helping out with the Year 8 Chemistry Crest Awards Project.

Mr Atherton says that he became a teacher of Chemistry because it allows him to blow things up legally! On a more serious note, he is interested in examining the links between sport and science, pointing out that nowadays, it's hard to tell if sport is actually a battle of sportsmen, or if it is fast becoming a scientific challenge! But first and foremost, he aims to dispel the myth that Chemistry is a difficult subject, and having witnessed the desire to learn from the students at Blue Coat, he is confident of doing just that.

Miss Tracy Foy



Fellow Liverpudlian Miss Foy studied Psychology at LJMU and graduated with Honours. She likes the perpetual diversity of her subject and the opportunities it provides for exciting debates and theories, which, she says, make it accessible and relevant to everyone. She believes it is a solid base on which future generations might grow, and upon which society might improve. In addition to teaching her A level set, Miss Foy would enjoy teaching the subject at GCSE, should the demand arise.

Miss Foy is delighted to be at Blue Coat, where she says she is enjoying a warm and friendly welcome. After work, interests include friends and family, and a serious commitment to running and keeping fit, and hopefully, becoming involved in the sporting life of the school. This only after the planning of lessons! With so many talented pupils, Miss Foy says it's her aim to ensure that every student reaches his or her potential and thoroughly enjoys studying Psychology.

Mr M. Wilkinson



Ever wondered what it would be like to be taught by a fly fisherman? Champion swimmer? Shark attack veteran? Well, look no further than Mr Wilkinson, one of the school's most reliable and frequent cover supervisors this year. At least, according to what he told us in his interview!

Born and raised in the 'posh bit' of Allerton, 22 year old Mark Wilkinson is on familiar ground at the Blue Coat school, having been a student here until 2005; members of the 6th form may even vaguely remember him as a schoolboy. Currently studying for a degree in learning development and support at JMU, this is Mr Wilkinson's first real teaching post, although some of you may have seen him invigilating during the exam period in the last few years. As a familiar face at Blue Coat, Mr Wilkinson says that he has found teaching and supervising at the school very enjoyable and rather nice, although he fails to recall his first impressions of the school 11 years ago.

During his time away from work, Mr Wilkinson enjoys a variety of activities, and calls himself 'a definite pro-evo man'. He has a colourful history in sports, having represented at a national level in many styles of swimming, most prominently back stroke, front crawl and breast stroke. Despite being a finalist in the past, Mr Wilkinson says he now finds it difficult to swim after being witness to a shark attack in Florida in 2004, of which he 'could very easily have been the victim'. He also nurtures an interest in poetry, combining this interest with fishing at weekends. He stated that he enjoys nothing more than 'doing a spot of fly fishing on misty autumn mornings, whilst listening to audio books of Wordsworth's poetry'.

Language Assistants

Sarah Cahueau



Je suis Sarah Cahueau, l'assistante de français amenée à faire parler tous les élèves de Blue Coat ma langue maternelle. Je suis donc née à Paris il y a 22 ans, puis j'ai vécu 18 ans dans la banlieue, une grande ville qui s'appelle Noisy-le-grand. Mon père fut muté en Vendée, une jolie région dans l'ouest, pas loin de la Bretagne, et célèbre pour sa brioche artisanale. J'ai donc terminé le lycée en campagne, dans une école privée catholique, et après avoir passé le bac littéraire je me suis envolée pour une ville magnifique à 130 km de chez mes parents: Angers, dans le Maine-et-Loire. J'y ai étudié l'anglais en licence pendant trois ans. Mon cursus s'intitule LLCE (Lettres, Langues et Civilisation Étrangères), et ma spécialisation est FLE (Français langue étrangère) afin de peut-être enseigner ma langue hors de mon pays.

En France, j'ai deux sœurs. Ma grande sœur vit à Paris et ma petite sœur vit encore avec mes parents. Je suis cinéphile, j'aime beaucoup la lecture, faire d'étranges rencontres, me perdre dans les musées, voyager en des lieux non touristiques boire du bon vin et mon chat, Botton, un animal simple d'esprit qui me manque beaucoup.

Je suis heureuse de vivre à Liverpool car c'était ma destination de vacances de l'année précédente; c'est ainsi que j'en suis tombée amoureuse et je n'ai pas encore été déçue...

Alicia Chabert



¡Hola a todos! Me llamo Alicia y tengo 23 años. Como ya sabéis soy asistente de español y vengo de Castellón, en la costa mediterránea; mucha gente conocerá Castellón por su fantástico festival de música (el FIB) y por las mejores paellas del mundo. Hace tres meses llegué a la Blue Coat, donde me recibieron con los brazos abiertos. En estos tres meses he disfrutado mucho de trabajar en esta escuela gracias a los fabulosos alumnos que tengo y el ambiente de trabajo entre mis compañeros. Esta experiencia me está ayudando mucho a decidir dedicarme al campo de la enseñanza de idiomas. Aunque llevo poco tiempo en esta ciudad, Liverpool me encanta y me gustaría quedarme para seguir disfrutando de sus acogedoras gentes y la vida que transmite esta ciudad.

Mayrin Hernández



Hola!! Mi nombre es Mayrin Hernández y ya muchos de ustedes me conocen, soy de Caracas - Venezuela y desde hace tres meses y medio estoy viviendo en Liverpool. Mi experiencia en Blue Coat ha sido muy buena, todos los estudiantes son muy inteligentes y siempre muestran gran interés en aprender. Liverpool es una ciudad muy diversa, llena de vida e interesante. Estoy muy feliz y agradecida de que me hayan otorgado la oportunidad de compartir este año escolar con ustedes, ha sido una experiencia muy enriquecedora para mí, ha expandido tanto mis conocimientos como mis horizontes. Siempre los recordare con el mayor cariño del mundo.

Mayrin.

Steve Row

Deputy Headteacher 1990-2009

Steve Row was appointed as Deputy Head to Mr J C Speller (Headmaster) in 1990 from Pensby High School on The Wirral upon the retirement of Mr J L 'Dai' Davies. The news was greeted with some trepidation that such a senior post was being filled from outside, but very soon a stentorian boom would be heard regularly echoing along corridors, producing a collective sigh of relief that discipline was secure. If you were very quick, on these occasions, you would notice a twinkle in the eye and a ghost of a smile which betrayed a sometimes surprising hand of sympathy for the student being reprimanded, which could be noticed only by those who knew him well.

Steve served under three subsequent heads, punctuated by a two year spell (2001-2003) on secondment to the Local Authority. In all, he worked for more than 19 years in Liverpool schools. He also served, and still does, as a governor in a local primary school, as well as currently being the Chair of Governors at Pensby High School for Boys. His profound knowledge of educational matters was a very real enhancement to the school's skill set, at a time when this was an area of growing importance. His advice was always well founded, ensuring the right decision was made. His approach was one of 'Devil's Advocate', which made colleagues consider issues from a wide range of perspectives, ultimately ensuring that a decision was considered and balanced. Steve was aware that others had things to contribute and would always seek advice in areas where they had expertise, to promote the integrity of decision making.

On his return from work with the Local Authority, girls had started in Year 7 and were also into Year 8 as the school was gradually becoming co-educational. This change to mixed year groups, as well as appreciation of the school, led to a considerable softening of the somewhat scary Mr Row.

As a colleague, Steve was always absolutely reliable and not afraid to warn or admonish if he judged it necessary. Most importantly, he would encourage, aiming to develop young teachers and to invigorate and support the more mature in their teaching career.

At heart, Steve always remained a teacher, and his contact with the students was something he always cherished, be it taking school teams, supporting children with their problems, or in the classroom. He was known affectionately as 'Reggie' in his early days, christened thus after a discussion among students as to the unknown name hidden in the initials 'RSR' with which he signed his notices. Many a time he would regale with stories of 'his' science sets; always amusing and sharply perceptive of the subject, they were driven by his deep empathy with the commitment to his students. His sense of humour and gentle teasing on the appearance of students will be the memories that the students in the queues have, while he was doing his duties. He reminded us all in his leaving speeches that the best memory that he would always have of Blue Coat was the 'students'

Always a keen sportsman, Steve was an enthusiastic hockey player with an abiding love of cricket. Latterly, he took up golf and has become an aficionado and indeed an accomplished player. He much enjoys the challenge and the sociability of the game. As well as his family, his other passion is watching football as a Tranmere Rovers season ticket holder!

Knowledgeable, sure-footed and a team player, Steve was the quintessential professional who always contributed fulsomely to The Blue Coat School. It was a pleasure to have worked with him.

Ad Multos Annos.

J.C. Caulfield/ D.A. Silcock

Edmund Crighton

As the Christmas anticipation reached fever pitch in the corridors of the Blue Coat School in December 2009, a great, joyous roaring could be heard along the so-called "W" corridor. Let us first establish that great roarings are seldom heard in the school's well-governed, even-tempered precincts. What then could be the cause? Was it a choir practice gone horribly wrong; an announcement that the final "festive special" sandwich was on sale in the canteen; or perhaps the news that school was to close a week early in order to reduce CO2 emissions? No, it was in fact a teacher whose presence had excited such a response from the student body – and a retired teacher at that. Mr. E. J. Crighton (Blue Coat School 1980 to 2009), now proudly sporting a "visitor" badge, had come to call.

His was a career that defied convention. While interviews for teaching posts nowadays are likely to feature carefully chosen questions about Key Stages, pastoral care and class management strategies, Edmund Crighton's experience twenty-nine years ago in front of the headmaster, Peter Arnold Craft, was markedly different. He recalls being given a sort of quiz about the antiques to be seen in the Head's Study - the monk's bench and the billiard cue stand. After passing the test with flying colours, Mr. Arnold Craft looked over his spectacles and said, "Would you like the job?". A couple of years later and at a time when there were very few teacher absences and no in-service courses, Edmund asked Mr. Arnold-Craft if he could go on a week long residential course at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford upon Avon. He was treated to another of those famous stares and the words: "Mr Crighton, when I appointed you I was under the impression that you were already qualified". He was, however, allowed to go that year and to a similar event in Stratford the following year. Other early duties included supervision of the Parachute Club during which incumbency he did a jump in the Lake District. Ah...the paper work you would have to do for that nowadays in this health and safety obsessed world! Similar "action man" qualities came to the fore in the same period of Edmund's career when he survived being snowed up, with a school party, at the now defunct school farmhouse in North Wales, until they were dug out by rescuers.

And Edmund's travels with parties of students went far beyond these shores. Many students and staff will remember fondly visits to Holland and Paris, odysseys to Russia (where Edmund famously sported a fake leopard skin fur hat around the streets of St. Petersburg) and trips to the United Nations in Geneva and New York. Each journey served to enrich the cultural and political understanding of its participants.

Central too to Edmund's pedagogy was the notion that young people should learn to grapple with ethics and matters that might now come under the umbrella of Citizenship. He started the Bar Mock Trial competition and took his team to the National Finals in London. He ran the Debating Club for many years and organised a Sixth Form Forum - a kind of "Question Time" for sixth formers. To these events he summoned judges, a prison Governor, and even a real live prisoner. He recalls that the Governors were not keen on his extending an invitation to this last guest - but he persuaded them it would be safe. When the students heard that he was going to collect the prisoner himself in his own car - they were horrified and asked if he would be shackled with a ball and chain. They were amazed when Edmund told them that he and the convict would stop off for a bite to eat at a pub on the way to school. At school, before the event, he noticed pupils chatting to him - before asking, "Well where's the prisoner?". They were amazed when Edmund pointed him out "...but we've just been chatting to him about music etc...he can't be the prisoner..." they said, amazed.

Generations of former Blue Coat students will remember Edmund's involvement in the legendary school shows of the nineteen eighties and nineties, both on stage and as a director. Whilst he produced a number of Shakespeare plays, he is perhaps best remembered for his role as Wishy Washy in *Aladdin* where he became temporarily stuck in the on-stage washing machine. A thespian's scar he bears was inflicted by Mrs. Roberts, whose attempts to bring verisimilitude to both their roles resulted in her somewhat over enthusiastic flinging of a stage prop at Edmund's head. Later, as Mr. Bumble in *Oliver* he claimed his largely improvised part was not down to a failure to learn his lines but rather a deliberate homage to the techniques of Lee Strasberg and Stella Adler's New York Actors' Studio.

From Teacher i/c farmhouses, parachutes and minibuses, Edmund rose to the rank of Assistant Head Teacher during the headship of Mr. M. G. Tittershill. It was during this time that he brought his skills to bear upon the timetable and the cover supervision list. He also organised the annual Founders' Day and Prize Giving ceremonies. In 2008 during the school's tercentenary, he wrote a special interlude for the former occasion. When no student would volunteer to go on the high "bridge" of the Cathedral and speak this part, he did it himself. Wired for sound, he announced to the congregation: "I am Bryan Blundell", words that have become the stuff of school legend.

Each of the above roles was fitting for this "Blue Coat Man". Colleagues remember his fortieth birthday celebrations held in the Boardroom. In recent years Edmund, accompanied by Mrs. Roberts, carried a petition containing hundreds of signatures opposing the Church of England's claim upon the school to Downing Street. Ever the one to seize the main chance, he hit upon the idea of taking two pupils with him dressed in the school's Eighteenth Century uniform in the sure and certain knowledge that the nation's press could not resist the chance to photograph a piece of educational heritage. He was not disappointed. For the tercentenary celebrations he wrote and published a history of the school.

But so much for the wider roles of this schoolteacher, understandably garnered during his lengthy career at The Blue Coat School. What of the man in the classroom? In Rob Reiner's classic mockumentary *Spinal Tap*, bass player Derek Smalls is proud to see himself as the "lukewarm water" between the "fire" and "ice" personalities of his band's two guitarists. Never could such a tepid description be levelled at Edmund. He describes his own teaching methods as unorthodox and it is true that his lessons often drew heavily upon personal charisma and the ability to inspire, rather than on the personalized learning styles or tightly structured, objective-focused lessons much vaunted by teaching colleges today. His lessons though were far from "sound and fury" signifying nothing: there was a wealth of knowledge to be imparted which stood him in good stead as an English teacher. He was a master story-teller too. He could, however, polarise opinion amongst the student body; sometimes students felt that they were not being taught. "Don't plan your coursework; just write whatever comes into your head," he once told his Year 12 Literature class. In September 2009 his GCSE class mobbed him in the corridor and asked how they had all had achieved such fantastic English results when they "hadn't done any work whatsoever". He replied that they had enjoyed the lessons so much that they hadn't noticed that they were learning. It was with Sixth Form classes where he found greatest reward, often tackling the most challenging of texts. Deconstruction seemed to be at the heart of his critical thinking; as his Head of Department I was often faced with the pleasant task of moderating his students' coursework and could clearly see where they had enjoyed being encouraged to challenge assumptions and received wisdom.

As a colleague, I will remember Edmund as remaining fiercely

loyal to the English Department and, during his time as a member of the Senior Management Team, sympathetic to the special burdens reserved for English teachers. He was helpful without self-interest – often assisting with mundane administrative tasks that accompany the entry of coursework marks. Government initiatives came and went like Prufrock's women and some more beautiful than others. Edmund never dismissed any of them out of hand, remaining affirmative and optimistic about change.

It is a cliché to say that the staff room is a less colourful place without him, but it is true. Discretion was seldom the better part of valour as far as Edmund was concerned and he possessed a Widow Twanky sized wooden spoon with which he occasionally stirred the soup. "We had the telephone, the telegraph.. and tell Eddie," it was sometimes said. It is also important to record, however, that he often spoke up on important issues that he saw would affect the school, its staff and most importantly, its pupils. Another educational establishment now has the benefit of his teaching skills – a sixth form college not far from here. He has, however, promised to stay firmly out of politics.

Mr. T. C. Kershaw

David Singer

Mr Singer arrived at Blue Coat School in the September of 1988, after teaching at various Liverpool schools, to join the Mathematics department. Dave soon settled in and became involved in extra-curricular activities by running the Maths Games Club for twenty years and taking over the leadership of the Scripture Union for the last ten years.

Dave, as ever, was cheerful, friendly, unflappable and a true professional. This was confirmed by staff thinking that he shopped early most mornings at Tesco as he was often laden with two full carrier bags, but on careful examination they were found to contain two sets of exercise books, taken home the previous evening for marking! Many a lunch time Dave could be found sitting on the back benches of the staff room with messrs Kilhams, McGreevy and York sorting out clues in the Telegraph quick crossword.

Life at Blue Coat was made a truly family affair by Dave. His son, Jeremy, started in Yr 7 and finished as Head Boy before going to Cambridge to read Computer Science. Then his daughter, Chloe, joined Blue Coat in the sixth form.

We all hope that Dave and his wife Ann enjoy a long and happy retirement.

Mr K G Caulkin

Moira Cowan

Moira joined Blue Coat in September 2008 as a part-time teacher of Chemistry after a long career in Liverpool schools including Hillside, St Hilda's, St Mary's (now Bellerive) and 21 years at The Belvedere School. As both a former Head of Chemistry and Head of Upper School, she brought a vast amount of experience in pastoral issues and of course in the love of her life (apart from husband Nick and three daughters): Chemistry! Within the department she provided much appreciated support to newly qualified teachers and the high quality teaching of Chemistry to A level, which has been the hallmark of her career. I know that Blue Coat Chemistry students were inspired by her enthusiasm, her thoroughness, and her expertise. Thoroughly professional, she was never too busy to give individual assistance to students or colleagues. Her interest and concern for people made her a perceptive form teacher, providing personal direction and advice for university applications and other problems.

Moira is an amazingly hard worker, who seems to be able to burn

the midnight oil, yet be as fresh as a daisy the next day, and almost never had time off for illness. She once said of herself that she was "calm under stress"! Living with Nick must be a source of tension, but one that she manages with patience and serenity. Quietly persistent and persuasive, Moira can get what she wants without the other person realising, an important quality when dealing with Senior Management or her husband!

During her year at Blue Coat, Moira had two significant personal events firstly, the birth of her first grandchild, Lydia, in January, who has brought Moira much joy, and sadly the death of her mother in May. Always a family person, Moira retired at the end of summer term to "spend more time with her family". With a significant birthday approaching, she will soon be entitled to free travel around the city to visit them! She will, we hope, continue to enjoy holidays, especially in Italy with Nick, as well as reading and various activities associated with her strong Christian faith. We wish her a well-earned rest, and a long and happy retirement.

Mrs H Hunter

Martin Cook

Martin arrived at the Blue Coat as the Director of Music in April 2001 and made an instant and dramatic impact on the musical life of the School. He soon gained a reputation for excellence in performance and in the classroom and this was to continue throughout his career at the School. Under his supervision and guidance, the music in the School went from strength to strength as he extended the repertoire of the Choir and Orchestra to include a wide range of challenging yet rewarding pieces to enjoy, for both audience and participants. The bi-annual Choir Tour became a much-awaited experience and visits to Venice, Vienna, Prague, San Sebastian and Leipzig enabled those involved to perform in some amazing venues, the most spectacular being the wonderful opportunity to sing Mass in St Mark's Basilica. Anyone who was there could not forget the awe inspiring moments, not to mention the heat, blood, sweat and tears, as our visit coincided with one of the hottest summers on record.

The endurance test of thirty-six hour coach journeys was certainly character building and will be etched on the memory for a very long time to come. The concerts and musicals orchestrated by Cookie, as he was known affectionately by his students, were professional, and he was always keen to allow students to show-case their astonishing talents and gifts. There are so many highlights that it proves difficult to mention specific ones, although one of the most significant was the very special evening at the Philharmonic to celebrate the Tricentenary of the School in March 2008. Many students went on to study Music at University and it was testament to his students' appreciation that many came back to perform at a special musical afternoon organised to say 'thank you for the music' in his last week at Blue Coat. Who could forget the feeble jokes and puns, the refuge of many an MD? Feeble, perhaps, but we still expected them, laughed at them and were disappointed if he did not make them. In his retirement, Martin has gone to Nebraska, the Corn Husker State, to fulfil a life long ambition to study for a Doctorate in Choral Conducting. Not bad for a lad from Wolverhampton. And, of course, we all hope that he will continue to be dreaming of a White Christmas, just like the ones he used to know...

LA Holland

Julian Moore

In 2009 the History Department said farewell to Julian Moore, or 'Jules', as he was known to his (many!) friends. Jules was a welcome

addition to the social life of the Senior Common Room – easy to get along with and always willing to get involved. In the department we very much appreciated his enthusiasm for extra-curricular activities – he gave up his own time to accompany our students on educational visits to Berlin and St Petersburg. I cannot remember a single day that Julian was with us at Blue Coat that didn't include a warm smile and humorous comment from him to both staff and pupils. All best wishes to Jules in his future career!

Mrs C Athis

Kevin Le Borgne

Kevin Le Borgne first came to Blue Coat as a trainee teacher in 2007 and completed a successful placement teaching French and Spanish. He was an obvious choice to cover Mrs Irvine's classes whilst she was on maternity leave in 2008/9 and he re-joined Blue Coat after a stint at Birkdale High. It was if he had never been away and staff and students alike appreciated his pleasant manner and good humour! After leaving Blue Coat at the end of the summer term, he was lured back to the sunny climes of Marseille in Southern France where he continues to live and work. Lets hope it's 'au revoir' and not 'adieu'.

Merci, bonne chance et bon courage, monsieur!

Mrs C Jackson

Jane Anderson

Mrs Jane Anderson taught English at the Blue Coat School between October 2008 and April 2009 to cover a maternity leave. Mrs. Anderson taught across the full age range including Sixth Form. During her time with us, Mrs Anderson earned the respect of staff and pupils. Her intellectual commitment and academic rigour were particularly noticeable.

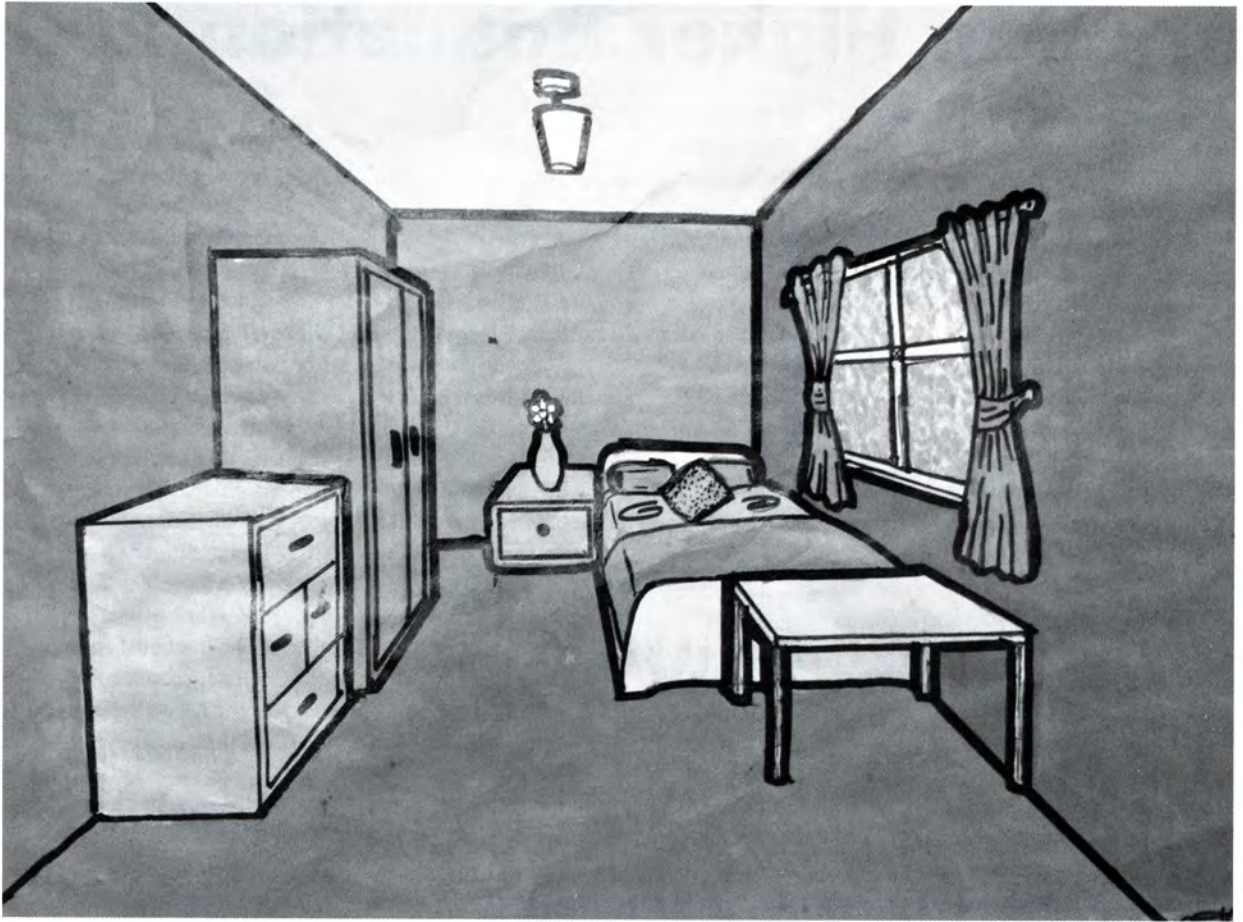
Most memorably, she developed a range of resources for Year 12 on the theme of tragedy, introducing her class to the passionate Spanish drama "Blood Wedding". This she followed up with a visit to the Liverpool Playhouse to see a touring production of the play. Mrs Anderson has gone on to pursue her academic studies and we wish her every success in the future.

Mr T C Kershaw

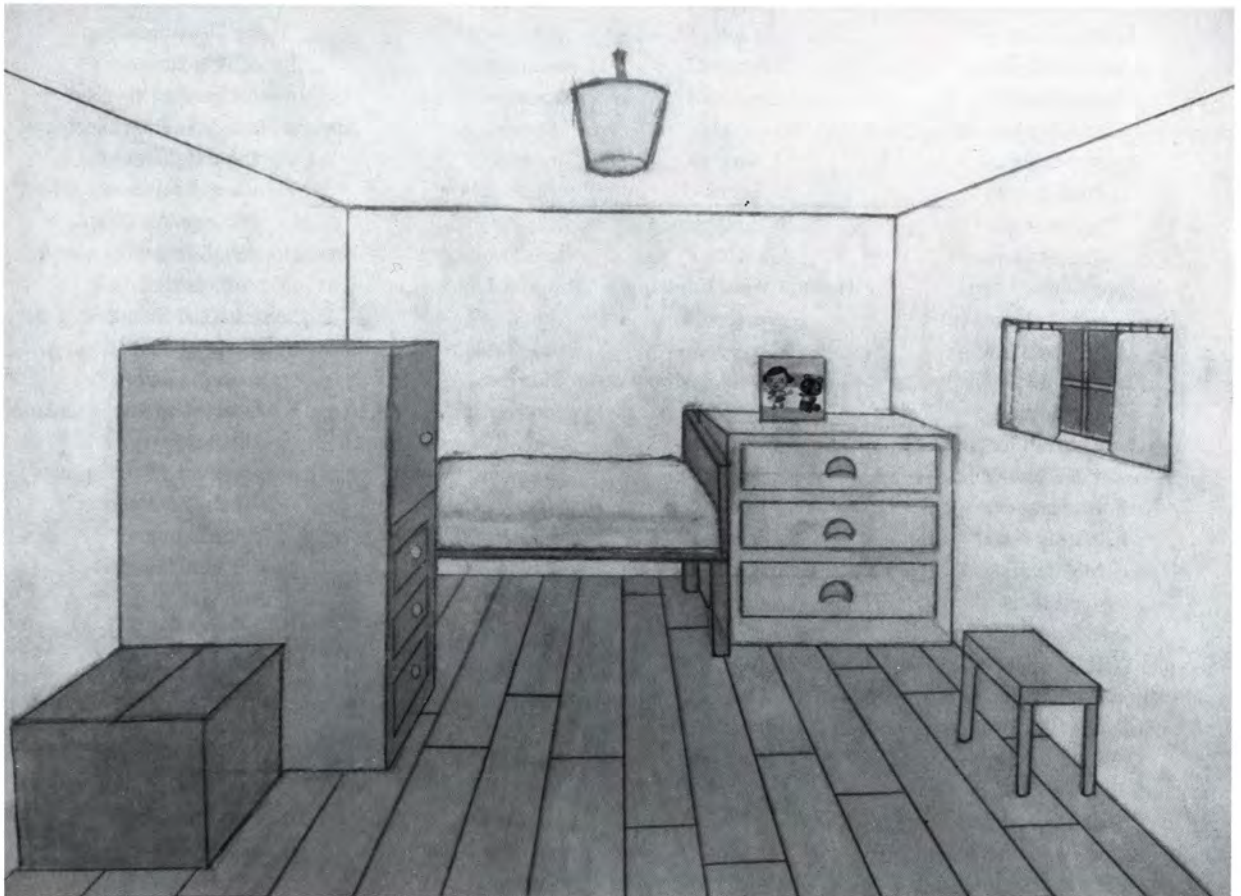
Chris Gettel

Mr Gettel arrived at the Blue Coat School in 2003 with the warning from the then Headmaster that it would be an interesting job to manage this small (but adequately formed) bundle of energy. His respectable 22:30 in the Corporate 5K for Range High School Science Department (whence he came) should have alerted us to his ability to sprint through a specification. Issued with a red pen on September 1st of his first year he was so keen on using it that he was known not to have replaced it in the six years he was with us. This dedication and consistency was a hallmark of his style and, coupled with a charismatic and effervescent personality, marked him out as an educator without equal. It was with regret that we learned that this amateur rocketeer and skiing legend had achieved the necessary escape velocity to leave BCS for the position of Physics supremo at Chesterfield High School but we wish him (and them) well for the future.

Dr P Wilde



Josephine Gibson, Year 8 Perspective



Liwen Huang Year 8 Perspective

Entry into Higher Education 2009

Student	University	Subject
Amir Ali	Nottingham	English Studies
Halima Ali	De Montfort	Pharmacy (4 years)
Sara Amin-Nejad	Manchester	Pharmacy
Joshua Batterton	Loughborough	Economics with Politics
Sean Batterton	Durham	Law
Ayoub Behbahani	Manchester	Medicine (5 years)
Katharine Bellis	Nottingham Trent	Primary Education (4 years)
Charlotte Benbow	Leeds	Mathematics (3 or 4 years)
Maxwell Berks	Leeds	Geography
James Blackburn	Manchester Metropolitan	Economics
Jordan Blair-Porter	Liverpool	International Business
Angela Boscarino	Liverpool	Dental Surgery
Francesca Boughey	Imperial London	Physics
Holly Boyes	Liverpool	Dental Surgery
Natasha Bradley	Bristol	Neuroscience
Hannah Brellisford	Leeds	Psychology
Thomas Brennan	Liverpool	Politics and International Business
Rebecca Brown	Gap Year	
Daniel Bruce	Liverpool	Biological and Medical Sciences
Shirley Cao	Westminster	Translation (Chinese)
Mathew Carmichael	Liverpool	Mechanical Engineering (4 years)
Rebekah Carney	Liverpool	Psychology
Daniel Chambers	Manchester Metropolitan	Economics
Bethany Chan	Liverpool Hope	Geography
Jenny Chan	Liverpool John Moores	Pharmacy
Stephanie Chau	Liverpool Hope	Business and Law
Anna Cheng	De Montfort	Biomedical Science
Siobhan Christian	Leeds	Childhood Studies
Hayley Conboy	Liverpool John Moore's	Applied Psychology
Nathalie Connell	Liverpool	Law (LLB Honours)
Iain Coulston	Liverpool	International Business
Ian Crawford	Liverpool	Ancient History and Archaeology
Hannah Daley	Liverpool	Diagnostic Radiography
Ruth Davies	Leeds	French and Japanese
Katie Dean	Birmingham	Economics
Sophie Doig	Manchester	Dentistry (BDS first-year entry)
Andrew Donoghue	Herriott Watt, Edinburgh	Physics
James Doran	Newcastle	Physiological Sciences
Abdul El-Safadi	Liverpool	Engineering Foundation
Harri Edwards	Liverpool John Moore's	Sports Science
Eric Ekong	Bradford	Clinical Sciences/Medicine Foundation
Matthew Elliott	Liverpool	Biochemistry
Anna Falconer	Leeds	English Language and Literature
Nicholas Farandos	Cambridge	Natural Sciences
Christine Fong	Liverpool	Accounting
Melanie Foo	Liverpool	Law (LLB Honours)
Adam Forster	Leeds	French and Spanish
James Fox	Liverpool	Biological & Medical Sciences
Rebecca Fry	Liverpool	English
Gregg Gaffney	Oxford	Engineering (4 years)
James Gardiner	Liverpool	Medicine
Winifred Garr	Manchester	Medicine (5 years)
Katherine Gilroy	Liverpool	Law (LLB Honours)
Zoe Glacken	York	Law
Richard Gorst	Oxford	Chemistry
Richard Gray	Manchester	Chemical Engineering
Eric Ha	Kingston	Statistics and Mathematics

Vincent Hale	Liverpool John Moore's	Law
Portia Harris	Goldsmiths, London	English and Drama
Amy Hawkens	Liverpool	Medicine
Emily Hawkins	Manchester	Study of Religion and Theology
David Henderson	Liverpool	Computer Science
Caitlin Higgott	St. Andrews	Zoology
James Hodgkiss	Bristol	Business Studies with Economics
Andrew Hollins	Sheffield	Geography
Sian Holmes	Newcastle	Spanish and Business Studies
Alex Hooley	Liverpool John Moore's	Secondary Physical Education
Katherine Hughes	Liverpool John Moore's	Midwifery
Sophie Hyland	Leeds	Genetics
Thufael Islam	Liverpool John Moore's	Business and Economics
Chloe Jackson	Durham	History
Sophie Jain	Liverpool	Medicine
Ellis Johnson	Manchester	Optometry
Natalie Johnson	Roehampton	Photography and Film
Oliver Johnson	Birmingham	Medicine (5 years)
Maya Joseph	Lancaster	Law
Thomas Kerswell	York	Genetics
Abbas Khalil	Manchester	Medicine (5 years)
Mohammed Khattak	Liverpool	Medicine
Baktash Khozoe	Hull York Medical School	Medicine
James Killick	Edinburgh	Civil Engineering
Rebecca Kuruvilla	Liverpool	Medicine
Rachael Langford	Liverpool	Geography
Rebecca Leddy	Manchester	International Management
Alexander Leece	Leeds	English Literature & Theatre Studies
Richard Leng	Leeds	Chemical Engineering
Hai Lin Leung	Oxford	Medicine
Justin Leung	Manchester	Economics and Finance
Eleanor Lewis	Liverpool	Medicine
Elizabeth Lewis	Newcastle	Combined Studies
Jannette Liu	Manchester	Biomedical Sciences
Yee Ting Liu	Manchester	Optometry
Stefanie Lloyd	Manchester	International Business, Finance and Economics
Riccardo Lo Giudice	Liverpool	Dental Surgery
Emma Longworth	Manchester	Geography
Melissa Longworth	Manchester	Psychology
Helen Mackie	Newcastle	Biomedical Sciences
Samantha Mallon	Liverpool John Moore's	Applied Psychology
Thomas Maloney	Plymouth	Paramedic Practitioner
Lucy Marsh	Newcastle	Marine Biology
Stephanie Martin	Liverpool	English and Hispanic Studies
Kate Martyn	Liverpool	Psychology
Joe Maryanji	Liverpool John Moore's	Architectural Technology
David McGowan	Liverpool	Civil and Structural Engineering
Hannah McNally	Newcastle	Psychology
Sam McCauley	Birmingham	Economics
Chloe McDonald	Edinburgh	Biological Sciences
Peter Miller	Liverpool	History
Hany Mohsin	Manchester	Medicine (5 years)
Jodie Molyneux	Aberdeen	French and International Relations
Charlotte Monaghan	Birmingham	Human Biology with Professional Placement
Euan Moran	Heriott-Watt, Edinburgh	Civil Engineering with International Studies
Kimberley Morgan	Manchester	Japanese Studies
Elisabeth Morris	Coventry	Theatre and Professional Practice
Andrew Moss	Bristol	Computer Science
Robin Munby	Imperial, London	Biochemistry with Research Abroad
Philip Murphy	Manchester	Economics and Politics
Maha Nafees	Warwick	Law

Pupil Achievements

Nilufar Naserijam	Hull	Law with Philosophy
Michael Ng	Liverpool	Medicine
Joseph Noon	Manchester Metropolitan	Economics
Andrew O'Connor	Sheffield	Computer Science (4 years)
Edward O'Connor	Edinburgh	Architecture
Oladapo Ogunbiyi	Imperial	Mechanical Engineering
Patrick Orme	Liverpool John Moore's	Sports Science
Jing Ouyang	Oxford	Medicine
James Owens	Liverpool	Comparative American Studies
Lorna Owens	Liverpool John Moore's	Physiotherapy
Vlad Paraoan	Cambridge	Medicine
Alexander Pask	Durham	Physics (4 years)
Christopher Plent	Lincoln	Games Computing
Matthew Pollard	Birmingham	Geography and Urban & Regional Planning
Colin Poole	Liverpool	Mathematics
Jack Prescott	Liverpool John Moore's	Architecture
David Preston	Bristol	Science Foundation Year
Dale Rae	Liverpool	Law (LLB Honours)
Holly Railes	Lancaster	Accounting and Finance
Magnus Rannala	Durham	Physics (4 years)
Jennifer Ratcliffe	Liverpool John Moore's	Education Studies and Physical Education
Jonathan Reid	Nottingham	European Politics
Michael Roberts	Oxford	Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry
Thomas Roberts	Liverpool	Law (LLB Honours)
James Rose	Liverpool	Economics
Nastaran Sargazi	Liverpool	Medicine
Matthew Saxton	Hull	Geography
Anthony Scully	Durham	Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Madeleine Silverman	Liverpool	Economics
Jade Slocombe	Loughborough	Computer Science
Alexandra St John Murphy	Glasgow	History
Zachary Stavrou-Dowd	Liverpool	Pharmacology
Heather Stock	Liverpool	English
Michael Stone	North	Applied Sport Science with Coaching
Gregg Stuart	Birmingham	Computer Interactive Systems
Hannah Stuttard	Liverpool Hope	Education Studies with Mathematical Studies
Mengxia Sun	Manchester	Medicine (5 years)
Abigail Sunderland	Liverpool	Tropical Disease Biology
Patrick Taft	Liverpool John Moore's	Architecture
Lisa Tang	Liverpool	Medicine
Nusiba Taufik	Manchester	Medicine (5 years)
Peter Thompson	Manchester	Physics with Theoretical Physics
Jake Thorne	Kings College, London	English Language and Literature
Andrew Tomlinson	Liverpool	Mechanical Engineering (4 years)
Andrew Troy	Liverpool	Accounting
James Tyrer	Edge Hill	Physical Education & School Sport
Adam Walsh	Sheffield	Mathematics
Syafiera Rosidi	Reading	Biomedical Sciences
Zach Washington-Young	Liverpool John Moore's	Law
Laura Watters	Liverpool	Physiotherapy
Kahra Wayland-Larty	Leeds	Psychology
Steven Wenham	Oxford	History
Matthew Whelan	York	Economics
Robert Whitehead	Cambridge	Computer Science
Mary Williams	Manchester	Economics
Justin Wong	Manchester	Economics
Tiffany Wong	Manchester	Architecture
Zong Yan	Manchester	Chemical Engineering
Zhong Zheng	City of Manchester	Actuarial Science (3 years)

Form Prizes

Year 7

Hollie Haigh
Rui Zhong
Prudence Leung
Joseph Boyland
Elouisa Lewis
David Eves
Rishi Banarjee
Callum Smith

Year 8

Katherine Goodwin
Jack Porritt
Phoebe Hunter
Colin Lim
Laura Gillin
David Murphy
Alana Borkwood
Kelvin Wong

Year 9

Benjamin Neo
Liam McRoe
Olivia Sung
Jack Hackett
Candy Sinclair-Ford
James Rooney
Robyn Murphy
Ricky Cheung

Year 10

Marina Ransome
Ben Stoker
Hollie Ackers
Kafeel Mirza
Louise Davis
Zhixuan Zhai
Amy Lewin
Bethany Currie

Academic Prizes

The Margaret Bryce Smith School Scholarships

Year 11

Juman Al Machhoor
Sophie Smith
Silviu Paraoan
Hannah Liu
Lewis Coenen-Rowe
Helen Thompson
William Qi
Christopher McLoughlin

Year 11

Mark Johnson
Eleanora Bianchi
Helena Sweeney
Edward Parr
Liam Loftus
Ellie Darby
Lucy Thompson
Alix Roper
Peter Gleeson

Year 11

Ruqayyah Moynihan
David Lang
Jennifer Buchanan
Maxwell Thomas-McGenity
Lauren Perez
Louis Maddox
Samantha Dolan
Olivia Thompson

Year 12

Omer Amirzadah
Christopher Loftus
Emma Healiss
Joel Crawley
Lee Atkins
Katrina Murphy
Kiron Koshy
Sarah Gannon
Sophie Batterton

Year 12

Jonathan Buchanan
Nathaniel Andrews
Qasim Masood
Michael Higham
Emma Durham
Amy Baldwin
Zara Poulter
Sharon Koshy
Sanah Gull

Year 12

Alexander Hacılo
Kate Coenen-Rowe
Lauren Atherton
Alice McRoe
Daniel Inwood
Krystyn Durkin
Daniel Bartling
Thomas Smith
James Liu

Year 13

Amir Ali
Vlad Paraoan
David McGowan
Richard Gorst
Angela Boscarino
Nusiba Taufik
Robin Munby
Daniel Idama
Mathew Carmichael
Robert Whitehead
Jin Ouyang

Year 13

Melanie Foo
Sean Batterton
Alexander Pask
Charlotte Monaghan
Amy Hawken
Francesca Boughey
Laura Watters
Michael Ng
Sophie Jain
Nicholas Farandos
Justin Wong

Year 13

Rebecca Kuruvilla
Adam Forster
Max Berks
Michael Roberts
Kimberley Morgan
Katherine Hughes
Holly Boyes
Steven Wenham
Oladapo Ogunbiyi
Ellis Johnson

Nuffield Bursary Prizes, Sponsored by Rathbones Investment Bankers

Lauren Atherton
Elizabeth Morrison-Wells

Amy Bennett
Tony Ren

Rosalind Elsmore

Special Prizes

The Robin S G Makin Prize: (Chess)

Hilda Watson Prize: (Physics)

Old Blues' Association Modern Language Prize:

D Urquart Prize: (Library)

R L Powell Memorial Prize: (English)

W Gregory Prize: (Stage Management)

L H Leith Memorial Prize: (Sport)

F J Worthington Memorial Prize: (Maths)

Fletcher Memorial Prize: (Junior Maths)

J H Worthington Memorial Prize: (Lesson Reading)

R C Burns Memorial Prize: (Service to the School)

Brakell Prize: (Dramatics)

Luke Hoyle Prize: (Technology)

Blue Coat Arts Centre Prize: (Arts & Music)

The Burch Baton: (Orchestra)

The Music Chalice: (Academic)

The Smallman Prize: (Contribution to Musical Life of the School)

Cowkeepers' Association: (Magazine)

The Law Prize:

Sutherland Prize: (Economics)

H P Arnold-Craft Prize: (History)

Gwyn Watcyn Prize: (Politics)

Overseas Containers Ltd Prize: (Geography)

F A Unwin Prize: (Chemistry)

J L Davies Prize: (Physical Education)

Senior Biology Prize:

Psychology Prize:

Computing Prize:

John Caulfield Prize:

ICT Prize:

Peter Arnold-Craft Prize: (Creative Writing)

Friends of the Blue Coat School Prize: (100% Attendance)

Lady President's Prize: (Head Girl)

Chairman's Prize: (Head Boy)

Vladimir Stepanov

Francesca Boughey

Adam Forster

Christopher Plent

Jake Thorne

Duncan Cowan

Eleanor Beggs, Charlotte Dickinson, Magnus Rannala

Daniel Idama, Greg Stuart

Francesca Boughey

Roy Chu

Jack Kenny

Zoë Bond

Ashley Davies

Patrick Taft

Louise Goodwin, Eleanor Marsh, Siobhan Wilson

Zachary Stavrou-Dowd

Richard Yi Leng

Matthew Caine

Alexander Leece, Laurette Lau, David Jeffery, Ashley Williams,

Daniel Inwood, Sasha St John Murphy

Zoe Glacken

Joshua Batterton

Steven Wenham

Antony Scully

Katherine Bellis

Nicholas Farandos

Justin Leung

Ellis Johnson

Hannah Brellisford

Andrew Moss

Bethany Chan

Philip Murphy

Robert Brennan, Daisy Zhai, Robert Nolan

Christopher Plent, Holly Boyes, James Rose, Lisa Tang

Zoe Glacken

Vlad Paraoan

Mathematics Leaders Awards

Hollie Ackers
Katie Conry
Louise Davis
Vanessa Ferguson
Matthew Gunson
Michael Head
Piriyasha Jeyanayagam
Daniel Little
Alex Plent
Lara Rimmer
Ben Stoker
Jennifer Williams
Daisy Zhai

Michael Ashton
Bethany Currie
Steven Doran
Kathryn Glacken
Stephen Harper
Georgina Hunt
Rebecca Jones
Eleanor Marsh
Marine Ransome
Kathryn Sayer
Callum Watling
Laura Wilson
Sarah Zhao

Jessica Cody
Ashley Davies
Sara Edwards
Louise Goodwin
Rachel Hayes
Theodore Jackson
Jessica Jung
Brogan Moss
Christopher Rathe
Fern Stocks
Megan Welsh
Janet Wong
Alexander Zhong

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards

Daniel Bartling
Leo Chen
Katherine Gilroy
Ellis Johnson
Kiron Koshy
Ben Miller
Lisa Tang
Andrew Wong

Sophie Batterton
Charlotte Dickinson
Bronica Gumbhir
Victoria Jones
Sharon Koshy
Fern Montgomery
Gabrielle Thompson
Alex Yoh

Eleanor Beggs
Winifred Garr
Alex Hacillo
Tom Kerswell
Lauren McClaren
Michael Tancred
Rebecca Wariner
Zoe Bond

School Colour Awards

Re-awards

Association Football: Liam Brown, Sam Gifford, Elliott Kwong, Gary Molyneux-Chan, Magnus Rannala, Matthew Saxton, Alex Yoh, Harry Edwards, Gregg Stuart, Zach Washington-Young
Basketball: Benjamin Kelly, Vlad Paraoan, Daniel Roberts, Matthew Roberts, Luke Williams, Jack Bedford, Daniel Idama, Magnus Rannala, Matthew Saxton
Cricket: Amir Ali, Timothy Haggis, Mohammed Khattak, Patrick Murphy, Magnus Rannala, Gregg Stuart
Golf: Timothy Haggis, Gregg Stuart
Hockey: Eleanor Beggs, Katherine Bellis, Charlotte Dickinson, Sarah Hodgkiss, Sharon Koshy, Melody Mak, Rebecca McWaters, Jennifer Ratcliffe, Gabrielle Thompson, Elizabeth Whitehouse, Siobhan Wilson
Netball: Winifred Garr, Kahra Wayland-Larty, Chloe McDonald, Holly Railes, Gabrielle Thompson

Awards

Association Football: Alex Edwards, Timothy Haggis, James Platt
Basketball: Jonathan Edosomwan
Cricket: Andrew Beggs, Theodore Jackson, James Rhodes
Hockey: Charlotte Holmes, Ashley O'Meara, Jessica Dickinson
Netball: Eleanor Beggs, Charlotte Dickinson, Sharon Koshy, Bronica Ghumbir

Distinctions

Association Football: Gavin Spruin, Liverpool City U13 Team Captain
Athletics: The following were City Champions:
Joseph Boyland U12 100m & 200m, Daniel Murphy U12 Shot Putt,
Joseph Boyland, Daniel Murphy, Luke Sullivan, Adam Carus-McDonald U12 Relay Team
Gavin Spruin U13 400m
Cricket: U12 Team Liverpool Runners Up
U13 Team Liverpool Champions
Daniel Harvey and James Rhodes represented U13 and U15 Liverpool City Teams respectively
Basketball: U13 Team Liverpool Champions
U14 Team Liverpool Champions
U15 Team Liverpool Runners-up and 9th Nationally
U16 Team Liverpool Runners up
U19 Team Liverpool Champions
Hockey: 1st XI Liverpool Champions and Merseyside Semi-finalists
The following represented Merseyside - Lancashire:
U17 Eleanor Beggs, Eleanor Darby, Charlotte Dickinson, Ashley O'Meara, Jennifer Ratcliffe, Siobhan Wilson
U15 Sorchu Twomey-Harris
U14 Molly Howarth-Maddison, Emma Kelly
U13 Rebecca Flynn, Martha Kauffman-Harding, Elena Lindsay, Erin Lee, Bridget Griffin, Annie Mosley, Lucy Green, Abbie Wood, Jenny Morris
U12 Anna Batterton, Hannah Shore, Kelsey Walsh, Hattie Power, Elin Webster, Jessica Hyde, Ellie Lewis
Netball: U13 Team Liverpool Tournament & League Runners Up
U15 Team Liverpool Tournament & League Runners Up
Physics Olympiad: Silver Robert Whitehead
Bronze I Sean Batterton, Katherine Hughes, Vlad Paraoan, Christopher Plent
Bronze II Francesca Boughey, Matthew Carmichael, Nicholas Farandos, David McGowan, Peter Thompson

Success in Music Examinations

Grade 1

Melissa Atherton	Clarinet
Rishi Banerjee	Violin
Jemima Lacey	Piano
Jennifer Morris	Flute
Sandani Gunawardena	Flute
Paul Jones	Clarinet

Grade 2

Rachel Rice	Clarinet
-------------	----------

Grade 3

Benjamin Swart	Guitar
Eleanor Roberts	Piano
Matthew Cheung	Violin & Piano
Lottie Backstrom	Flute
Mark Keating	Drums
Joseph Chung	Viola
Chloe Zeng	Piano
Sarah Davies	Flute
Lilly Zhong	Piano
Georgina Hunt	Piano
Carlos Ravena-Walker	Piano
Andrew Callaway	Guitar
Abbie Wood	Piano
Kaylyn Chan	Violin
Joel Best	Guitar
Aneish Mangarai	Drums
Rebecca Croft	Piano
Lidong Xiao	Guitar
Benjamin Swart	Guitar
Jessica Hyde	Clarinet
Eleanor Roberts	Piano
Rachel Gu	Violin
Elin Webster	Clarinet
Imogen Cooper	Piano
David Eves	Violin
Luke Kershaw	Trumpet

Grade 4

Benjamin Swart	Guitar
Melissa Atherton	Clarinet
Jonathan Lam	Piano Theory
Benjamin Neo	Guitar
Matthew Cheung	Violin
Lottie Backstrom	Flute
David Murphy	Guitar
Martha Kauffman-Harding	Piano
Ali Amin-Nejad	Piano
Joseph Small	Violin
Ellen Robinson	Flute
Joseph Clarke	Trumpet
Rachael Chung	Violin
Prudence Leung	Violin
Lidong Xiao	Piano

Jessica Hyde	Piano
Niloofar Sharifi	Piano
Grace Zdesenko	Violin
Mark Johnson	Guitar (Classic)

Grade 5

Oliver Bradley	Flute
Eleanor Roberts	Piano
Kyran Crute	Double Bass
Benjamin Neo	Drums
Alistair Rutherford	Theory
Emma Raynor	Piano Theory
Olivia Denvir-Parry	Flute
Samantha Dolan	Piano
Duncan Cowan	Trombone
Fiona Millar	Trumpet & Piano
Colette Kellgren	Piano
Nicole Jackson	Clarinet
Ryta Kamarova	Piano
Olivia Woodward	Piano
Prudence Leung	Piano
Melody Mak	Piano
Rachel Gu	Piano
Francesca Fradley	Singing

Grade 6

Eleanor Marsh	Trumpet
Sarah Zhao	Flute
Eleanor Roberts	Flute
Rebecca Smith	Piano
Emma Raynor	Piano
Max Thomas-McGenity	Piano
Jack Davies	Piano
Katherine Goodwin	Violin
Kathryn Sayer	Violin
Mark Sung	Tenor Horn
Sarah Zhao	Flute
Eleanor Roberts	Flute
Rebecca Smith	Piano
Kelvin Wong	Piano
Jasper Johns	Piano

Grade 7

Peter Athans	Piano
Benjamin Neo	Piano
Samantha Dolan	Flute
Holly Ellis	Piano
Harley Jones	Piano
Shaun Rigby	Drums
Siobhan Wilson	Violin
Alasdair Chatterton	Percussion

Grade 8

Rebecca Foy	Guitar
Louise Goodwin	Percussion

MEMBERS OF THE LIVERPOOL YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Amy Bennett, Giancarlo Canetti, Kate Goodwin, Shaun Rigby, Kathryn Sayer, Katherine Sung

PHILHARMONIC YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Peter Athans, Alasdair Chatterton, Kyran Crute, Rebecca Foy, Louise Goodwin, Harley Jones, Shaun Rigby,
Alistair Rutherford, Olivia Sung

LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC YOUTH CHOIR

Francesca Fradley, Olivia Sung

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL CHOIR

Sarah Davies, Catriona Miller, Fiona Miller

LIVERPOOL YOUTH BRASS ENSEMBLE

Peter Athans, Shaun Rigby

FORMBY BRASS BAND

Peter Athans

HALLE YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Louise Goodwin



David Sefton, Year 11

GCSE Results – Summer 2009

	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	Total
Art	10	12	5	1						28
Biology	36	25	9	1	1					72
BS	21	17	5	1						44
Chemistry	36	27	6	3						72
D&T		14	12	3						29
English Language	32	56	28	5						121
English Literature	33	69	15	3						120
French	28	24	7	9	1					70
Geography	7	22	21	4	1					55
History	20	33	18	5	1					77
Information Technology	71	47	3							121
Latin	12	1	2							15
Mathematics	41	55	22	3						121
Music	7	8	2							17
Physics	36	22	12	1	1					72
Religious Studies	7		4							11
Science	12	18	12	6		1				49
Additional Science Science	13	11	9	2	1					36
Spanish	29	38	15	11	3	1				97
Chinese	2		1	1						4
P.E.	5	11	2	1						19
Totals	459	510	210	60	9	2				1250

A level Results – Summer 2009

	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total
Art	5		1				6
Biology	48	14	4	2	5		73
Chemistry	42	16	7	1	3		69
Computing	2	2	3	1			8
D&T	1		2				3
Economics	28	12	3				43
English Language & Literature	2	6	2				10
English Literature	7	8	4	3			22
French	5	5	1				11
Geography	18	9	4				31
History	17	8	5				30
Information Technology	7	11	2	1			21
Latin	4						4
Mathematics	36	14	8	5	4		67
Further Maths	7	2			1		10
Music		2		2			4
PE	5	5	2	1			13
Psychology	17	5	4	2			28
Physics	17	7	8	2	1		35
Politics	14	7	2				23
Religious Studies	2	3	4				9
Spanish	6	4	1	2			13
General Studies	50	43	42	20	9	3	167
Persian	3						3
Totals	343	183	109	42	23	3	703

British Physics Olympiad 2010

A good result for our Year 13 physics students in the BPhO 2010. After grappling, struggling, battling and striving for three hours to answer the demanding and innovative questions of Paper 2, our eleven students achieved the following results.

As one student related to me at the end when I asked him, 'How did you do?' he replied, 'Well sir, it was like torture, but I managed to answer some questions!'

Congratulations go to all of our entrants in this prestigious competition, but especially to Karthik who secured a Bronze I award.

Karthik Chellappan	Bronze I
Nada Aly	Bronze II
Cole Cohen	Bronze II
Michael Higham	Bronze II
Harley Jones	Bronze II
Qasim Masood	Bronze II
Rebecca Croft	Commendation
Melissa Huang	Commendation
Arshad Kamal	Commendation
Ellis Kay	Commendation
Marcus Quinn	Commendation

In the AS Competition of 2009 in which the paper is one hour duration, two of our Yr12 students, Harley Jones and Marcus Quinn, gained silver medals with eight others securing bronze medals. In the 2010 AS Competition just one student, Hua Li, achieved a silver medal, with four students achieving a bronze medal.

The junior Olympiad for Yr11 students, called the Physics Challenge, is a tough one hour paper and in 2009 only one student, Hua Li, was in the medals with a bronze. In 2010 we had more success with five Yr11 students, Bethany Currie, Benjamin Stanley, Toby Underwood-Hughes, Carlos Walker-Ravena and Kyle Wray securing bronze medals.

All entrants have gained confidence and competence at Physics as these competitions really stretch their ability and give them new perspectives into the principles of Physics and how to apply them to unusual situations.

Mr K G Caulkin

Science Specialism

Due to the specialist status that the school now possesses, the Science department has increased the range of extracurricular activities available to students across all of the year groups.

We have worked hard to ensure that all students have had the opportunity to attend at least one Science related trip out of school during the course of the year. For sixth form and year eleven students this has meant a number of trips to university laboratories where they have been able to conduct experimental work using cutting edge equipment not always available to them in school. As well as working in the lab, Year 12 Biology students have also been conducting field work at Ainsdale Beach and Chester Zoo. Here they studied specimens and learnt about how the use of genetics has contributed to the field of classification.

Year 10 students have visited the Catalyst Museum in Widnes, where they explored the concept of sustainability. They were challenged to invent a product that would enable us to tackle one of the many environmental issues the Earth is currently facing. Whilst all entries showed imagination and ingenuity, the winning team came up with a novel approach to powering small gadgets. Named the "Solar Weave", the product involved weaving small solar panels into materials used to make clothing.

We will be returning to Jodrell Bank observatory in the summer term with Year 9 students. During their visit they will explore the grounds and visit the 76 metre high Lovell radio telescope and learn how it has been used to probe deep space for over fifty years. Interactive workshops and an inflatable observatory allow them to fully explore the concept of space exploration.



In Year 8, students attended the "Big Bang Fair" in Manchester, which is possibly the biggest science fair they have ever visited! During their visit, students were able to explore various aspects of science, from gadgets to goo, farming to fashion and space to surgery. They participated in workshops relating to robotics and nuclear power and also attended the BBC's "Bang Goes The Theory" show which looks at how science shapes the world around us.

Spaceport was the destination of Year 7 students this year, where they had the opportunity to explore the solar system and beyond. Students also become virtual astronauts in the "Space Dome" Show, where they embarked on an exploration of our solar system, looking at whether life could be sustained on other planets.

As well as representing the school during school trips, our students have also been busy in a number of regional and national competitions.



Our biggest success was during the Science Olympiad attended by four Year 9 students, who came first in the semi finals. Challenges ranged from robot construction to chemical timers and our students performed admirably at each stage.

Various students from years 9, 10 and 11 came in the top 5 during the "Top of the Bench" competition held in November. During the event students participated in a number of Chemistry related challenges which culminated in the production and presentation of a poster, now on display in main reception.

This was the pilot year for the Blue Coat School STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) careers fair which was held in October 2009. The event was aimed at Years 11, 12 and 13 and

involved representatives from many different fields. The event was very well attended and is something that we hope to repeat in 2010.

In school we have continued our participation in the CREST awards scheme. Taking inspiration from the Manchester Science Festival, and whilst under the guidance of members of the sixth form, Year 8 students have been working on various projects addressing questions such as: why are some animals nocturnal? What effects does the loss of colour have on leaves? Does cocoa content affect the melting point of chocolate? Whilst we have numerous projects running, these are the latest to be completed and as a result will receive the Bronze CREST award. Students will also have the opportunity to represent the school in a series of regional and national competitions showcasing their work later in the year.

As well as their assistance in the Bronze awards, sixth form students have also been busy working towards the Gold CREST award. The projects they have completed were conducted over the summer of 2009 in various university laboratories and have allowed them to get a true taste of what scientific research involves, the results of which are currently being displayed in the school's reception area.

Due to popular demand, year 7 students now have their own science club. During the weekly sessions, students have been able to explore aspects of science that the curriculum is not always able to address. From organ dissection to fluorescent chemicals the club has proven to be very popular and will no doubt become a regular fixture each year.

Mr. A. Clayton

The Mathematics Specialism

This year has again been a very busy one in the Mathematics Department. In addition to the regular competitions, a number of enrichment activities have also taken place.

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' with problem solving being the order of the day. Students have performed well in these challenges and the number of certificates awarded is increasing.

In the 2009 Junior Challenge, Year 7 and 8 students achieved 33 Gold, 48 Silver and 42 Bronze certificates. Additionally, Joshua Banister, Roy Chu and Kelvin Wong qualified for the Junior Mathematical Olympiad.

In the 2009 Senior Challenge, Year 11, 12 and 13 students achieved 7 Gold, 21 Silver and 31 Bronze certificates. The Gold Certificate winners were Jack Davies, Harley Jones, Hua Yong Li, James Liu, Edward Parr, Tony Ren and Victor Truong. James Liu again qualified for Round 1 of the British Mathematical Olympiad.

In the 2010 Intermediate Challenge Year 9, 10 and 11 students achieved 18 Gold, 57 Silver and 42 Bronze certificates. Additionally,

Joshua Banister in Year 8 and Joseph Fletcher in Year 7 were awarded Gold certificates and Stephen Chen and Thomas Geddes, both in Year 7, were awarded Silver certificates. Eleven students also qualified for the follow-on rounds: David Murphy for the Intermediate Olympiad, Joshua Banister, Roy Chu, Julia Davis, Joseph Fletcher and Edwin Lau for the Grey Kangaroo, and Jacob Cinnamon, Kathryn Glacken, Rebecca Jones and Jack Marshall who qualified for the Pink 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!

In 2009 Blue Coat was represented in the Regional Final at Liverpool University by Roy Chu, Jack Hackett, Edwin Lau and Ben Neo. The team thoroughly enjoyed the day and finished in a creditable

4th place. (This is an improvement on last year's result and we hope to build on that in this year's event which will take place on Tuesday 23 March).

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, except that it's for Years 12 and 13, and although the final event is a relay it does not involve any running!

In November 2009, Blue Coat was represented by Lewis Coenen-Rowe, Hua Yong Li, James Liu and Tony Ren. The team did well in the first two rounds, meaning that before the final round we were in first place and were fairly confident in our efforts. Unfortunately, in the final relay round we encountered difficulties with some of the starting questions, so we got stuck at the beginning of two relays. This meant we scored lower in this round and ended up in second place overall in the competition.

Written by Lewis Coenen-Rowe

Mathematics Education on Merseyside – Senior Challenge 2009

Blue Coat students produced entries for the MEM Senior Challenge '09 during February half term. William Cheung, Matthew Hodgkinson, Ben Neo, Richard Pan and Michael Zhang received Certificates of Merit. Additionally, Ryta Kamarova received a Consolation Prize and Ricky Cheung a Second Prize.

Cipher Challenge

Throughout the Autumn term the National Cipher Challenge has been running in school for students of all age groups. In this you had to crack codes by using a range of code-breaking techniques which changed each week, adding to the challenge. All the codes were actually letters passed from Ada Lovelace to Charles Babbage. Schools all over the United Kingdom entered, including people in Jersey!

It is really worthwhile entering, with the overall winners being invited to Bletchley Park to receive their prizes. This is where - during World War Two - all the British code breakers cracked and decoded the German enigma. We really enjoyed going to this club and would recommend it to all age groups from 11-18!

Written by Tallulah Jackman and Adam McLoughlin

The Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge

The Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge is an exciting, fun-filled competition in which teams of two compete against each other to construct a virtual representation of a Formula 1 racing car. In order to do this, the teams must analyse a race-track (San Marino) and use the information given to produce the ultimate car. The best car would include the most precise configurations that would be able to take on the many twists and turns of the circuit. We had a few weeks to tweek, fine-tune and modify our car and pit stops etc. On the race day over twenty-five cars left the starting grid in a puff of virtual smoke with everyone cheering for their cars, of which only one would be victorious...

In third place was Sam Russell and Liam Dunne of 'Mario Bro's'; second was Usen Jones and Jonathan Lam of 'The Brainiacs', and the winner was Ali El-Rhalibi and Jonathan Chan of 'Voom GP'; but this was only the internal competition. The external competition will be held during the spring term... let the races BEGIN!

Written by Ali El-Rhalibi and Jonathan Chan



The Jaguar Cars in Motion Club

IET Faraday Competition

On Tuesday 9th February, 6 Year 8 pupils: Joe Boyland, Sam Elcock, Rebecca Flynn, Luke Kershaw, Sophie McHale and Ian Vidamour took part in an engineering experience with 5 other local schools. The Faraday Competition gives students a real insight in to the world of engineering allowing them to, through the completion of a short task, experience first hand what it would be like to be a real engineer.

We were given realistic situations with realistic budgets. Our challenge this year was to build a prototype that would prevent houses from flooding in the future. We had certain restrictions, which included the prototype having to move water 30cm upward, as well as moving at least 1 litre of water in 1 minute. We were the last school to test our prototype and we managed to move over 3 litres of water in 1 minute. We managed to get 172 points out of 200, which enabled us to win the event. We all really enjoyed the day and gained a lot from the experience.

Written by Rebecca Flynn and Sophie McHale



The winning IET Faraday Challenge team

Helmshore Mill Trip – Year 7

This year, on the Year 7 annual Technology trip to Helmshore Mill, students were encouraged to look out for any and all mathematical references. They reported back in their maths lessons on things such as sizes of water wheels, costs of materials and pay that people received for various jobs.

Pupil Achievements

Coding Workshop – Year 8

All Year 8 were involved in a Coding Workshop in September. Students were shown several different types of codes and ciphers, such as Caesar Ciphers, Frequency Analysis and general Substitution Ciphers.

Operational Research Workshop – Years 11-13

Some Year 11- 13 Mathematicians were involved in an Operational Research workshop before Christmas. This workshop enabled them to have hands-on experience of solving a problem using Operational Research techniques. Additionally, students were able to ask the presenters questions, which gave them valuable insights into careers opportunities in this field.



Year 11 students participating in the Operational Research workshop

The Bloodhound Super Sonic Car

The Bloodhound Super Sonic Car is planning to break the world land speed record in the summer of 2010. It is hoped it will travel at 1000 mph on the salt plains of South Africa. The previous land speed record stands at 800 mph, set by the Dassault Falcon. The Bloodhound has two jet engines to help it reach its goal.

We had a short presentation on the Bloodhound in February given to us by David Price. He showed us lots of experiments to explain how the Bloodhound will break the land speed record. He also showed us how the Bloodhound's streamlined shape will help it to reach 1000 mph. He compared the Bloodhound to the Bugatti Veyron; the Bloodhound won in all the categories of comparison, which included speed, length, weight and lots of other factors. After it has done its work, the Bloodhound will go on display in a museum, ending its short life of racing.

The best part of the presentation was seeing how maths and science links in with everyday life. This presentation has helped us understand things that we have never thought about before, it has opened a door in life that we never considered before.

By Lucy Flanagan and Isabella Wignall



Primary Schools attending the Bloodhound Super Sonic Car Talk

University of Liverpool Maths Soc

The maths lectures that started last year have progressed greatly. Each lecture has been attended by approximately 50 Blue Coat Sixth Form students. The lectures have been in areas such as "Mathematical Puzzles" and "How To Think Like a Mathematician". The students thought that these lectures were well aimed, fun and interactive and there are more lectures planned for the rest of the year.

Maths Leaders Award

Sports Leaders UK developed this new accredited course that was launched at the end of 2008. It involves students developing leadership skills through the medium of mathematics. 39 Year 10 students successfully completed this award at the end of approximately 30 hours of 'training'. The final hurdle was the delivery, in groups of 4/5, of a Fun Maths Roadshow event to our partner primary schools.

The Fun Maths Roadshow consists of mathematical activities and puzzles that take only a short amount of time to complete/attempt. Eight sessions were run for our partner primary schools. The Year 10 students met the primary pupils, introduced themselves, got the pupils to do a warm-up activity and then explained and ran the Fun Maths Roadshow. They were assisted by Year 7 students who manned the individual activities. The feedback from these events was excellent and they will definitely run in future years.

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

The following students successfully completed their Award:

Bronze:

Michael Ashton, Merton, Brogan Moss, Jake Cockburn, Bethany Currie, Ashley Davies, Sara Edwards, Alshymaa Essa, Vanessa Ferguson, Emma Findlay, Rachel Hayes, Michael Head, Charlotte Holmes, Robert Hughes, Georgina Hunt, Theodore Jackson, Roseanna Lane, Amy Lewin, Daniel Little, Elham Mahmood, Alison McNulty, Ashley O'Meara, Joshua Owens, Elizabeth Peacock, Marina

Ransome, James Rhodes, Lara Rimmer, Ben Stoker, Carlos Ravena-Walker, Callum Watling, Janet Wong, Sarah Zhao.

Silver:

Omar Amizadah, Dale Charnock, Philip Crawley, Rebecca Croft, Bronica Gumbhir, Quasim Masood, Kit Runnels-Moss, Leslie Tang, Gabriella Thompson, Emma Wakefield, Kieran Woods, Tony Ren, Christopher Loftus, Elizabeth Renshaw.

Specialism Community Links

The last year has seen 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.

Perhaps the most obvious commitment by the school is the provision of Science and Mathematics teachers to support the learning of these subjects within four local primary schools. This has proven a very popular and successful programme with the primary schools, with much gratitude being expressed from both their staff and students. Moreover, it is not just the teachers but also students who have worked hard to promote an interest in our specialism subjects. Our Sixth formers now run after school maths clubs at two of the primary schools.

As well as reaching out to our local community, we have also invited other members of the community into The Blue Coat School. The primary schools have attended a number of events hosted at our school, including a Maths Fun day, laboratory sessions, Forensics day

and most recently the Bloodhound (Supersonic car) event. The school has also hosted and instigated a number of Science and Mathematics lectures, which have been well attended by both our own students and members of other Liverpool schools.

Even the adults have not been forgotten. The Mathematics Department ran a series of Mathematics classes for adults. These proved very popular with some of our parents who were keen to gain a greater appreciation of GCSE Mathematics. Such was the success of this course that the school will soon be offering more opportunities for adult learners.

Last year also saw the school increase its links to both Higher Education institutions and Industry. This has resulted in a number of additional opportunities for students to gain an insight into STEM careers (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) and to attend a variety of University courses including an introduction to Nanotechnology.

Mr. B. Doherty

Blue Coat Writing Successes

20 students recently entered The Imagine Competition, organised by Kate Holcombe of the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral. The title of the competition was inspired by John Lennon's song Imagine and was run to promote awareness of The Imagine Appeal, a charity for seriously ill patients at Alder Hey Children's Hospital.

There were three age ranges for entries, and our students entered the creative writing section.

Robert Brennan, in U6 won first prize in his age range, which was two tickets to The Wakestock Festival in Abersoch, where The Zutons were headlining.

In the 11-13 age range, our students achieved fantastic success: 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Imogen Cooper won first prize: a three course meal and a night at the Hard Days Night Hotel (accompanied by a

parent). Second and third prize-winners of Waterstone's book tokens were Elena Lindsey and Megan Buoe. In this age range, Freya Balchin also won a prize of commendation.

In the 14-16 group, Max Thomas-McGenity and Olivia Sung won prizes of commendation: Waterstone's book tokens.

All students who entered were presented with a certificate and an Imagine badge, including: Robert Nolan, Amy Lloyd, Alireeza Mahmoody, Buneet Gumbhir, Erin Burns, Erin Lee, Elin Webster, Mark Johnson, Krystyn Durkin, Max Stoker, Rachel Chung, Alana Borkwood, Daisy Zhai, Matthew Boyle and James Heron.

Mrs B Ludlow, who runs the Creative Writing Club, and the Headteacher of the School, Mrs Silcock, are delighted with their success. Well done to the students, and keep writing!

Unwoken Fool

Cry for the dreamer:
the unwoken fool.
In dreams, no pain will ever
Bring the brow to cool,
nor actions set upon the idler.
It is here the dreamer is more:
Embodied as he is in creativity
as playwright and actor.
Opened into boundless infinity,
the dreamer rises to self-supposed divinity.
A shell of broken, burned out dreams,

bereft to him of what it means.
Far from his heavenly rise
Sits human shell of inhuman demise.

I beseech you to reach to your heart;
and cry for the dreamer,
he who can do all
but imagine the cost.

Robert J Brennan U6I
First Prize KS5

My Imagination

When I decide,
To think about life,
My imagination whirrs,
It cuts like a knife
And I start to think,
How it might be
Far in the future,
For someone like me.

The world might have changed,
So much you can't see,
Where you had lived,
How it all used to be.
There may be no trees,
No flowers and no green,
Big massive buildings,
Are all that can be seen.

So I think it's urgent,
To keep the world so nice,
For if we let it go,
It will be gone in a trice.

I think all these things,
Lying in the dark,
In this world,
We have to make our mark.

By Imogen Cooper
1st Prize KS3

My Imagination

My imagination runs wild,
When I have an idea or thought,
Lots of things run through my
head,
Things of any sort.

Lights buzzing in all directions,
Whizzing through my head,
Sometimes while I'm dreaming,
Tucked up in my bed.

Thinking about the present,
Thinking about the past,
Dreaming about winning a race,
Or even coming last.

When someone's talking,
I pretend to care,
But speaking from my head and
heart,
I'm never really there.

Imagination can be powerful,
What ever you might think,
Choose to use it wisely,
Your brain will be in sync.

Escaping from reality,
Creating your own world,
The wrath of imagination,
Will never be unfurled.

By Elena Lindsey
2nd Prize KS3

Imagine

I sit here on a hill
And wonder what could be,
No violence, no crime,
As far as the eye could see.
There would be an end to war,
And no-one would be judged,
We would all be friends,
Where everyone is loved.
I look up at the clouds,
And feel the gentle breeze,
I wish for a happy place,
Where everyone's at ease.
I was awoken from my
daydream,

By a binman shuffling past,
Had no money, no home,
And his arm in a cast.
Beside him was a woman,
With designer everything.
Briefcase and a good job,

And a sparkling diamond ring.
When she saw the man,
She tightly pursed her lips,
Put one hand over her nose,
And the other on her hip.
A look of pure disgust,

Flooded her evil face,
Just why cant this world
Be a happy place?
I know now that this is a
dream,
that never will come true,
But if we just look through
others eyes,
We could see a different view.

Megan Buoe
3rd Prize KS3

Putting the I into Imagine Poetry Competition

In Aid of Alder Hey Children's Hospital's Imagine Appeal

I first found out that I had won the Imagine Poetry Competition on a sunny day in July, just before we broke up from school. There was a special assembly in Shirley Hall and I was aware that they were giving out prizes for the competition. I was surprised and delighted to learn that I had won. The prize was dinner and a night's stay for two at The Hard Day's Night Hotel in Liverpool, a hotel dedicated to The Beatles. I was thrilled with this prize and decided to go with my mum.

We booked our stay for the middle of August, and on the day

checked into the lavish reception of the hotel. It is a tribute to the Beatles - photos and paintings of them adorn the walls, with their music playing in the background. Each room has unique pictures of The Beatles. Ours was dedicated to John Lennon with a huge picture of him above the beds. We enjoyed a drink in the bar before a delicious dinner in Blakes restaurant with my dad and brother.

I had a fantastic time at the Hard Day's Night Hotel and would love the chance to stay there again!

By Imogen Cooper & Graham



Jessica Cody GCSE

The Best Job in the World

After several years as an altar server at my parish church of St John Fisher, and after six months of organ lessons at the Metropolitan Cathedral, I became Assistant to the Organist in September 2007. When asked exactly what an Organist's Assistant is, I normally answer, 'Page turner,' because after all, there's even a French film entitled *La Tournieuse de Pages* about just that. But in fact, it is very much more complicated.

The job of the Organist's Assistant is essentially to ensure that the



organist plays the right thing at the right time. In particularly complex Masses, this role is indispensable. As well as turning pages, it involves organising the music (which comes in various forms from various locations), changing the organ's registration (the sound it makes) by pulling out and pushing in stops, and also, informing the organist where the choir/priest is – a task that is simple, but vital to the proper continuity of the Mass.

Depending on the Order of Services and Music, I attend Evening Prayer on Thursday and/or Friday. On Sunday we have a full rehearsal at 9:45am, Mass at 11, lunch break at 12:15pm (in which I learn piano, and

teach Latin), another rehearsal at 1:45 and Evening Prayer at 3. The day finishes at about 3:30.

I also take part in occasional concerts and recitals, special services and broadcasts. My favourite service is Midnight Mass, both as an assistant and as a Christian. I very much enjoyed the televised Easter Mass, Liverpool Organ Day, and making my debut in a supporting role, on Ascension Sunday. My finest hour was during a BBC broadcast that threatened to overrun, when I spotted a French instruction for shortening one of the pieces. Fortunately I haven't had too many mishaps – my worst was ripping a page of an alarmingly fast Christmas voluntary! My favourite pieces are, nonetheless, some of the most difficult to play and to turn, such as 'Tu es Petrus' by Mulet, 'Finale' from 'Symphonie No 5' by Vierne and 'Toccata and Fugue in D minor'.

Being Assistant to the Organist gives me a unique musical opportunity. I learn first-hand about the pieces the choir sings, and the history of liturgical music. I'm familiar with forms of music that I hadn't even heard of before and appreciate musical techniques that I would never have noticed. Coming from a small parish where Mass is spoken in English, experiencing the liturgy sung in Latin is incomparable. My reading of music has become second nature. Apart from that, having such a big individual responsibility is an honour as well as excellent preparation for the future.

One of the standard questions in my French and Spanish GCSEs was, 'Do you have a part-time job?' I am told that my description of my job was 'extraordinary'. It is extraordinary, and also rewarding, enriching, but most of all, fun. Spending my time at the cathedral is an invaluable experience, and one that I will never forget.

I received the Sacrament of Confirmation at the cathedral from Archbishop Patrick Kelly, I have an outstanding teacher in the Cathedral Organist, Richard Lea, and my brother, Benjamin, is a Cathedral Chorister. I feel very lucky.

*Olivia Thompson (aged 16), Assistant to the Organist
Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King*

Target 2.0

Having won the regional and north of UK heats of the prestigious Bank of England Target 2.0 Competition against many of the top Schools in the country, The Blue Coat School took its place in the Grand Final at The Bank of England, London on 18/19th March 2010.



The competition, which is run by the Bank of England in conjunction with The Times, offers teams of students aged 16-18 the chance to take on the role of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, assess economic conditions and the outlook for inflation and tell panels of

judges what interest rate they would set to achieve the Government's inflation target of 2.0%.

In the Grand Final, The Blue Coat Target 2.0 team of James Liu, Jack Bedford, Lee Atkins and Thomas Bowman made a third intelligent and inspiring presentation in a competitive field of six schools, with the other five participants all being independent, fee paying Schools. Mervyn King, the Governor of the Bank of England and three other Monetary Policy Committee members were judging the Competition and after a twenty minute presentation, The Blue Coat team were then asked specific questions about their conclusions from the judging panel. In the end, The Blue Coat team finished fourth, which considering that almost three hundred Schools entered, was an incredible achievement. Each team member received a notebook computer and the team was awarded 1000GBP for the School.

In addition to the Competition itself, the students were given a guided tour of the Bank of England, including access to the stock of gold reserves, and had the opportunity to speak to the Bank's graduate recruitment officers about possible career opportunities in the future. The students were even treated to a night's entertainment in the West End where they watched the musical, *Sister Act*. Overall, the two-day event was a thoroughly enjoyable one and will live long in the memory.

Finalists in the Poetry of Place Competition



Sophie Rooney, Eleanor Roberts, and Olivia Sung

Secrets of the Waterfront

The Blood of Liverpool flows through the vein of the Mersey.
The waves lap over one another,
In sync with the soothing wind that whispers over the water,
The wind slows down,
Now a faint and gentle breeze,
Yet still keeping in rhythm with the beat of the river.

Across the mystical river onlookers feel the wind wrap them up in a soft cool blanket,
Cradling them as they become hypnotised by the mesmerising water,
And lulled by its sweet gentle tune.

Admirers of the river are dazzled into a trance by the sparkles reflected into their eyes.
All of their troubles blow away with the wind into the river,
Joining the many other worries discarded by the people of Liverpool, each of them
melting into the other becoming one and swaying with the movement of the waves.

The only sounds that can be heard are the cries of the seagull soaring in the pink evening sky and the ripple of the waves smoothly caressing each other in an odd Familiar way.

The sky is lit with a colourful spectacle of light pink, orange and deep purple.
The golden orange coin sits amongst the sky's fluffy white purse,
Slowly making its way down deep into the town of Birkenhead.
The coins luminous rays project an image on top of the Mersey portraying a city,
A duplicate city of Liverpool,
Only if you travel deeper into this metaphysical city,
You will discover the secrets of the Mersey,
The secrets of Liverpool.

The tall imposing building that continues into the sky,
Lays claim to its prize position on the city's sky line.
The dominant creatures that conquer the city,
Are positioned in a proud yet alert perch each surveying their home.

The pair flicker their curious gazes from the city streets to the water front,
Each set of eyes observant and wary.
The long shadows cast by the late evening sun scrawl across the pavement by the river,
Take centre stage as striking as ever leading the rest of the shadows,
As their duty is with the city and its inhabitants.

The creatures symbolise unity and courage amongst the people of Liverpool,
And they protect and guide its citizens.
The sharp piercing eyes scanning the city protectively,
Searching and scanning as sensitive as a radar for any trouble or mishap that intrudes their territory.

As the tide comes in and the sun goes down,
The reflection of the city in the water disappears,
A handful of glittering stars are scattered across the black velvet water.
The winds breeze dies down and all that can be heard on Liverpool's waterfront is the
Soft, placid lullaby of the waves settling down for the night.

By Sophie Rooney

The Blue Coat School Chapel

Non Sibi, Sed Omnibus -
Not for oneself, but for all

My school chapel is special to me
With stained glass windows
Portraying women of the Bible
Saint George, soldier and saint,
And, a rusty old organ and pipes
Which blares out hymns every morning

But most important to me
The black stone plaque on the wall;
The name of every Blue Coat boy
Who died, fighting in World War I
In gold, gothic lettering.

Just like me, they sang along to hymns
Analysed the beautiful stained glass windows
Walked on the tiled floor

We might even have sat on the same pew!

They might have smelt the chapel
After the pews had been waxed and
Said 'It smells like churches do on Sunday morning'
just like me

They might have listened to the silence
And listened to it being broken
Just like their lives were broken;
Too fast, too soon.

But those boys lived up to their school motto
Didn't they?
Non Sibi, Sed Omnibus - Not For Oneself, But For
All

By Eleanor Roberts

Flight of the Liver Birds

Deny us all our flight, if you will,
Frost our wings and make us still;
Cover our breast in stone, if you must -
Do not forget it is us you trust.
For we're the ones who see the star
That glimmers on the Mersey, far
Across the skyline we all know
That basks in those for Beatles' glow.
We're the ones that see this city,
Simmering gently, dark but pretty;
The warmest welcome, a pan of Scouse;
A Red or Blue in every house;
The football grounds; the Radio Tower,
How music became our greatest power;
The shiny buildings, old and new;
The constant, ever-changing view;
The restaurants, cafes, shopping malls;
Churches, Mosques, Mandirs and halls
Of any kind for anyone-

An endless, swirling Pool of fun.
And then, of course, the people here:
The sense of humour, lack of fear,
The songs they raise with steely eyes
To say, now hear our battle cries!
Sitting together, or on their own
But Scousers never can walk alone.
For protecting their city is what they do best,
Try stripping their armour; put them to the test-
They'll come up triumphant, as they've always done,
With us as their symbol; we rise like their sun,
For a place is its people, a people its place:
A mystical bond that you cannot erase.
And we shall protect her, now and forever,
Liverpool and us are united together.
And so, if you ask, why don't we fly always?
Well, this is our home, so here we will stay.

By Olivia Sung
Winner of
Chairman of the Royal Liver Group's Special Prize



Alice McRoe, A Level



Alice McRoe, A Level



Caitlin Baxendale, 8BL



Daisy Zhai, GCSE

Olivia Sung's Writing Success

Olivia Sung, Year 10, was in the final 12 students of 1,000 entries to the annual NASUWT Arts and Minds Competition.

She and another student won the 'Secondary Schools' section of the competition. With her father and Mrs Ludlow, she attended a prestigious awards ceremony at the Charing Cross Hotel, London on 13th October. Ed Balls was the special guest, and he spoke of the impressive talents of the entries, as he helped select the finalists. Olivia won a bag of goodies, a WH Smith voucher and £350 for the School. This money was used towards the musical show which she has written, and which the School presented in February.

The competition was about celebrating cultural diversity, with the

emphasis on community, and Olivia's poem accurately reflects this. Mrs Ludlow gave a short speech on behalf of the School, about how the students had been inspired to write.

A reporter from SecEd interviewed Olivia and Mrs Ludlow, and an article appeared in this weekly newspaper for teachers the following week. Speakers from Love Music, Hate Racism and The Anne Frank Trust were also in attendance at the ceremony. It was a very enjoyable trip, and Olivia was particularly excited because she had never been to London before. She deserves this accolade for her writing prowess.

Mrs Ludlow



Data Collection

They don't know how to spell your
name,
They don't know what you're saying.
They don't know to which friend you
turn,
Or to which God you're praying.

They understand a little bit
Why you dress like that,
But still they just don't like those
shoes,
And they don't get your hat.

They don't want to ask questions,
But you honestly don't mind,
You'd rather they were in the know,
You're feeling left behind.

Investigating everything,
But never knowing why,
You know they don't intend to hurt,
So you're trying not to cry.

Some people wear their clothes like
that
Simply since they can,
You're ivory, gold, or mocha-
Unless it's just a tan?

They think they might offend you
So they say nothing at all.
But if you only take one brick,
You won't defeat a wall.

And so we bend the silence,
But never puncture through.
But now let's fix the hardest thing,
Let's paint this town in blue -

And red and black and pink and green
And gold and white and red -
Let's just all go crazy -
I want to lose my head.

Ignore the impositions,
Fight the bland fatigue
That comes with only ignorance,
Just let our conscience breathe.

Let's battle prejudice with wit,
Let freedom have its day,
Life is all we have right here
So love must find its way.

Collect in all the differences
Then cast each one right out,
We'll share a little brilliance,
We'll have our time to shout.

Forget about the barriers -
We'll all just speak in song -
Because we want to show you
You were welcome all along.

Particle Physics, the Large Hadron Collider

Professor Roger Jones and the Blue Coat School

Can a pattern, a symmetry or a unified theory emerge from the title of this article?! What connects all of the facets? Well, let's unravel the dimensions and attempt to string them together!

In December all of our Yr 12 Physics students enjoyed a lecture in the Blundell Suite on particle physics given by Professor Roger Jones from Lancaster University. What contributed to it being such a memorable lecture was the fact that Professor Jones is an old boy of the school, having left Blue Coat in the early eighties to study Physics at Oxford.

Our students found his talk most stimulating, inspiring, intriguing and humorous. Of particular interest was the links he made about conservation laws guarding symmetry in particle physics, the possibility that the quark may have a substructure, some thoughts concerning dark energy and why must the cosmological constant be

one? Professor Jones had flown in from CERN in Geneva the previous day and showed us from his lap top actual measurements (in diagrammatic form) from the large hadron collider, now working, from two days previously, a real highlight of cutting edge Physics!

It was a great pleasure to meet up again with Roger after so many years and Mr Cowan also attended the lecture to meet him again (and learn some real science?!). Roger has agreed to give another lecture at Blue Coat so our students will benefit again from his extensive particle physics knowledge and no doubt by then, interpretations and analyses of the huge amount of data that will emerge from the colliding beam experiments of the LHC will have been made and perhaps the elusive Higgs boson may have been detected?! All of which will be explained by Roger in his clear and interesting style.

Mr K Caulkin

Reviews of Enrichment Week

Tuesday 14th July 2009 was Trips Day for the school. Every year group went to a different place: Year 8 went to Camelot, Year 9 went to Alton Towers and Year 7 went to Chester Zoo. It was a great day and everyone had fun, whether they had visited the zoo once or a hundred times before. We split into small groups and then we were allowed to go around the zoo on our own and meet up at lunchtime and at the end of the day.

On Wednesday we had rounders tournaments on the 'Mystery' across the road and did ice-skating, rock climbing and archery on the

main yard. It was a really challenging day, but it was really fun. All the students were very satisfied with their achievements by the end of the day as we all tried really hard. It was very physically tiring but we all felt great for doing it, especially as many of us had been very scared at the prospect of being at a great height or skating on a slippery surface.

On Thursday Years 7, 8 and 9 all went to the beach. Armed with our buckets and spades we all got off the coaches and headed off onto the beach to find the best possible patch of sand on which to build a sandcastle. It was the perfect day to have a sandcastle building competition: the sun was shining but it was neither too hot nor too cold, with a light breeze in the air. After lunch on the beach, we made kites and flew them, running up and down the shore.

On Friday morning, we had a quiz in the Shirley Hall. There were various types of questions – some about the history of the school, some general knowledge and some picture questions. It was good fun and the sixth formers who were in charge did a really good job of organising the morning.

Overall, everybody enjoyed the week and it made a brilliant end to the year for everyone.

By Georgia Mason 8Bi

See also Poem on page 66





Corinna Milroy AS level



Elouisa Lewis, Year 8



Ben O'Connor, Year 8



Vanessa Ferguson, Year 11



Kate Coenen-Rowe A Level



Sarah Hodgkiss A level

The Best of British: The Queen of England and the Head of Blue Coat.

Following the Duke of Gloucester's Royal Visit to Blue Coat in November '08, on 14th July 2009 (by coincidence, School Trips Day), Head Teacher Mrs Silcock and the Secretary to the Foundation, Mr Ardren (known to us as 'the man in the clock tower'), with their other halves, travelled to Buckingham Palace for the Queen's Royal Garden Party.

The doors opened at 3pm, allowing only 45 minutes to admit 7000 guests, each of whom was subject to checks of passport and clothes. Ladies' dress code was 'day dress and hat', and for men, 'lounge suit or a tail coat'. Such was the regal atmosphere, the photography ban was strictly respected, and the event commenced very smoothly, being extremely well organised throughout.

As is our school, the Guest List was representative of the traditional and multi-cultural society of Britain today. As well as the Archbishop of Canterbury, there were members of the clergy of different religions, and also, members of the British Armed Forces.

The grounds of Buckingham Palace are of similar size to The Mystery. To enter, the group was escorted through just a small area of the Palace, but this in itself was impressive, being filled with beautiful paintings and furnishing. In the garden, there were several tea tents

manned by Scouts, Guides and recipients of the Duke of Edinburgh Award, a Royal Tea Tent, and several bands. It was very much a traditionally British garden.

The Queen and Royal Party appeared at 4pm at the top of a flight of steps, which led from the Palace to the garden below. They made their way along a purpose built avenue, stopping to meet and speak to separate, strategically placed groups and families en route. This allowed the Blue Coat Party within a metre of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, and also, to spend an enjoyable five minutes or so in conversation with the Earl of Wessex, Prince Edward, who was very jolly and easy to talk to!

Mrs Silcock was amazed to realise just how much work the Queen has to do. It took the Royal Party an hour to reach the Royal Tea Tent – surely a long time for an 82 year old lady, to wait for that refreshing cup of tea, but she wasn't even slightly fazed, remaining pleasant and genuinely interested in what her guests had to say, with a posture that was 'better than ours'!

Mrs Silcock says that seeing the Queen at such close quarters was the best part of the day. It was 'remarkable...a privilege'.

Olivia Thompson interviewed Mrs Silcock

Santa Dash '09

Six students from L6B used this year's Santa Dash as the perfect opportunity to complete their Enrichment Project for the AQA Baccalaureate.

19 students and Mr McBride took part in the 5km fun run in and around the city of Liverpool. The money we raised through

sponsorship was equally split between two charities: Cash for Kids and Camp Kenya. I would like to thank everyone who took part in the run for supporting two worthy charities.

Shaun Rigby, L6B



Enrichment Week

On Monday we had netball,
And table tennis too,
We had a go at badminton,
Then finished with sudoku.
Then there was some team building,
We went to Shirley Hall,
The groups weren't sorted very well,
And there was a brawl.

On Tuesday, this was trips day,
Our chance to hit the slopes,
But even with this expense, it wasn't to our hopes!

On Wednesday this was manic!
There was so much to do,
The maths challenge was fun,
Although disorganised right through.

We had a chance to wall climb,
On a little wall,
But as the day went on, the queues made activities
stall.

On Thursday, this was Ainsdale beach,
Quite sunny at the start, we played Frisbee, footy
and lied around,
As we grew apart.

Friday, I leave for now,
As there is not much to say,
I will let you know about future events,
Of the next enrichment day.

Lee Smith

Year 12 Enrichment Day

On Friday 4th September 2009, Year 12 took part in an Enrichment Day to welcome us to Sixth Form. Team leaders from an activity company came to school to guide us through various tasks.

First we drew lots and were put into groups named after different countries. Then we were dispatched onto the 'Mystery' and put into 'continents' – four different groups together. Our leaders explained that our task was to have the best trading relationship out of all the continents – by creating a pipe system from the first country to the fourth.

We soon got stuck in and managed to fight against the cold. We used the pipes, duct tape and bamboo sticks to hold up our pipe system in preparation for the 'marble test' in which one of the leaders would roll a marble down the pipes and see if it could reach the bucket at the end.

It was difficult in the first place, but we weren't allowed to leave the little square of our country. However, all of the teams managed to construct a pipe system – although some of them fell down because of the wind! The eventual winners were from Norway but we all had a great time even if we didn't win, and everyone made new friends.

Next we returned to school and were put into new groups for our next challenge. This was a traditional scavenger hunt around the school. There were lots of different types of clues – for example, we had to recognise a small photo of something around the school and find a red clamp there with a code on, or we had to take photos of ourselves in different poses, or we had to use a GPS controller to take us to different clues. The photos caused a lot of laughs and the GPS controller a lot of confusion!

Finally we went back to the Shirley Hall with all the clues we had managed to find. The points we had collected from the Scavenger Hunt represented the number of clues we would get to help us with our final task: the logic puzzle. We used the clues to find the combination to open a box to get chocolates. The problem was that, in traditional Blue Coat fashion, everyone cracked the code! But in traditional Blue Coat fashion, everyone shared the chocolates and had a good laugh.

Thanks to the people from Eventus for leading Enrichment Day and thanks to Mrs Wilkinson, Head of Enrichment, for organising it. It was a good day for everyone and a great start to the school year.

By Olivia Thompson L6E



Nathan Bond Yr 11



Lara Rimmer, GCSE



Olivia Denvir Parry, GCSE

The Windows Project

This year, The Blue Coat School has furthered its relationship with the charitable organisation The Windows Project, by asking four sixth form students to become the project's youth advisors. Since the start of the year we have attended meetings and carried out investigations to help the writing team collect information about the interests of young people.

The organisation, which is based in offices on Bold Street, aims to promote imagination within the community, especially in the field of creative writing and there is a strong emphasis on helping disadvantaged young people who may not have the opportunities to express themselves in a creative manner.

Our role has included spending Saturday afternoons at libraries where we have helped children from a diverse range of backgrounds

make cards and write poems to loved ones. We are currently involved in analysing questionnaires about the reading preferences of students, from different schools, in order to help Windows know what angles they should be taking with today's teenagers.

This link has increased our knowledge of the business world, giving us an insight into the way that formal meetings are held, and we are all enjoying this role.

The Project has said that it is grateful for the younger perspective, as (to use an old cliché) 'we are the future of this city' and we have relished the opportunity to use our positions to help the community and the charity. The success of this trial has meant that they have asked for us to appoint some younger advisors soon, so watch this space if you think you might be interested in helping them in the future.

By Zoë Bond

The Royal Marine Band Service



The Royal Marine Band Service visited the Blue Coat School, offering a fantastic performance and presentation. On February 10th, years 7-9 gathered in Shirley Hall to be introduced to a Marine who has enjoyed working in the service for 27 years. He spoke about the advantages of working in the service, and the amazing opportunities it offered. Musicians always have a busy diary, and often have the honours to perform in grand venues, such as the Albert Hall, at royal weddings and even for the Queen. You can study for various degrees in music and conducting.

Life with the RMBS offers much more than just music. You are

trained in first aid, experience infantry training and learn survival techniques. You can learn lots of outdoor activities such as skiing, snowboarding, diving and parasailing. The salary at the RMBS is also good; a young musician rank earns up to £14 thousand a year, and goes up as you get promoted. There is no limit to your success at the RMBS, only yourself.

After the talk the marine band from Portsmouth played contemporary music, which all the pupils thoroughly enjoyed. We were all clapping, dancing, and singing along.

Drew Hawley-Higgins 8Sh

The Cultural Food Sale

Last year 7 Bingham held a cultural food sale which you may remember. After weeks of planning, on the 12th of March it finally happened. It was held in Shirley Hall at lunchtime and had people queuing right down the corridor!

Our food sale was to raise money for the worthy cause: Stick n Step. The charity cares for children suffering from the disease, cerebral palsy. The disease makes it hard to walk yet Stick 'n' Step helps the children and hopefully allows them to lead a happy and normal life.

Our form is very cultural with people coming from lots of different

origins- we had lots of different types of food. We had Chinese, Indian, Italian, Hungarian, Irish, British, Greek, Spanish and Scouse. The food sale was a great success and we would like to thank everyone for coming and supporting our charity. Overall our food sale raised a whopping...

£456.75!

We are hoping to hold another food sale this year which we hope will be just as successful.

Miss K. Strain

Year 7 Social



French Exchange Trip June 2009

In June 2009 some French students came to Liverpool from the Notre Dame Sévigné School in Bordeaux, from the Monday 23rd to the Tuesday 30th. The exchange was initially organised with the help of my family and my French relatives in Bordeaux; when I had heard that the French department wanted to organise an exchange I remembered that the school my French cousin, Andy, goes to in Bordeaux wanted an exchange with a Liverpool school.

So with communications from my family in England and France and also the two schools, an exchange trip was set. We first met the exchange students after school on Tuesday 23rd – everyone was really excited. It took about half an hour after running from the car park to the main entrance to actually find which coach my exchange student was on! Her name was Cecile De Saint Viance.

When we had collected her and taken her to our car, then began the awkward silence that nobody wants. After a while we both got the hang of trying to understand what each other was saying. Even so, I still ended up carrying a French dictionary around wherever I went or giving in to using an online translator! My mum, dad and sister were all eager to join in with a bit of French here and there, so it wasn't as scary as I'd first thought and we all had a good laugh. Each morning I would knock on her bedroom door (my bedroom!) and then we would all have breakfast together outside, whatever the British weather had to offer!!

The first organised activity was the disco. It was a great success and everyone enjoyed it. At one point everyone was doing the conga around the canteen! We took a lot of photos so we will never forget

how amazing it was. On Saturday we could do whatever we wanted so we took Cecile to Calderstones Park with my dog, Fell. We tried out the fitness structures and had a great laugh! We ended up looking absolutely ridiculous as we tried out all the different ways that they could be used. We also took Cecile around all the Beatles' Landmarks for example, 'Strawberry Fields' and 'Menlove Avenue', not realising that she had already been round these places on her Magical Mystery Tour! However, we found out that they didn't get out of the bus so it wasn't all bad because we got to take pictures outside the various places. We treated her to a Beatles Mug from the newly opened Ferry Terminal Building.

One of the highlights of the week was the trip to Alton Towers; we planned to go around with the French students, but in the end they were more comfortable going around with their friends, but when we did see them we stopped to chat. (Well, not too involved as we didn't have the vocabulary!). On the trip home all you could hear from every conversation, French and English, was Oblivion. Everyone loved that ride as it had a vertical drop!

Sadly they had to go home on Tuesday and everyone was really sad as the coach pulled away, but everyone had hugged and exchanged emails and MSN addresses so we could keep in touch. Hopefully a trip to France will be arranged for us so we can see them again in the future, but in between then and now everyone is still chatting on Facebook and MSN. Thank you to the French Department and also my family for arranging a very successful trip.

By Grace Crichton 9 Graham

GCSE Religious Studies Hinduism Day

In the summer of 2009, three ladies from the Hindu temple came to visit Blue Coat for an afternoon to help GCSE RS students. We were allowed to miss lessons 4 and 5 to enjoy various activities related to our study of Hinduism.

First they showed us a presentation about Hindu ceremonies. It was very interesting to learn about these things from an actual Hindu perspective. Then they performed a peace blessing and demonstrated how the symbol 'ohm' comes from the sound a bell makes when struck once. Meanwhile, we enjoyed fruit and sweets as we watched the ceremony.

Then, we performed a Hindu stick dance, which takes place at the festival of Navaratri. We had to move along a line and touch our coloured sticks in a certain pattern. This resulted in a lot of laughs as we sometimes forgot the pattern and poked each other instead!

Next we were invited to take part in a Hindu tradition called Raksha Bandhan. This usually takes place between brothers and sisters, where sisters tie a sacred thread around their brothers' wrists to represent the fact that the brothers will always protect their sisters and the sisters will always wish their brothers well. We all tied bracelets on our friends' wrists, girls and boys where possible, but once we ran out of pairs, one had to take on the role of 'brother' and the other 'sister'!

Finally we got to dress up in Indian clothes, and we all looked very glamorous! Some of us also got Henna tattoos, although not many were brave enough to have a tattoo on their whole hand.

We had a fabulous time and at the end of the day we didn't want to give our Indian clothes back! Thanks to the women from the temple for coming to help us with our GCSE studies and thanks to Mrs McDonnell and Mrs Treharne for organising such a great day.

By Olivia Thompson 11Gr (now L6E)

Creative Writing Club

Wordsmiths (yrs 7-9)

This year, so far we have entered the following competitions: Athenaeum Writer in Residence Award; Animal Antics, Arts and Minds; Peterloo Poets; Tower Poetry; Poetry of Place; Peter Arnold

Craft Creative Writing Competition; Imagination Competition run by Liverpool Cathedral; Fantastic Friends; World Book Day and Writers' Forum Magazine. Many students have won prizes and had their work published. Congratulations to them all, and keep writing!

Mrs BDG Ludlow

Scribes (yrs 10-13)

Is this a dagger that I see before me? No, it's a pen, as 'Scribes' is the nom de plume of Blue Coat's Senior Creative Writing Club, meeting every Monday lunchtime to get the old creative juices flowing and putting pen to paper to create a myriad different pieces of writing.

Mrs Ludlow, who runs both writing societies, is always on the scene with new competitions and literary prizes to be won. So far, the most prestigious award that we have attempted to win has been the Athenaeum Writer in Residence - a year's access to the city's most esteemed library and a commission to write articles for them within that time. Unfortunately nobody was lucky enough on the day to succeed, but we all enjoyed writing towards it - better luck next year!

'Scribes' is a very informal society, with amusing conversation whilst we work. Lunch is allowed (although Mrs Ludlow is a self-confessed chip thief!) and anyone and everyone in Years 10-13 is more than welcome.

Come, join in, and let your inner Eliot (George or TS, as prose and poems are both explored) shine!

To Creative Writing Club, or not to Creative Writing Club? That is NOT the question! Wednesdays 04, 1:00, - you won't regret it.

The rest is silence.

Max Thomas-McGenity

Chess Club

Chess club, is held on Wednesday lunchtimes, led by Miss Lunney. We have started a chess tournament which has been mainly dominated by a boy in year 7 who plays for chess England: Stephen Chung. Chess club is open to all years but mainly only Year 7 and 8 who attend.

Those who attend, play games which are friendlies or they play competitively.

Rishi Banerjee 8SH

It can be very easy to get bored,
When you don't know what to do,
Sitting around at lunchtime,
With all your friends being bored, too.

So we come to Creative Writing Club,
And write poems, plays and more,
We enter loads of competitions
And write till our hands are sore!

We also giggle at each other's jokes,
And have a good old chat,
We can write about whatever we wish,
Discover new worlds where we're sat.

You should definitely join Creative Writing,
You will discover new sights and sounds,
I think you would enjoy writing your thoughts,
And you may just win £1000 pounds!

Imogen Cooper
8 Graham

Parents' Association Gifts to the Scool 1969 - 2009

The Parents' Association has donated approximately £310,000 to the school via fundraising during the above period. In December 2009, the Parents' Association has pledged a minimum donation of £10,000 to the Shirley Hall Sound and Light Project. Contributions have been:-

ICT	£32,000
School Sport	£28,000
Mini Buses	£25,000
Academic Departments	£25,000
IT Cabling (new school)	£20,000
School Magazine	£16,000
Drama and Music	£15,000
School Calendars	£14,000
Tri-centenary	£20,000

Philosophy Club

Philosophy Club is a recent event this year, but already it has had a very nice turnout of students. Every Tuesday at 1pm they flock to W15 to philosophise with Miss Moss.

Most weeks you can leave the room completely dumbfounded because you've realised there's aspects of life you can't answer. But guaranteed if you have an open mind, you'll be excited for the next half hour of philosophising you do.

By Vanessa Ferguson

Physics Club

Physics Club is a brand new student society within the school, open to all students from all years interested in furthering their understanding of Physics. It's not just like an extended Physics lesson – instead we look at fundamental concepts in classical and modern physics that are not traditionally on the school syllabus. These range from the laws of quantum mechanics – the microscopic – right to the gravitational laws and relativity of our entire macroscopic universe!

The club meets once a week, in C05, every Tuesday, at 1.00pm. In this space, refreshments are available in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. The club being completely student run, the talks on various topics are given by student members, in conjunction with a self-made presentation and their own personal research. Democracy within the club is vital, and votes are always made as to any future talks given.

We also wish to look into practical experimentation and lab work in the near future, and are particularly hopeful in drawing in keynote speakers from the professional sectors of Physics, such as the University of Liverpool and other academic bodies.

Despite being a new club, we are proud to be running personal trips and exhibitions for members. This February, the club visited St. George's Hall to attend a lecture by world-renowned physicist Professor Brian Foster, FRS, on special relativity, the standard model of particle physics, and the implications of radioactivity. This event was a huge success and we wish to organise more trips in the future to various areas of academia and research around Britain.

For the spring term, a wide set of topics and speeches were given. These included:

- Special and general relativity
- Cosmology and black-hole physics
- Spectroscopy and energy levels
- Quantum theory
- Thermodynamics and chemical physics

We hope that, in future terms, other areas of the subject will also be studied. These could include practical applications in engineering, such as fluids and aeronautics, as well as any additional help or advice for students who are struggling with their Physics study, or would like assistance with any revision.

We hope that the society will last for many years to come, and attract a variety of Blue Coat students into the fascinating field that is physics. If students would like any other information regarding the club, please speak to Michael Nelson or Daisy Busher.

By Michael Nelson, L6I, Vice-Chairman of Physics Club

IT Club

IT Club is a fun club where you can play computer games on/offline or you can play on the Wii. The greatness level of the club is high and you can really enjoy yourself as you play games in school instead of tetris in the library. You can come to our Tuesday after-school session, which lasts an hour, and play to your heart's content. You could also come Monday lunchtimes but only to design games on Game Maker.

The friendly atmosphere welcomes you with open arms as wide as the now working smart-board.

Mr. Keating looks after the club that takes place in S02, but he only pops in occasionally so you are free to do what you will!

Created by Ian Speirs 8Sh and Josh Banister 8Gr

Craft Club

The club meets every Tuesday at 1.00pm. We are taught and encouraged to make lots of interesting objects. Some of them require textile skills, others enhance our resistant materials and graphic techniques.

We have made gift cards, Christmas tree ornaments, jewellery and book mark mice up to now and we are looking forward to working on other projects. It is enjoyable and interesting with a friendly atmosphere. Some of our products are sold at the Summer and Christmas fairs and we are allowed to take the first of our constructed objects home. We are going to make puzzles and tooth fairy dolls in the near future, then we will move onto developing ideas for our own craft items. We are enjoying our club and raising money for school funds whilst we are doing so. Thank you Mrs Tabern from all members of Craft Club.

Sophie Lovell-Kennedy

The Library

This year the library has continued to fashion itself as the hub of academic life at the school.

The school is full of voracious readers that devour the quality fiction that we continue to purchase in order to satisfy their intellectual inquisitiveness. There is a continuing dialogue with all academic departments which enables a great deal of curriculum specific stock to be available to both staff and students.

After school homework club is always well attended and other activities such as the University Challenge quiz and the Medical Interview Workshops and ethics discussions have once again proved successful this year.

All Year 7 pupils received a free book from the Booked Up scheme. It is hoped that the adoption of schemes such as this will promote an active interest in reading for pleasure and enhance the culture of learning in the Blue Coat School.

D.Newton Librarian

The Law Society

WHERE: W03 (Mrs. Bennett's room)

WHEN: Thursdays at 1pm

WHO: Chairpersons – Amelia Hayden and Jack Kenny

Now in its third year, the Law Society meets weekly for relaxed, informed debates and discussions regarding a wide range of aspects of the law and current affairs. The Law Society is helpful to anyone who is considering a future in the legal sector, although many of our members have no desire to study law in the future – the skills that are developed as a member of the Law Society, including analytical, debating and communication skills, are a great addition to any university application, regardless of course subject.

Regular talks and question-and-answer sessions with prestigious guests are an important feature of the Law Society, organised to give members a detailed insight into all aspects of the law. In the past, we have had talks from judges, several solicitors from local law firms and barristers from varying legal backgrounds and the Dean of the Anglican Cathedral to discuss the balance between religion and law.

After consultation with other Law Society members, we have come up with an excellent structure for this year's meetings, including a focus on criminal, family, media and human rights law. We will also be collaborating with the Medical Ethics Society for one month to talk about conflicts of law in the medical profession.

Prospective lawyers and members are also awaiting the annual Law Dinner, which allows our students to obtain work experience and converse with people who are within the profession. The speech once again will be given by Judge Sanderson. It will be a very worthwhile experience.

All sixth-formers are welcome to come along to debate and discuss, and no previous knowledge of the law is required. The usual refreshments of cheap lemonade and biscuits are the glue that holds the Law Society together.

Jack Kenny U61 and Amelia Hayden U6G

Christian Union

The Blue Coat CU is not perfect, nor do we do claim to be. Like human beings we are a work in progress and we can stumble on our journeys. However, the unity that we demonstrate helps us to support one another in times of need as well as to collaborate to help to continue and enhance the CU. We hope that this means that it will become further tailored to the needs of the school, in a world full of unusual 'moral' stances.

The CU has evolved - controversial choice of language – this year. With Mr Singer's departure we lost the regular Scripture Union speakers, an aspect that will be remembered fondly. However, this has given the sixth formers the opportunity to become more involved with the leadership of the CU, a role which they have relished.

We delight in the relationships that we build within the CU, providing us with firm foundations when standing in the face of adversity. Our connections create a familial environment in the group, with the older members helping the younger ones, outside of W10 as well as inside.

We usually base our lunchtime meetings on the day's news stories, and use them as an initial discussion point. The scope of backgrounds, denominations and opinions sparks lively debates on topical issues as well as broadening our horizons. Due to our diversity, we welcome those without religious affiliation, and even those who want to contest our beliefs. Our weekly worship meetings give us the opportunity to spend time singing a collection of modern and older songs.

Youth Alpha, which meets on a Tuesday, gives students the opportunity to explore the Bible, with current meetings being based around the commandments. These informal sessions combine fun, games and curious minds, to create a relaxed and enjoyable lunchtime, thanks to the leadership of Mr. Pearson, Mrs. Athis and Mrs. Coltart.

We know that there are challenges up ahead and we are grateful that we can meet together, a comfort in the world of uncertainty. In the last year alone we have changed considerably, and we know that in a world desiring development, the group will be modified again in future times.

Zoë Bond

Snag Report

As we now have an independent dining service, we thought that it was time that the SNAG report received the honour of being in the eagerly anticipated Squirrel. For all of you who are wondering what on earth the word 'snag' has to do with dining, I can inform you that it is an acronym: 'School's Nutritional Action Group'. This 'catchy' choice is a governmental decision, however what we lack in name, we make up for in creativity, enthusiasm and character.

Currently consisting of 4 sixth formers, and one student from each year in years 7 to 11, the team meets once every half term with the head of catering in order to discuss new ideas and raise relevant issues. The group was formed three years ago, but has flourished now that we no longer have to cope with the catering company restraints. The meetings provide us with an opportunity to feedback our thoughts on the food in the canteen, as well as sampling new things and eating lots and lots of

sandwiches. Having cake competitions and themed days (we even managed to have a chocolate day for Easter – as apparently the occasional treat is allowed, despite Mr Jamie Oliver's crackdown) has given us the chance to raise money for charities including The Alder Hey Appeal and funds for Camp Kenya.

Our most notable achievement came at the end of the last academic year, when we were awarded the schools healthy eating status, and two pupils accompanied members of the school to the town hall to collect it.

As we look forward into the new decade, we hope that the canteen will go from strength to strength, and with the introduction of 'Hoi-Sin Duck' sandwiches and 'Chicken Joes', two items which the SNAG team wish they could keep to themselves, I am sure that it will do.

Zoë Bond

The Liverpool Blue Coat Brotherly Society

(Also known as "The Old Blues' Association")

Back in the year 1838 the Liverpool Blue Coat School was a different place. As a charitable institution it took in boys and girls who were orphans or fatherless, and gave them somewhere to live as well as educating them to a standard where they could later support themselves.

As most of these children had no family, the school would try to find them suitable employment when they left. But this new, independent life could be difficult without some support and encouragement.

The Brotherly Society was set up by "old boys" who had left the school, and were making a success of their working lives, to provide this support to those who were finding their feet in the outside world. Boys leaving the school would be visited by members of the Society, either at home or in their place of work. Advice as well as practical and financial support was given so that these boys had every chance of success, in spite of the poor start they had experienced in life.

From 1949, the school became a boys-only "bi-lateral" school - the charitable boarding side running alongside the Liverpool Education Committee day-school. The need for such support became less and less, so the Brotherly Society turned its attention to other needs.

Thank you to the Blue Coat Brotherly Society for their generous donation for the Squirrel Magazine - The Editor

The Society still occasionally provides financial support to assist present and past students in their studies or further education, but also contributes to various projects within the school. A recent notable event was a donation of £10,000 during the Tricentenary year, which helped to produce the Year 13 facilities at the front of the school. We also organise re-union events for past pupils.

Our members vary in age from 95-year-old Albert Blundell, who left the school in 1928, to young students who are still at University.

You can check out our activities on our website: www.bluecoatbrotherlysociety.co.uk where you can see many old photographs and read tales of the school and its pupils in days gone by. You can check out our YouTube video (as well as a few unofficial ones made by students recently).

We have published four books, available through the website or the Foundation office (by the clock tower entrance), where you can read about the escapades of pupils from the 1920s through to the 1970s.

All students about to leave the school will receive an invitation to join the Society. If you want any further information, please look at our website, call us on 0844 504 7703, or write to us at PO Box 269, Dewsbury, WF12 0WB



Imogen Cooper Year 8



Alex Monaghan

Music Report

Another action-packed year has passed in the Musical Society's calendar. 2009 has proven to be a truly memorable year. When we heard the news that Mr Cook would be leaving the school in July, the Musical Society was in shock. Nevertheless, preparations still had to be made to make Mr Cook's final year the best he has ever had and to make "his replacement's" first term just as impressive.

Our Spring Concert took place on Wednesday 1st April in Shirley Hall. Although our previous Spring Concert was held in the glorious Philharmonic Hall, the performance did not disappoint. The Concert Band, Jazz Band, Orchestra and Choir were all on show with some truly breathtaking performances, especially the Choir's rendition of the Kyrie, from Haydn's Nicolai Mass, and the Jazz Band's recital of "Take the A Train" including a percussion duet by Callum Spiers and Shaun Rigby (no bias, honest). There was also an array of talent from our soloists, duets and smaller ensemble's. Olivia Sung, Year 9 at the time, gave everyone goose pimples during her performance of "Time to Say Goodbye". We even experienced the premiere of a piece composed by Harley Jones: "Prelude for String Quartet".

Our next major function was the school's Founder's Day Service in the Anglican Cathedral. The Orchestra played William Walton's "Crown Imperial March", a piece full of royal fanfares, pure melodies and raw power. The Choir sang Chilcott's "Can You Hear Me?" The chorus of this song requires the Choir to sign while singing, much to the humour of the audience. Many people believed that the irony of this song was unbearable. Nonetheless, the Choir sang with grace and style.

Who would have believed that we were now fast approaching our final Summer Recital with Mr Cook as our Director of Music? Although he and the Choir had performances in the Leipzig Festival to look forward to, this was the last concert with Mr Cook for many members of the Musical Society, including myself. That is why this concert had proven to be "the best of the best".

The Choir was able to "strut their stuff" at the Summer Recital, as they had 10 pieces out of the 16 that evening (well they were going on tour, so it is understandable). New pieces like "Ar Hyd y Nos" and old favourites like "Cantique de Jean Racine" and "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" wowed the more than appreciative audience.

A very successful Choir tour of Leipzig followed. There is a separate report about Leipzig, including the strange incident with a bottle of red wine.

Then he was gone. Mr Cook had left the country completely; he had truly had enough of the school (that is a reason he gave)! He had been granted a place at Nebraska University as a postgraduate to gain a DMA (Doctor of Musical Arts) in Choral Conducting.

I seem to be forgetting something at a very important time of this year's Music Report. Oh of course, to reveal who Mr Cook's "replacement" is. Mr Emery was a highly acclaimed teacher of St. Mary's School, Crosby and the conductor of the Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Choir. There was no one better to take on the glitz and glamour (actually, maybe not glamour) of being the Director of Music at The Blue Coat School.

Mr Emery didn't have much time to settle in; the Christmas Carol Service and Concert of Festive Music were fast approaching. As it was Mr Emery's first concert with the school, he wanted to start with a bang: he didn't disappoint. The Choir stood surrounding the audience in the School Chapel and sang Britten's "Hodie"; a powerful proclamation. The service continued with the usual carols and religious readings. The Choir

sang their hearts out, especially during the glorious piece that is the "Hallelujah Chorus" by Handel.

With the formal half of the evening over, the audience congregated in Shirley Hall for a Concert of Festive Music. The Hall had recently been installed with new a sound and lighting system, which made the venue look spectacular. Special mention should go to the only soloists of the night: Alasdair Chatterton and Louise Goodwin for their interpretation of "Black & White Rag", Lucy Quinn and Stuart Campbell for their outstanding vocals in "The Christmas Song" and Callum Spiers who pulled off a solo in "The Celtic Carol" on one of the hardest percussion instruments to play in the world...the spoons! The evening concluded with Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride" as played by the Orchestra.

It can be fair to say that many students and teachers find the annual Prize Giving Service a long evening. The Musical Society tried to alter that. In the Grand Hall of St. Georges Hall, the Orchestra performed Tchaikovsky's "Marche Slave", a piece about the victory of the Slavonic people in the Serbian Army in their rebellion against the Ottoman Empire. However, the highlight of the evening was the Choir singing Handel's "Zadok the Priest", probably the most powerful of all choral works. They were accompanied by Mr Miller on Piano, Jack Luscombe on Cello Continuo, Peter Athans and Mr Starkey on Trumpet and Shaun Rigby on Timpani.

By now, most other schools would have said that that was enough for one year of Music; not at the Blue Coat. The Concert Band, Jazz Band and Sixth Form Choir still had two exclusive performances to prepare for. These various groups performed to an enthusiastic audience at The Royal School for the Blind, playing and singing Christmas classics, like "Jingle Bells" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas".

On the last day of term, the same groups prepared for the Festive Assemblies in Shirley Hall during periods 4 and 5. Tradition still prevailed as new and old students experienced the trouncing of "12 Days of Christmas". The teacher's band took to the stage to sing their hearts out to the Band Aid classic "Feed the World". The service concluded with a duet: Mr Emery and Miss Horton sang "White Christmas" due to the high demand of members of the "Mr Emery to sing in the Christmas Assembly" Facebook group (it only took 156 members to persuade him).

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all the pupils, to especially thank Mr Cook for his inspiration, assistance and tolerance (well, maybe not tolerance) over his time at the school. The standard of performances would not have been so high without him. I would also like to thank Miss Horton for her continued support and her witty pun humour and Mr Miller for his backing of the Choir over the past 12 months. Furthermore, congratulation is in order for Mr Emery for a more than successful first term as Director of Music of the Blue Coat School. I would also like to thank everyone who has participated in any of the concerts and performances we have held over the past year. You are a credit to the school and should be proud of yourselves for what you have achieved.

A new decade has begun and 2010 promises to be an exhilarating year, once again, for the Musical Society. Practices have begun for the Spring Concert, where the main feature of the evening is Vivaldi's "Gloria", a vast choral work with the promise of a small chamber orchestra accompaniment. This alone assures that 2010 is going to be astonishing.

Shaun Rigby

Leipzig Choir Tour 2009

Having prepared our repertoire for months and showcased it at the annual summer concert, it was finally time for our hard work to be put on display at the Leipzig International Choral Festival 2009.

The tour began with a lengthy coach and ferry journey from Liverpool to Leipzig, and after a whole day travelling, we were relieved to reach our accommodation – the Radisson Blu. The rest of the day was spent unpacking and recuperating for the eventful week ahead. The next day we experienced Leipzig for the first time and were taken on a guided tour of the city, where we learnt the extent of its musical history, Mendelssohn and Bach being two of the most famous examples. Later that day we were invited to a joint choir rehearsal, with the tour's artistic director, Jonathan Willcocks. It was the first time we had come across the other choirs taking part in the festival and it was an insight of what the experience of singing together, as a massed choir would bring. That evening we were to sing in Thomaskirche, which is most famous for being the church where Bach was cantor for over 27 years and today is his final resting place. Dressed in our choir uniforms and looking smart to Mr Cook's high standard, our first concert was finally upon us. We opened the concert with *The Lord is My Shepherd* (Schubert), *O Thou the Central Orb* (Charles Wood) and *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* (Rutter) and we took the opportunity to sample the other choirs' repertoires. Before long it was time to join together to finish with the massed choir pieces, conducted by Jonathan Willcocks. We sang three iconic traditional German songs: *Ode to Joy*, *Ich Will Dich* and finished with a moving rendition of *Dona Nobis Pacem* – a song which was regularly heard on the streets of Leipzig as part of the peace movement in the 1980's (it means literally, give us peace).

The next day we were lucky enough to have a master class with Jonathan Willcocks and a long, night full of excitement had led to a shaky start for several members of the choir, as the strains of such a demanding tour took its toll. However, it was nothing gallons of water and rest couldn't solve, as once again it was time to smarten ourselves up into our choir uniforms. Before our next concert, we headed to the symbolic Auerbachs Keller, a restaurant hidden underneath a passage in Leipzig's centre where Germany's best poet, Goethe, wrote his first play, *Faust*. Having intrigued the waiting staff with our uniforms, they asked for a sample, and so we surprised both the restaurant goers as *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* resonated around vaulted arches. From here we went straight to our Friendship Concert at Peterskirche with the Australian Choir, John Septimus Roe. Here we sang songs that ranged from the *Alleghi Miserere*, befitting of one of the most historic churches in Europe, to *When the Saints Go Marching In*, which turned out to be a surprising crowd pleaser. It was then the Australian Choir's turn to take the stage, and it was their original rendition of *Waltzing Matilda* which stole the show, with different sections of the choir portraying different Australian instruments, such as didgeridoos and banjos. It was this concert that sparked a friendship between our two choirs which was evident even outside the concerts and resulted in us staying nearly 45 minutes after the concert, as both choir directors tried in vain to separate us!

The following day followed a similar pattern, with another master class with Jonathan Willcocks this time being followed by a visit to the Museum of Musical Instruments. Another busy day was followed by another Friendship Concert at Michaeliskirche, once again with the

Australian Choir and this time also sharing the stage with the Goethe-Institut, a choir from Dublin. The highlight of this concert was when all three choirs took to the stage together to sing Fauré's *Liberame* under the direction of our very own Mr Cook.

Before we knew it, it was the last day of the tour, but it was a day packed with activities to make sure it was an amazing day to top off an amazing week. All of the choirs were invited to a giant picnic in the centre of Leipzig and then 20 of us were whisked away to the Ticket-Galerie, to sing a capella outside to promote the festival. Once again this was an experience we are unlikely to forget, as passers-by stopped and applauded our efforts. Straight after this, it was rehearsal time again, this time in the iconic *Gevandhaus* before the final concert in this prestigious venue and all too soon, it was time once again to put our choir uniforms on and take to the stage for the Closing Gala Concert. It was another opportunity to see all of the choirs sing and for our choir in particular it was a hugely rewarding experience. Our performance of *Can You Hear Me* (Bob Chilcott), performed with sign language, proved to be an emotional piece which was greeted with shouts of bravo from the audience and even a standing ovation from a few. We finished with our rendition of *Oh When the Saints Go Marching In* and no one in the choir, including Mr Cook, could have anticipated the reception it received. By the chorus, the audience were clapping along and by the end, they were on their feet. It was a truly breathtaking experience, but it wasn't over. Soon it was time for the massed choir section and the size of the choirs put together meant that we were able to do justice to powerful songs such as *Zadok the Priest*, and a selection from Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. We did an encore once again with *Dona Nobis Pacem*, which brought the emotional week to an end in a more than suitable way. It was also an incredible way to end an era, for not only some of the students, for whom that was their last concert performing with the school choir, but our director Mr Cook, and how better to remember it than by singing in the *Gevandhaus* – one of the most prestigious venues in Europe.

And so it was time for us to embark on another lengthy coach journey. The morning of our departure was spent swapping contact details with friends made and tearful farewells. The whole tour was an enlightening experience which has left all of us with memories and friends that will stay with us for the rest of our lives, as, who else can say that in one week, they performed Bach's music in Bach's church, spontaneously burst into song in a cellar and performed some of the greatest music with singers from different continents?

Siohban Wilson

Now Playing...

After a thoroughly modern musical last year, a student-written piece was exactly what was needed to bring the Blue Coat School musical (almost) up-to-date...



"Slow, slow, quick, quick, slow!" shouts Francesca Fradley of L6I to a crowd of eager dancers, all packed into an English room one lunchtime. She is responsible for fine-tuning the myriad 80s dances kindly choreographed by the original 'Material Girl' Jenny Morris. After some slight cajoling and an impressively determined iron fist on behalf of our 'repetituse', the densely packed throng of co-stars are box-stepping to Bananarama like professionals!

This single example of the enthusiasm and sheer altruism to give up so much time and effort to perfect the Blue Coat School's performance of ...Now Playing illustrates the brilliance and determination of all involved - students and staff alike.

I heard a rumour that the idea for this 1980s spectacle first popped into the head of up-and-coming writer Olivia Sung (10BL) some time last year like a flash of gold, and the clear plot (about a girl who goes back in time through a magical iPod, befriendng her own mother when she was her age) soon followed. I can't imagine Olivia's first feelings about completing such a masterpiece at such a young age; I can only guess *it must have been love*. Her blend of a unique teenage storyline with all of the old favourites from the wackiest decade in music makes for a perfect West End night out.

Beginning auditions in the early October

of this academic year, a final cast was eventually chosen, with rehearsals starting straight away. After some original trepidation, it was clear to all involved that *the only way is up and by the power of love* we got there.

Many a weekend or after-school rehearsal was announced, with the whole cast, band and crew coming together to ensure an absolute success. Although songs such as Rio and Addicted To Love needed ironing out,

we were *never gonna give you up*, so by the time it came to *the final countdown* we were ready.

On the night of the 2nd February, the lights were up and the show made its charity performance, debuting to a variety of invited guests, who (hopefully!) enjoyed every minute. Some areas went slightly wrong - there was a partial loss of Come On Eileen and I brought in my rendition of Tainted Love at the wrong time, but fortunately no-one took the mickey! These of course went unnoticed, as the spectacle of so many keen performers dressed in what can only be described as the reduced section of 'Storm' (many a lollipop lady would envy such fluorescence!) was a beautiful distraction. Seriously though, it was incredible.

After so much work and practice, it would be difficult not to expect a fantastic run of nights, and I could feel it *in the air tonight* that Wednesday, Thursday and Friday would all go down a storm...

And so they did. Kelsey Walsh and Maria McNabb were phenomenal as Naomi and Debs, the daughter-mother-combo around whom the story was based. Lucy Quinn and Rafe Wan offered brilliant turns as the scheming rival and faithful lover respectively, with Robyn Murphy, Craig Milligan, Siobhan Wilson, Jack Kauffman-Harding and myself diligently performing as other soloists. I feel extremely guilty for not being able to name



every cast member in turn for their fantastic efforts (but *what's love got to do with it?*), and let me send out the school's tremendous thanks to all of you, especially our one and only Mr Kershaw, a superb (and tremendously patient) director.

The band were equally as accomplished, making numbers such as I Wanna Dance With Somebody and Livin' On A Prayer as authentic and enjoyable as possible. Extra-special thanks goes to Miss Horton and Mr Emery for all of their time and support, to Shaun Rigby and Matthew Caine for their important involvement in the initial stages of ...Now Playing, and to our surprise cameos: Stuart Campbell and Mr Atherton, who

wowed and weirded out the audience respectively!

The design and manufacture of sets, props and advertisements are of course no mean feats, but with the combined efforts of Duncan Cowan, his fabulous stage crew and of course the site staff, everything was built successfully. Candy Sinclair-Ford, Tayler Spruce and Mr Cain were mostly responsible for the brilliantly eye-catching artwork used to adorn both set and school, and therefore merit a lot of gratitude.

All in all, the show was a sell-out success and a testament to everyone who put in their all to making it happen. A fantastic four nights were had by everyone involved,

making the Blue Coat School's annual show an unmissable event on the school calendar. Also, with no plans set in stone for next year, get your scribe hats on – the wonderful Olivia Sung has paved the way, but *don't stop believin'* because there are always new opportunities for young writers!

Thank you to all who made ...Now Playing the great success that I knew you were waiting for, and well done – we deserve it! Over and out.

Remember: "Take or leave us, only please believe us: we ain't ever gonna be RESPECTABLE!"

Max Thomas-McGenity



Nathaniel Makin, Year 8 Perspective

Tod Travel Scholarship

Visit to the Institute of Marine Science

In Summer 2009, I travelled up to Oban in order to visit the Institute of Marine Science. I chose to go here, as I felt it would be very useful to get an insight into my chosen future career, where I hope to do marine research.



Upon my arrival, I was greeted by *Leila* - head of research and education at the IMS, and she explained a few of the research projects that were going on in the building, and allowed me to decide which ones I would be most interested in helping out with. I decided to choose the project that was centred within the site itself, as I was advised this may give me the best opportunity to see what really goes on in every single aspect of a big research project.

I was then passed on to *Tom* who was the leader of the project. He immediately took me onto the research vessel *Calanus* and told me all about the inshore trawling and benthic sampling that had been going



on for the past weeks right on the coast of Scotland. Next, he asked me if I was qualified to scuba dive, and to make sure I brought my Wellies the next day.

The next day I arrived, eager to get scuba diving. But the Scottish waters were nothing like the colourful Caribbean seas I was used to diving in on holiday. They were more a grey-brown colour, and freezing cold. But I soon got used to the cold, and began to appreciate all the different life forms in the waters. I collected 3 large tubs of sea life and rocks, and took it back to the lab where they would be tested in the following weeks.

For the rest of my time there, I helped with testing deep-sea sediments from all over the world. I was able to use a vast amount of high-quality research equipment, and the experience was relevant both with the work I was doing in school, and what I will be doing in University.

April Cockburn

Tod Travel Scholarship

Kerala, Southern India

Last year my sister and I were provided with a grant from the Tod Scholarship, to travel to Kerala in South India and volunteer in a school for children with learning difficulties. It was an amazing experience, which was moving in many respects, as we were able to witness how different life is for disadvantaged people in a foreign country and also the inspiring happiness, which they show everyday, despite their difficulties.

We were able to help teach the students at the school, helping them with their numbers, as well as basic reading and writing, which was an enjoyable experience for us, as it was useful for the children. The grant of £200 each from the Tod Travel Scholarship was very useful in subsidising the cost of the trip, which may not have been possible otherwise. We both feel we have been able to grow substantially from this opportunity and are glad to have been given the chance to help people who are in need of it.

Kiron Koshy

Year 9 - Chill Factor

2009

On Tuesday 14 July, while years 7, 8, 9, and 10 were enjoying their usual predictable trips, and a large number of Year 9's were sunning themselves in Spain, the rest of our year enjoyed the trip to the chill factor.

The journey there took forever, but as we came over the motorway, there it was. The coach parked up, we were split into our groups and were herded into the changing rooms. We got prepared for the slopes, the biggest challenge putting the awkward ski boots on, and we were taken out by our instructor. Over the next hour the instructor taught us how to climb the slopes, ski backwards and dance with skis.

After this a small group of us went to the Mexican restaurant ChiQuitos, where the food was delicious.

After this, we had a go at the slides. We were given a board each which we would sit on and slide down the slope.

After this, we wandered around the shops for a bit, then boarded the buses; this was the end to a brilliant day out!

Lewis Spear 10sh

The Caretaker

I like theatre. Only natural as an amateur thesp myself; but I like reading scripts and watching performances as much as I like being in them. I was overjoyed, then, when I discovered that some of my favourite playwrights were on the A2 level syllabus (Although Edward Albee wasn't.) and that one of the plays, Harold Pinter's *"The Caretaker"*, was being performed at my favourite Liverpool venue; The Everyman. A class trip to see it was in order, thanks to Mrs McGain.

This particular performance had been condensed to turn it from a three to a two act play, but this was barely noticeable. What was noticeable, however, was the odour of the strange woman sitting next to Craig Milligan in the audience. I was sitting a row behind but could still smell the bizarre scent. Craig was spared somewhat, as the woman didn't return for the second act.

The play featured Jonathan Pryce, who you may know as Swann from *Pirates of the Caribbean*, as Davies, a down-on-his-luck tramp who is spending the night with Aston, a mentally challenged young man who has just saved Davies from a brawl with a rowdy Scotsman. Mick, Aston's brother and owner of the apartment, enters in the morning and accuses Davies of taking advantage of Aston. Throughout the play, the dynamic between the three constantly changes as they share their dreams and tragic pasts with one another.

It is a very static piece with very little action, but this perfectly suits the pace and style of the dialogue. You do have to concentrate on what the characters are saying to try and grasp the full picture of what is going on and comprehend some of the deeper interpretations of the play. In this sense, it bears a great resemblance to Albee's *"Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"* and being honest, that's the type of play I like. Ones that leave you slightly baffled as to the meaning of the piece after the ending but have you intrigued and interested enough to buy the script, or at the very least, read the Wikipedia page in the morning.

I'm trying to refrain from delving into too much detail about the plot as the production is still touring the country and, I don't know, you still may get a chance to see it. In that case, I don't want to ruin it and if you do get a chance to see it, you should. As far as plays go this is a good one.

Interested in drama? Enjoy theatre? Want to support "talent" in the local community? Woolton Drama has been putting on productions around Liverpool for almost fifty years. If you are interested in coming to see a forthcoming production ("Festivals" by Joanne Atherton, "Spice Rack" written by the group, and/or "Accidental Death of an Anarchist" by Dario Fo.) ask Michael Tapp U6A for details.



Alison McNulty, GCSE

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

One of many exciting trips offered to me by the English Department during my time at the Blue Coat School was that of a cinema outing to go and see director David Fincher's intriguing "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" starring Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett. Focused on the life of said Benjamin Button, the film's main focus is on the concept of time.

Button is born with the body of an old man and the mind of a child. His life is thus marred by the possession of a body which does not reflect his time on earth, ultimately ending with him as a newborn baby with the memories and life experiences of an 80 year old man. The film opens with Cate Blanchett's character, Daisy, on her deathbed, telling stories to her daughter. Despite the fact that Benjamin Button's mammoth story is told through this narrative style, it is Daisy's brief reminiscences about an old, blind clockmaker which, in my opinion, speak volumes about the theme of time. The clockmaker had been working on a large clock for the local train station for months. One day, his son goes off to fight in The Great War. The scene goes on to show his son return in a coffin. The old man's reaction is subdued - "And Mr Gateau, done for the night, went off alone, to bed." Later, after working to get it finished, the clock has its grand opening at the station. Half the town turn up to see it. However, once the clock begins to tick, everybody notices it is going backwards. Mr Gateau simply says "I made it that way...So that perhaps the boys we lost in the war might stand and come home again".

Overall then, the film, whilst slightly too lengthy and possibly a tad confused, made us all think about the concept of time and what it might mean to us as individuals, whilst the addition of Cate Blanchett and (for the girls) Brad Pitt as eye candy, and a plethora of exciting, comical and moving scenes, made it easy viewing. Go and see for yourself!

Wait, I hear you cry! What was so special about this trip to the cinema, why did you go with your English class? Well, my friends, the answer lies in the location of the screening. Liverpool's Philharmonic Hall was the venue and, for those who have not yet experienced its charm, this is no ordinary cinema. Arriving, I was looking forward to the film but sceptical about going to the theatre to watch a movie. Sitting down, however, and munching greedily through my sweets, we were greeted with the sounds of an organist playing for us to get us in the mood. Which it did. And as if that weren't enough, the cinema screen then ascended from below the floor like a monster ready to impose entertainment on all in its path. This, with the addition of sitting next to the legend that is Mr Rainbird (for all those old enough and lucky enough to remember him) was far too much excitement for any given school night! Definitely a trip to remember, I would recommend you go to the Philharmonic to see a film if the opportunity arises. In fact, start moaning at Mrs Ludlow to take you now.

Amir Ali

My Cardboard Box

When my mummy bought her washing machine,
she bought me a cardboard box,
its something out of my wildest dreams,
better than my usual toy soldiers and blocks.

I fit inside quite snug and cosy,
and find I never want to leave.
Sometimes I fall asleep when I'm dozy,
And dream things you would never believe.

In my cardboard box,
I fly a spaceship to the moon,
I have some tea with Mr Fox,
And fly home in an air balloon.

I become a racer in a car,
Speeding around the track,
To everyone I'm a superstar,
and style isn't something I lack.

I am a pirate on a ship,
Sailing the big blue sea.
And if you want you could take a dip,
But the water is too cold for me.

The King looking over my land,
telling everyone what to do.
I have an army which is grand,
and 300 horses too.

But really my box is really a box,
No different from any other.
But still its better than my soldiers and blocks,
But please don't tell my mother.

By Ellie Lewis 8GR

Camp Kenya

Leading the Camp Kenya group for 2010 I was initially surprised by the amount of hostility I received when I told students that I was taking part in the expedition. I was naïvely expecting people's responses to the trip - which sees 27 sixth form students raise around £3,600 for Camps International to spend a month in Kenya doing sustainable charity work, building projects and marine/land wildlife conservation projects - to be positive and congratulatory. I was shocked, however, to find most people's response at fund raising events to be 'Oh, I don't want to pay for your holiday' or 'You're just going to get a tan for uni'.

I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you all what we'll actually be doing in Kenya. Instead of this Bacchanalian booze up that the Blue Coat student populace seems to assume we'll be going on, we're actually going to do hard work. We'll spend most days out from 8 until

6, building schools, using farming equipment, clearing roads, beaches and watering holes, helping local business and even be cleaning our own clothes (the most exciting bit of the whole expedition, according to an always excited Mr Dunkin). It's a month of hard work.

For any students in years 10 and 11 who are interested in going to Kenya, I would heartily recommend it. You make close friends through fundraising, do things you never thought you would (Zoe and I did a half-marathon last March, whilst others have gone sky-diving to raise funds) and get to go on a worthwhile trip that will change you as a person, foster a growing independence and give you a new look on life that you can't put a price on.

But yeah, the tan does help.

David Jefferey

Chester Zoo

It was Enrichment week and we were looking forward to our year's trip. For us Year 7s it was to Chester Zoo. Though on the coach not everyone was filled with enthusiasm, when we got off we ran to get maps from the information desk, so we could decide where to go first. It took us a while to get used to that animal smell, but soon we were in high spirits, swinging from ropes like true monkeys.



One of the highlights of the day had to be the monorail, which we rode twice. Although not exactly the kind of ride you would expect in the likes of Alton Towers exactly (travelling at about 5mph) Chester Zoo's own monorail showed us all the sights of the Zoo, and being honest it was fun seeing who would win a race, the monorail or our very own Adam! Another of my favourite moments was the visit to the bat cave. After trying to sneak into it twice, we finally convinced Mr Sands to take us in. The cave was admittedly scary as bats rubbed against people's cheeks and you couldn't see anything at all. It split the boys (who stood in the tunnel where all the bats gathered) from the girls (who stood with Mr Sands screaming, and being told off for it).

The extortionate prices in the Gift Shop were enough to put anyone off except a selected few who were keen enough to pay a fiver for a penguin balloon which they only realised after they bought one that they'd have to carry it round for the rest of the day. My favourite



animal of the day though was the duck, who most of us gave more attention than any of the other animals in the zoo, despite having seen a duck plenty of times before in my life. The day wouldn't have been



complete without a light shower of rain to get us all running for the coach and a ten minute delay while we waited for Dom to retrieve his bag from the Cafe where he'd left it at lunch.

By Georgia Staunton 8BL

Science Trip to the Catalyst Museum

A few months before the pressure of having to revise for our GCSEs, the science department arranged a trip out for all Year 11 Science students to the Catalyst Museum in Widnes. It transpired that there were no catalysts there, but instead a series of interactive chemistry-themed exhibitions spread over three floors. We were given worksheets to explain the science behind the displays, and went off to look around.

Some displays outlined the history of many of the discoveries we had taken for granted in textbooks, whilst others demonstrated how scientific theories were important in real life situations, as well as some introducing completely unknown and bizarre concepts.

Amongst the most memorable of the displays was a column of oil that we raced air bubbles through, and a nifty miniature soil liquefaction simulator. On the top floor, there was a panoramic view of the sights of Widnes such as the nearby Fiddler's Ferry power station and the Runcorn Bridge, with information about the science and engineering of both. There were also touch screens which illustrated the pollution controls in use in the adjacent River Mersey, and the effect that these had had on the river's wildlife.

After an hour or two, we moved into a room where we viewed a presentation on early soap manufacture (or "saponification") using animal fat and ash. We then began to make our own slightly more

simple soap blocks, using soap pellets and food colouring. 10 minutes in and we each had what resembled a urinal cake sitting in front of us, all in various pastel colours. I was rather pleased with my smiley face soap, although upon use it disintegrated and was consequently discarded. Though not exactly like the industrial processes found in modern soap factories, quite a few people collected their soap blocks from Mr Gettel back at school (no allergic reactions have been reported).

Next, we moved into the museum's cinema, where we donned 3D glasses and went on virtual tours of molecules and a pharmaceutical company's research facility. We took a quiz, answering questions with individual remotes à la 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?' and watched films regarding the majority's answers.

Finally, we perused the gift shop's wares and went onto the field outside for a kick about, some mild sunbathing, and general relaxation before the coach arrived to take us back to school. Sitting on the grass, we felt it had been an enjoyable day out, and after all the revision for the January modules had been a welcome change to the usual format of Science lessons. I would genuinely recommend this trip to anyone with an interest in Science that fancies a slightly different approach to the subject.

By Louis Maddox, 11Gr (now L6A)

Mock UN Day - Politics Department

On Thursday 19th November a politics class gathered inside Starbucks, just across from Liverpool Town Hall, waiting to be registered for the day by the legendary Mr Caulfield. It was our Mock UN Day, a trip we'd found out about only a few days beforehand, which meant preparations had to be done quickly in order to ensure we performed to our very best!

Selected schools in Liverpool came together in the Town Hall to meet as a United Nations General Assembly. We were led by Councillor Mike Storey OBE, who is Liverpool's longest serving Councillor with over 35 years of public service and represents Wavertree Ward of the Wavertree Constituency. Each school was given at least two countries, ours being Russia and Spain. Our class split into two, each group taking a country each, with my chosen country being Spain. Amongst the other schools and countries were St Hilda's with Rwanda and Turkey and Calderstone's with France and Poland.

The day started off with a registration from the Lord Mayor and then it was straight into the Plenary Debate. This was about 'The Decade for a culture of peace and non-violence' and countries were asked to volunteer their places and views on this discussion. You could tell that each school had done their research heavily, although I'm not sure Calday Grange's laptops could be counted as fair! Already tensions were running high between Merchant Taylors (UK and Sudan) and King David (Brazil and Israel) who seemed to be letting

their personal views, rather than the views of their countries, be put forward.

After some refreshments and networking, where Cuba (Carmel) argued against USA (Calday Grange) on issues surrounding an embargo against Cuba, each country split into smaller groups and went into different rooms. This was the 'Working Groups' session; we were working on Resolutions on 'Access to safe water and sanitation', 'Global Energy Access' and 'Peacekeeping'. My group was left in 'Peacekeeping' and here Cuba and the USA's arguments came out again, along with Israel's and the UK's. Resolutions were made concerning charges against war criminals.

We then moved into lunch and then back into our smaller groups for a final discussion on resolutions. Lunch seemed to have brought some alliances and agreements were met much more quickly this time around, meaning we were fully prepared for the final section of the day, reporting back to the planning session. While in the final plenary, an 'emergency' occurred and the members of the Security Council were asked to go into a separate room to meet. They were asked to declare a stance on an attack between Iran and Israel and whether they wished to change any of their resolutions because of this.

Eventually, the Assembly on the 'Decade for a culture of peace and non-violence' was concluded. It was a very educational and interesting day, one which I'd recommend any future Politics student to do!

By Catherine Ainsworth L6B

Nuestro viaje a San Sebastian

In March 2009, the school sent a party consisting of Years 11 and 12 students to the Spanish city of San Sebastian in the Basque Country, in northern Spain, under the watchful eye of Mr O'Brien, Mrs Jackson and Mrs Coltart. The students were staying with their exchange partners, who were put up by the English students during their trip to Liverpool in the December prior.

The Spanish school, El Colegio San Patricio had put together a varied and interesting itinerary for us to enjoy. On our first full day, the Saturday, we visited the Basque city of Pamplona, famous for its bull run, where participants ran through the streets of the old part of the city, being chased by bulls! Whatever floats your boat, says this observer...! The Sunday was a fairly quiet day, with a game of football planned between the English and Spanish boys, and netball for the girls. The boys, me in particular showed our Spanish counterparts why Liverpool is the European Capital of Football, with several virtuoso displays! I played the Gerrard/Fabregas role to perfection, before I left the pitch to sign autographs for my adoring public.

On the Monday, the group was split in two, with one half shadowing their hosts in lessons for the day, whilst the other half took a tour of San Sebastian with each group spending the Tuesday doing the activity that they did not do the day previously. I took the tour of the city on the Monday, and despite the occasional groan of aching limbs, (mostly from the female confinement I hasten to add!) the consensus was that it was a thoroughly enjoyable day, with a great deal found out about the rich history of San Sebastian and the Basque Country as a whole, and it offered us an excellent chance to improve our Spanish listening skills.

Tuesday was also interesting, as it was time to experience lessons in a different country, with a different approach to learning, and also giving us a taster of how the Spanish day-to-day way of life is so different to how things are done in this country.

Wednesday saw a visit to another Basque city, this time Bilbao, and a trip to the ever inspiring Guggenheim art gallery. We enjoyed a leisurely walk through Bilbao that day, taking in the sights and sounds of another bustling city, and witnessing for ourselves the more laid back Spanish approach to daily life.

Vitoria, home of the Basque Parliament, was our destination on Thursday, with a guided tour of the Basque equivalent of the Houses of Parliament, followed by a stroll through the streets of Vitoria, an intriguing and multi-faceted town.

Friday, our last full day, came round in what seemed a blink of an eye, and we were given some free time to roam the streets of San Sebastian, giving the girls plenty of time for some retail therapy, whilst the boys in our party treated themselves to some sugar-laden delights from the local, er bakery, and watched the world go by from the comfort of a bench in the street.

Saturday was an early start, as we had to make our way to the airport ridiculously early to catch our flight back to Blighty! 2009 was the second year I had taken part on the exchange after doing it the year before, and I also took part in 2010, which has helped me immensely, as my Spanish came on leaps and bounds with each visit to the city, and my cultural awareness was also heightened by spending time in such a vibrant and pleasant city. My advice to all students in the school would be to participate in the exchange in future, as it is an experience you will not forget or regret.

The last word has to go to Mr O'Brien, Mrs Jackson and Mrs Coltart for taking us to Spain and looking after us, and a special thank you from the whole party who travelled in 2009 and especially one for all the hard work that goes into making the trip happen, and long may it continue for students in the future.

Garry Wilson U6A

Hello, I'm Oriel, a boy from Spain.

I finished my school in June and I'll have holidays until September. I spent my first weeks in Temassa, where I live, a city near Barcelona. But last Sunday I arrived in England. I'm doing an exchange with a friend I met in S'agaro, a little village in the Costa Brava (a very nice beach-area in Catalunya. She is called Florence (but her friends call her Floss); because if you say Florence she will beat youxo and she is happy and a nice girl. She lives near Liverpool in a town called Warrington. This week we went to her school. The school is far from her home, because it is in Liverpool and we must wake up very early. I met a lot of people in this school, they are friends and they are friends and they are all very kind (I think so But a lot of them are a little bit crazy). This is her last week of school this year. And we have done a lot of activities.

On Monday we did basketball, table tennis and some team building.

On Tuesday, we went to a place called Chill Factore, there we did skiing and snow boarding. It isn't on the mountains.... It's in Manchester.... It's like a place that is made cold and then they throw on slopes and then freeze it to make snow for doing these activities.. It was really funny!!

On Wednesday we were in school, we played a game called Rounders and then we talked in the canteen.

Yesterday we went on a trip to the beach and today we have done some activities like a quiz. I think that it was alright and I have had a good time. I will be in Liverpool two more weeks and maybe Floss and I will visit Manchester and London

I hope that I'll have two more nice weeks and I think that it will be so, because all things are very well, crazy and funny in England!!!

Thank you for reading about my week

Bye Bye Guys

Year 7 PGL Trip

On the 13th November, Year 7 went on a trip to PGL in Preston.

It took us 2 hours to get there and when we got there, we did one of the activities: team challenge, trapeze, Jacobs ladder and lots of others. They were all adventure type activities: the trapeze was where you climbed to the top of a tall pole and jumped off (with a harness on). It was terrifying, but immensely fun. Jacobs ladder was a giant ladder with about a meter between the second and first rung. The gap in between the rungs got bigger every time. Not many people got to the top. The team challenge was where you held on to a rope, connecting you to all the other team members. You would go through all the obstacles to get to the end. The obstacles included tunnels, climbing, crawling, climbing and balancing on things.

There was also rock climbing, a zip wire and something called low

ropes. On low ropes, you had to try to balance on wire, sometimes holding onto ropes, sometimes each other and sometimes nothing. On the first night there was a disco. I am guessing I don't need to explain that.

You could be in a room of 4 to 10 people. You could choose 1 person who you definitely wanted to be in your room, the rest would be random. You were put in groups for our activities, not necessarily with anybody you knew, but then again that is the aim of this trip, so early in your Blue Coat School life, is for you to make new friends, outside the form. On the second night, there was a bin bag fashion show, where each group had to make an outfit out of bin bags.

Each day we tried new activities and made new friends.

By Isabella Wignall and Lucy Flannagan Yr 7

Oxford Dinner

On 17th and 18th April Mrs MacKenzie and Ms Holland led the annual Oxford Dinner to Trinity College where 53 Lower Sixth Form students enjoyed tours of colleges by university staff and Blue Coat former student Fengjia Cai who is now studying at Christ Church College.

This was a chance for students to look around Oxford, be introduced to the application process and enjoy a first class dinner. Guests included the former Headmaster, Mr Tittershill, the former Head of Sixth Form, Mr Caulfield, and their wives. Speeches by Mrs

Silcock, Mrs MacKenzie and Ms Holland, as well as Fengjia, inspired the group to think about Oxbridge application.

Excellent weather, a starlight tour of the city and free time enabled students to gain an insight into the splendours of Oxford. Students were able to speak to four former Blue Coat students studying at Oxford and Cambridge. In all it was a memorable and highly worthwhile experience for those who attended. Many thanks to Mr Cox, Mr Croxton, Mrs Jackson, Miss Murphy and Mrs Thomas for giving up their time in the Easter holidays in order to attend.



A Visit to Helmshore Mill – Year Seven

On the dates of the 5th and 6th November, Year 7 participated in an educational visit to the Helmshore Mill Textiles Museum. This visit was to help us understand the history of textiles, in design and technology. Forms 7Gr and Sh went first, followed by Bi and Bl the following day. This was a very informative visit, though thoroughly enjoyable and exciting. We received detailed information, which will help us during our study of textiles.

After a lengthy coach journey, we arrived and were welcomed by friendly staff who told us about safety rules and precautions to keep in mind when at the long-standing mill. Once our possessions had been securely put away, we began the tour. Each form was split into various groups and accompanied by a member of the Helmshore staff and a school teacher. With caution, we explored the mill, learning about different types of machinery and other facts about the mill. The maths department had set a task for us: we had to write down as many mathematical figures and details about the trip to make a poster when we returned to school.

As well as a tour around the place, we also experienced some hands-on features. We all got into a pair and had to have a go at felt making. Felt being a pressed material, is very easy to make without

any machinery, and can simply be made with a bare hand. Choosing different colours, and making a simply yet effective pattern to press onto the material was engaging. We could get very creative with our designs, though had to listen extremely carefully to all instructions, to ensure our turn out was correct. This was one of most people's highlights of the day.

Students had been offered the option of bringing up to £5 spending money, as there was a Gift Shop at the mill. This shop had many items for sale, such as crafts and material that had been produced at the fully functioning mill, and other things like toys, books, jewellery and sweets. (Though most things were very expensive!) We were all tired on the hour drive home, but the trip was worth every penny.

Overall, the outing to the mill was a very memorable experience, and many of us completely loved the day. The mill was an extremely exciting place to visit, and holds some of the last remaining machines from the time. All of us definitely recommend you take a visit to the mill sometime, and see some of the interesting and wondrous things we had the chance to see.

By Victoria Moorcroft and Katie Burke

Cadbury World

An early 7:30am start to the day was overlooked by the year 9 business studies pupils in July 2009, as they got the opportunity to visit Cadbury World in Birmingham.

Upon arriving, we were taught about the marketing aspects of Cadbury. We were even let in on a secret about the famous eyebrow advert...

The story of the creation of the world famous chocolate that is dairy milk was presented to us. John Cadbury (in hologram form) shows how he finally arrived at the perfect recipe, which the chocolate is still based on today. This spookily life-like show was rounded off with a treat of melted dairy milk for us all.

We were given a taste of the 1800s as we walked down a replica of the lane where John Cadbury's shop was situated. After the tour of the factory, where we saw the equipment used to package chocolate bars, we waited in queue to go on 'Beanmobiles'. Here we took a slow ride through an intriguing world of slightly scary chocolate figures that talked and cheered in a squeaky manner.

Being let loose in the largest Cadbury store in the world resulted in many year 9s coming out with bagfuls of chocolate gifts – a good investment.

There were state of the art interactive amusements near the end of our day. We were left impressed after seeing our classmates being made out of chocolate on a large screen and we were captivated by the virtual chocolate rain which we tried to catch.

A combination of both chocolate and education mixed together made one successful school trip.

Ryta Kamarova

Geography Trip to Blencathra

On Wednesday 11th November, Lower Sixth Geography students went to Blencathra in the Lake District, to spend three days studying rivers and glaciers. We stayed in the Blencathra Centre with Mr Lamb, Mr McGreevy and Miss Henderson.

When we got there, we did some river fieldwork and measured things such as velocity and gradient. This involved us getting into the river – i.e. getting WET – and falling over. A lot. There were even a few 'broken legs' (oh, the melodrama!) and tall people looked like the Green Giant in their waterproofs.

On Thursday there was a hike up Glendater Beck, near Grasmere, to look at glacial landforms. It rained a lot and we got soaked so we enjoyed hot drinks in Grasmere and then fought for showers back at the Blencathra Centre. Meanwhile, Miss Henderson got picked up by an ex-teacher!

On Friday we went on a minibus ride in Keswick, looking at flood defences, and packed out the tiny Costa. It turned out that the defences weren't that good as shortly after we arrived home we found out that Keswick had been flooded! We had a lucky escape. The Keswick ducks also managed to get away by surfing on the river currents. Awesome.

During the coach journey home we entertained ourselves by making silly noises at each other. We were all relieved to be back in the warmth, but we had a fabulous time in Blencathra and we learned a lot. Thanks to all the teachers who organised it – it was great!

By Daisy Busher L6E

Blue Coat students visit Stick 'n' Step!

On Tuesday 23rd February 2009, four students (from 7 Bingham) went to visit Stick 'n' Step. These students were Nat Makin, Sandor Bako, Georgia Jackson and Rubab Abdi. Their class was supporting this charity by holding a Cultural Food Sale, but this article is about the actual visit itself.

Stick 'n' Step helps children aged 0-16 with Cerebral Palsy, a disability that prevents the children from being able to move around comfortably.



Miss Strain took the students to the charity based in the North-West of England. They first watched the children do some exercises (with help of the Conductors) that would improve their abilities.

The students had some activities in line for the children:

1. Badges
2. Pass-the-Parcel
3. Interviews

So, first were the Badges. Georgia Jackson had made badges for the children. These badges had the children's name on them (provided by Sandor as his mother works at the charity) and a space for the children to draw something. Most of them drew their pets!

Then it was time for Pass-the-Parcel, arranged by Nat Makin. The children enjoyed it very much! Eventually, one of them won and she kindly shared her prize with anyone who didn't have a prize already. Next was meant to be the treasure hunt, but unfortunately there was no time left.

Then the interviews! Each pupil interviewed a child at Stick 'n' Step and asked them some probing questions. We discussed their favourite footy team, their pets, and lots more...

During this time we were taking photos and video clips for the assembly and mini-film and on departure we gave the children at Stick 'n' Step a lovely box of chocolates.

Little did they know, Blue Coat's 7 Bingham had not finished with Stick 'n' Step. Four other pupils, Sandor Bako (again!), Hollie Haigh, Jacky Hou, Sana Aniq, went to back to Stick 'n' Step to present them with an Interactive Multimedia DVD that we had designed using MoviePlus Software, this included our visit, assembly and cultural food sale. Stick 'n' Step was also presented with a huge cheque of a fantastic £1252.81!



Peter Pan-tomime

The Wednesday evening before the well-deserved Christmas holidays, Mrs Ludlow took her Sixth Form English classes to the traditional festive pantomime at the Liverpool Empire, using the respective excuses of Year 12's 'Narrative' studies and Year 13's 'The Bloody Chamber' to gain permission for such good-natured frivolity. The school always needs a reason (no matter how tenuous) to fork out for its students, and surprisingly, several students had never been to a pantomime, so the trip was in effect an education after all!

Thanks to ever reliable public transport I was slightly late, but one frantic knock on the window and one panicked sprint up to the circle later and I was in – ready to watch the hilarious, tongue-in-cheek and effortlessly camp production that we'd been looking forward to seeing.

The cast list included Natasha Hamilton as Peter Pan (a good excuse for a crowd-pleasing performance of *Whole Again*) and Les Dennis with a fantastically self-deprecating performance as the Dame, but the headliner by far was the great Henry Winkler – the Fonz – as Captain Hook.

At first he stuck out like a sore thumb as the novelty American, but soon he changed the 'Ayy!' to an 'Arr!' and by the end of the show he seemed to have settled, generating just as many laughs as the double-entendres of Dennis.

Anyone there will remember the sheer strangeness of the jokes, often completely irrelevant to the plot, but special mentions go to the overenthusiastically tumbling dwarf (responsible for as many ouches as guffaws) and my favourite quote of the evening, the obvious Peter Pan-related song of "squeegee here, squeegee there, lather up my sponge!" – any potential English lesson mundanity is hereby eradicated!

Seeing Mrs Ludlow getting water-gunned by a pirate and Mr Fee clapping along to *A Whole New World* weren't experiences you'd see everyday either!

Although the plot was hardly Chekhov and the songs weren't exactly Dylan, the pantomime was a riot – a real Christmas laugh-a-minute treat.

After all that, if the festive fun wasn't enough, Mrs Ludlow got to meet the Fonz!

By Max Thomas-McGenity

Our Song's Keeper

I am seated in my chair,
front row, to the right a leader,
only one is higher than I,
our song's keeper, my captain,
heart's beating with adrenaline,
our ship leaves dock,
dum, dum,
our pulse is set, never stopping,
looking up at our captain, I raise my bow,
I dance, my fingers navigate the board,
a melody shared, but in each part different,
we are together, sailing,
we all look to our conductor,
we watch him dance and we are in unison,
holding onto our melody, flowing, sailing,
we speed across what once seemed long and far
is reaching its climax,
dum, dum, dum,
and we stop,
for just one beat,
and in that time a child is born,
the sun is shining, somewhere there is a new dawn,
that second over we dance our last step,
arrive at dock, look to our captain,
he bows, we haven't stopped, all of us have the melody,
will always hold the beat, we haven't stopped,
it's always there, we bow
and I put down my violin.

Lara Marshall (14)

Girls' Reunion

In 1989, Blue Coat School admitted its first intake of girls for over 50 years. An interview was required to carefully select 20 girls into the 6th form capable of excellent grades and robust enough to withstand 700 boisterous boys not used to seeing girls walking on their turf! On the 1st day, the girls entered Shirley Hall and sat on the balcony overlooking the boys. The boys looked curiously at the new girls as if an alien species had landed. There was even a girls' room to retreat to.



Class of 1989

In February, 2010, I organised a reunion for those 1st girls at BCS. This was following an article published in a local newspaper in September 2009. I traced 18 out of the 20 girls and was delighted that all 18 attended. I was grateful to staff (both past and present) for meeting with us - Mr Caulfield, Mr Boal, Mr Wood, Mr Cowan, Mr Moore and especially Mr Caulkin who provided an entertaining guided tour and took a group photo. I have many happy memories of my time at BCS and consider it a real pleasure and privilege to have worked in such a friendly, supportive and stimulating environment for the past 14 years. It was great to catch up with my old friends and

discover that we have 30 children between us, aged from 10 weeks to 17, and a wide range of professions such as doctors, dentists, teachers, lawyers and accountants. Other ex-pupils shared the following comments:

"after about 10 minutes, it felt like we had never been away!"

"everything felt so familiar after all this time- the school has changed (for the better !) in terms of facilities, but there is a real sense of how things used to be."

"The school is a lot brighter and friendlier these days, with a canteen and a gym. I wish they were there when we were here. . . and some great photos and art work on the walls."



I'd like to pay tribute to the staff that encouraged me and give thanks for my greatest inspiration as a teacher and my very special Mum - Mrs Merle Rowe, who sadly lost her fight against cancer in September 2009. My challenge to all readers is: what difference are you making at BCS and what memories are you creating?

Mrs K Coltart



Kate Coenen-Rowe A Level

Prize Quiz!

The first person to hand a correct list of answers to Mrs Ludlow wins a book of their choice

1. What wine comes from worms?
2. In W. W. II, Operation Barbarossa was the codename for what invasion?
3. New York is on the same latitude as which European capital?
4. Former Dr Who Tom Baker married an actress who played one of the Dr's companions. What was her name?
5. Which Ancient Greek philosopher, renowned for his wisdom, was Plato's teacher and was forced to kill himself by drinking hemlock?
6. Which product's advertisement has the slogan: 'Let the juice loose'?
7. Who were the composers of 'The Sound of Music'?
8. What is a 'strike' in basketball?
9. In computing, what does 'url' stand for?
10. What two pressures cause tides?
11. Which is the largest Spanish speaking country?
12. Katrina and the Waves represented Britain in The Eurovision Song Contest in 1997. What was their first hit in 1985?
13. What was the first fashion house Stella McCartney joined after graduating?
14. What is the name of a unit used to measure energy?
15. What is the hardest mineral on the Mohs Scale?
16. In geometry, what is the name of a four-sided shape where none of the sides are parallel?
17. When is the Mexican 'Dia de Los Muertos', or 'Day of The Dead'?
18. Who famously said 'I am just going outside. I may be some time.'?
19. In The Simpsons, what is the name of Apu's shop?
20. Name the title of the poem in which these lines occur:

'Rats! They fought the dogs and killed the cats/
And bit the babies in their cradles.'

Thank you, Mr Newton, School Librarian, for donating the prize.

Blue Coat Parents' Association

The Parents' Association has gone from strength to strength over the last year with some valued new members (parents are always welcome!), new and exciting events and even new sponsors. 2009 saw a series of successful events which began with a sell out of the multimedia quiz (which had already outgrown the dining hall), followed by the new James Bond themed Casino Blue Coat (complete with Aston Martins) a Games Night, a successful Summer Fair and we finished off with our Christmas Fair. Alongside those events we have continued to provide wine, teas, coffees and soft drinks at school functions including the play, concerts, discos and open evenings. As ever the support of staff and students make the events possible but without parents coming along to have fun and contribute, they just wouldn't work at all.

Sponsors have become very important to us and if you take a look inside the front cover of this superb magazine you can see how many companies have provided prizes or support – so next time you need a special piece of jewellery, get a hair cut, or just open a bank account, think about talking to one of our sponsors and tell them why you did so – you just might get a little extra discount as well!

Our main project is to help towards the huge cost of the sound and light system, which has been installed in Shirley Hall, and we hope to complete our £12,000 contribution this year. As I hope many of you know, we have also continued to provide extra equipment for activities and support clubs and societies, with grants being made for things as diverse as the purchase of sport software, cheer leading costumes, a camera for the DT department and a contribution to the cost of the school's Law Society Annual Dinner. Our aim is simple – we want to invest the money we raise whilst our children are students at the school in order to ensure their time is further enriched for many years to come and even give them some more wonderful memories!

We always try to make our events both enjoyable and profitable and our next two events illustrate that perfectly. We again saw stiff competition between staff, parents and students at the Quiz Night. And there was also the exciting Casino Night on March 20th, with the theme *The Italian Job* - a night to remember, I am sure!

Lyndsay Lynch

Chair of The Blue Coat Parents' Association

Teacher Quotes

Coxisms – The Wise Words of Mr Cox

1. Polar Bears can't swim
2. Turkeys don't vote for Christmas.
3. If it still works don't mend it
4. Because we're all just feckless. Feckless... feckless. I love that word. Feckless.
5. ...as is shown in Hutton's book, 'The State We're In'. The title is a play on words. We're a state...in a state... a state in a state. We're in a state. The state we're in.
6. I'm a stakeholder, here's my stake
7. That's a BIP an important bit of paper.
8. 1 – 2 – 3... UNPREDICTABLE!
9. We go in we put an x on the voting ballot. *draws an 'X' on the board* This is an x
10. Simplez
11. Key sentences a-go-go
12. I'm very sick my knee hurts my voice is lost and i can't see but i have came in just to teach you
13. Seating? Sorted.
14. Parties are like washing powder.
15. Lets ask Jordan, our religious correspondent.
16. This is what Jordan was saying in his essay. The Liberal Democrats, under the Jordanian model...
17. If I followed my parents advise I'd be married to Wendy.
18. Bootle didn't even have outside toilets and everyone had nits.
19. For tis/twas he
20. No he wasn't. No no no no no. Yes he probably was.

By Lisa Tighe

Mr Watson

On the sick family cat: 'Mrs Watson wanted to take the cat to the vet. I wanted to take it to the vet too – for a different reason.'

'Progress is what we need to make – not fairy cakes!'

'If you're not corrected you keep getting it wrong. That's why I'm doing this missionary work!'

'I might as well try and teach a poodle. A poodle wouldn't be able to tell me the answer and neither can you.'

'Do you want to get back in your box?'

On Wikipedia: 'The carving knife in your ear probably wasn't such a good idea.'

'I'm a Stately Homo!'

'I'm the Head Druid of the Wirral! You can't even prove I'm not.'

Music

Mr Cook, while composing a melody off the top of his head: 'If you've got it, flaunt it!'

Mr Cook, to a pupil who had hit his head on the yard the day before: 'Are you going to go and play some head-hanging rock music now? Hahaha!'

Mr Miller, when asked to sing a (female) solo and play the piano at the same time: 'I can't play with myself!'

Mr Emery just before Mrs Silcock walked in with parents on a tour: 'That's it... yes... yes!'

Mr Emery when Mr Miller gave the chord for Gloria in Excelsis Deo: 'Well shake it shake it shake it baby now!!! ...Sorry. That song has the same chord. It wasn't totally random!'

Science

'Do not listen to Spongebob Squarepants. He will take you down the path of evil weed.'

On a pupil's answer that was... wrong: 'That's so wrong, it's... wrong!'
Mr Kenny comparing potty training his son and daughter: 'It's easier for lads to aim... They have a little hose!'

'Oxygen is needed for all your vital onions.'

'I am Spherus! See my roundness!'

'We're on the Thermal Death Time Curve, Captain!'

History & Geography

'Let's leave you in Antarctica with just your clothes!'

'Oh, great – I get slated in an ancient dead language!'

On a Tuesday: 'You can tell it's Wednesday, can't you?'

'You can write it – as long as you don't ask me to spell it.'

'The overseers are armed! Whip! Big stick!'

Maths

'SATs are like the National Lottery – you just colour in squares.'

On the visit of the Duke of Gloucester: 'His Royal Highness the Duke of... Somewhere... is gracing us with his royal presence!'

Teacher: 'It's a parabola. Not a Mexican hat. That's a tombola.'

Pupil: 'No, it's a sombrero.'

Teacher: 'A tombola's one of them games you play, innit?'

'You made me go to Sayer's and buy a HOMER SIMPSON DOUGHNUT! They didn't know what that is! I looked a right idiot!'

Teacher 1: 'So...working on the math of this question...'

Teacher 2: 'It's maths, my dear, has an 's' on the end. We aren't American!'

Teacher 1: 'Get out of here until you can grow a beard properly!'

English

On the loading symbol on the computer: 'It's the spinning wheel of DEATH.'

'We've got round yellow stickers! It's party time!'

Teacher News

Congratulations to Mr Kilhams and Mr Sands, who have become Dads! Thomas Kilhams was born in September, and Finn Sands in December. We offer them and their families our best wishes.

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Ainsworth on the birth of their second son, Samuel.

Watch out for the Blue Coat's answer to the Stig on two wheels, in the shape of Mr York, who has bought Dr Wilde's motorbike.

Congratulations to Mr Pearson who is engaged to be married. We're sure the wedding will make for an historic event.

Well done to Mr. McBride who sprinted round the course of The London Marathon in 3hrs 32 mins.

Out of the Blue

This is the section where former students write about their memories of the School and what they've been doing since they left.

Tim Long

It only feels like yesterday that I was in your shoes reading the Squirrel magazine and wondering to myself what lay in store for me once I left school. In fact that was now the best part of a decade ago, time flies...

After poring through an array of prospectus' I settled on Leeds University, 'London of the North' I was reliably informed.

Leaving behind the comfort of Blue Coat, home of seven years in September 2000 armed with 3 B's (in Geography, Biology & Chemistry) an appetite for a good time and virtually no career to speak of in mind. Biology had been my favourite subject for as long as I can remember though I had never been particularly taken with the botanical aspect of it, and so chose to study Zoology.

The course (and my time at Leeds as a whole) got better year after year. I began to feel very settled in my new life, my circle of friends grew, my confidence and sense of independence increased and I generally had an absolute ball (I even made the odd lecture).

I spent the summer months of 2002 working for the conservation programme Operation Wallacea in the rainforests of Indonesia, studying the behaviour of some endemic small mammals in preparation for my final year thesis. After a week's 'jungle training' my days soon developed a familiar routine. I would awake at about 5.30 to

the sounds of the mosque's morning prayer call and get to work in the intense humidity of the surrounding jungle. A cold outdoor shower was the perfect way to wash off the day's toil before unwinding in the evening, playing football and cards, sharing a smile with the local villagers, before swinging to sleep in a hammock gazing up at a beautifully clear starry night, looking forward to doing it all again the next day.

I left Leeds in 2003 with a 2(ii) but still no clearer about what career I intended to pursue, to my (and my parents') growing consternation. I saved up enough cash for a gap year away, as it was something I always aspired to do, whilst hoping being the other side of the world would yield some sort of vocational Eureka! moment. Sadly not. I returned from 9 months in S.America, Australasia and the Far East as undecided as I left. After a couple of 'odd-jobs' working in the Bank of Scotland and the Home Office I got a job as a class-room assistant at Broadgreen High School. I spent just over a year there and distinctly remember one particular day daydreaming in a class (like days of old) absently watching the teacher perform and suddenly thought to myself, 'I could do this! I could teach!' With a fresh sense of purpose I enlisted on the teacher training programme at Liverpool Hope University in 2006. I am now in my third year teaching science at a secondary school near Manchester.

To the tune of Fresh Prince of Bel Air (this is about Enrichment Week (p.35))

This is the story all about our last week got turned upside down

If you'd like to take a minute just sittin' right there

We'll tell you how our groups were so unfair

In Ainsdale Southport on the way

The coach broke down and caused delay

Chillin' out, relaxin', chasin' a dude

Running round the beach, top half nude

Couple of gals, who were up for some fun

Built a sand castle until it was done

We climbed a little wall

And we all got scared

Put on your ice boots, and be prepared

To skate on plastic ice and fall on your booty

Oh my this archery's snooty

So we thought, man forget it, rounders is our duty.

Pulled up at the slopes bout 9 or 10

Went up for lunch, and his in our den

Jumped on the board, ready to race

Oh my Jonas, I fell on my face.

Paul Hughes

I attended the Blue Coat School between the years of 2001 and 2008, and I have to say, I couldn't have had a more enjoyable time! It was still an all-boys school back when I started in year 7, and virtually half of the school that is occupied today didn't even exist then, so it has been extremely refreshing to attend through a time of such development and change.

I was presented with so many opportunities in different areas of the school, whether it was with sport, music, drama, or pretty much every department; if there was something I wanted to pursue, the Blue Coat had a path for it, and I think this is what makes the Blue Coat so special. Everybody has different hobbies, interests and aspirations, and every hobby, interest and aspiration is or can be catered for, and support is always at hand.

My most enjoyable years came in my last two years at the 6th form. If there is anybody debating whether the Blue Coat 6th form would be for you or not, I can strongly suggest that it certainly would be! The whole atmosphere of school life seemed to change for me once I hit 6th form; it is a more adult way of learning, and slowly eases you into how it may be like at university. There is a definite feeling of independence that comes with the final two years, and the environment of the Blue Coat helps everybody to settle into it extremely quickly and comfortably.

I'm currently studying mathematics at the University of Liverpool,

and had an absolutely fantastic fresher's year! If you're off to university in the near future, my tips are:

- Find a part time job: I work as a part time waiter in Pizza Express, and it's perfect for me! I get paid every 4 weeks, and also receive cash tips that I get to keep and take home with me after every shift. It's really helpful to have that little financial boost, and getting a job for some is necessary. Bar and waiter jobs are best for students. However, a work/study balance is essential, so I suggest trying not to work more than 15 hours max a week. Remember what you are at university for.
- If you want to leave Liverpool...: make sure you make the right decision. Make sure the course is right for you, but also that the city is right for you. Some people can't stand where they are, and have a miserable time. University life is all about the whole package, you need to have a valuable experience to not only gain a good degree, but to build character and have a good time!
- If you want to stay in Liverpool...: DEFINITELY move into halls of residence! I stayed in Carnatic Halls of Residence, despite it only being a 10 MINUTE walk from my house! But the experiences I had and the friendships I made are as equally important as the academic side. If you really want to have the university experience, moving into halls is essential.

The Blue Coat was such an important and fruitful time of my life, and I would like to thank everybody involved in making my years there so memorable! **MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TIME HERE!!**

Alan Jones

I've been asked to write a bit about my life since leaving the Blue Coat and as I sit at my desk in Cambridge, half-way through term, swamped with books, I'm tempted to mutter something grumpily about 'one essay after another'... But of course there has been more to the last three years than work, so: this year's Oxbridge applicants, don't be put off.

For a start I've had the fantastic and surreal experience of living in these amazing surroundings. I'm at Clare College, which is squeezed between the more famous Trinity and King's – watch this year's Carols from Kings closely and you'll see it in the corner of the screen, dwarfed by King's Chapel. And this year I'm living in the Old Court, above the Great Hall, meaning I have to pass lots of candlelit portraits of stern, bewigged figures on the way to my room – it really is like being at Hogwarts, until I get to the top of the stairs and the spell is broken: no enchanted doors, just a keypad and an access card scanner...

It's good to be back, anyway, after a Year Abroad in France (I'm studying French and Spanish, though Spanish has fallen by the wayside a bit – don't tell Mr Adamson). I wish I had exciting stories to tell about a wild year in Paris, where many of my more sensible friends went (I'm not jealous at all...) But for some reason I ticked 'No Preference' on my British Council Language Assistant application form and was duly assigned to the middle of nowhere. More precisely, a small town called Châteaulin in the Breton countryside. A lovely place but we – the Spanish and German assistants I lived with and I – had soon exhausted all the walking routes and the nightlife (all two bars). And as we were only employed to teach twelve hours a week, that left a lot of free time, too much of which was spent eating croissants in the local patisserie and watching bad TV (France's Got Talent, anyone? Better still, Midsomer Murders dubbed into French – apparently our continental friends can't get enough of it.)

I'm exaggerating: we did actually have a pretty good time despite everything. But it was still a relief to have a job to fill some time with, even if that job did involve trying to get whole classes (my contract said 'small groups' but the French don't worry about little things like contracts) of surly French sixth-formers to speak a foreign language. I have newfound respect for my old language assistants at the Blue Coat! But, thankfully, it went well, despite my being given no guidance at all and having only a little teaching experience (I'd taught English to Spanish teenagers the previous summer – and even led a rowdy mob of them on a daytrip to London, so I had some idea of what I was letting myself in for...)

It was surprisingly unstressful anyway, especially once my already short hours were further reduced by teachers and/or pupils going on strike every few weeks – nobody strikes like the French (that's my last dig at the French, I promise. I love them really). Although I suppose it was pretty stressful when protesting students surrounded our apartment block (we had the 'pleasure' of living on the school grounds) so that we couldn't leave. We didn't take it seriously at first, but when they started lighting fires and trying to kick our door down, we did begin to get slightly concerned...

All that seems a long time ago now, and here I am back in Cambridge again, trying to make sense of medieval French poetry... Well, I won't bore you talking about that. I was asked to write a bit about my 'memories of Blue Coat' as well. Again, I wish I had something more exciting to say: funny stories about winding up teachers, etc – but I'm afraid I was probably boringly well-behaved. And I've already written too much. So I'll just finish by saying how grateful I am to the teachers who helped me get to this point, studying at a university I love. Just don't ask what I'm going to do next year. Any suggestions would be gratefully received

Caitlin Higgott

Since leaving the Blue Coat, I have lived in Polokwane, South Africa for two months. While I was there I worked at a monkey sanctuary called International Primate Rescue. They have several different types of primate, mainly marmosets, in total there are about 80 monkeys currently living at the sanctuary. It was the most amazing two months of my life, so far.

For starters, South Africa is a beautiful country. Not only does it have amazingly varied landscapes and brilliant wildlife, but it is full of friendly, interesting people, each with their own stories to tell. While there I also got the chance to visit Kruger National Park and saw the big five! Then, there was the sanctuary itself, which was full with

people from all walks of life, who had been brought together by our love of monkeys. We all had so much fun, and the house was constantly filled with our laughter. We also had many fun nights out to the local cinema and in the local bars. The monkeys themselves were also incredible to work with. For the most part were very friendly and enjoyed being groomed, however I did receive my fair share of monkey scratches, when they just weren't in the mood!

Now, I am home again and that unbelievable two months feels a little dream like. However, I am not home for long before I head off on my next adventure in February; when I am heading to China for four months, to teach English to school children, which I am both really excited for and scares me half to death at the same time. Guess I really should have paid more attention in Mrs Ludlow's English classes!

Michael Joliffe

I had 7 years at Blue Coat, from 1998 to 2005 and loved them all. The school changed a lot in the time I was there, mainly with the fact that they built a new bit when I started 6th form! It's odd to think that some of the classrooms I had lessons in for years could now be someone's kitchen. Some of my most vivid memories about the school include seeing something that looked remarkably like a coffin being paraded around Venice, being given some very spurious essays involving rice krispies in Year 7, as well as some of the more memorable assembly speeches...

Like just about everyone else in my year, I left after 6th Form to go to University, but utterly hated it. After my first (and only) year there I started working at Everton FC (aka "the enemy") in the Ticket Office, where you soon learn that dealing with football fans is certainly a challenge! In the 3 years I spent there, we were called some things that I don't think we'd be allowed to print (especially when you dare to tell someone the derby's sold out), had a good laugh at some of the questions we were asked ("How sold out exactly?"), and realised that plenty of rain and queues of people leads to a very challenging

day. For me, the most flattering thing about working there was being asked to go on a secondment to Anfield for a couple of months. Getting the chance to wander around the tunnel area before leaving was brilliant, although it takes a while to get used to an empty football stadium. Getting to know people in the Ticket Office at the club you support certainly helps when your friends want tickets too...

In September 2009 I left Everton to move up to Burnley (pronounced locally as Burrnleh) to be the Ticketing Strategy Manager. There's no escape from thinking about, or being questioned on football when you work in Ticketing, and you do wish you could switch off every so often. For instance, as I write this in December we've already been in planning meetings for Season Tickets for several weeks, and making a budget for predicting £6 million in Season Ticket sales is frightening!

Even though it pretty much takes over your life, working in the football industry is brilliant, and I wouldn't swap it for anything. It proves that you don't have to go to University to get a job that you love, even if all your mates end up going, as leaving Uni was undoubtedly the best decision I've ever made.

Michael Joliffe

Just For Fun – Squirrel General Knowledge Quiz

1. Which 'popular' UK bookselling chain went into administration in December 2009?
2. The African Union has proposed a pan-African currency to be implemented in 2028, akin to the euro. What is it called?
3. How many calories are in a unit of ruby port?
4. The number 1 hit 'Angel' by Shaggy borrowed tunes from which two songs?
5. By the end of 2007, how many people did the UN estimate were infected with HIV every day?
6. Who was the last Prime Minister of Great Britain?
7. Turkeys don't vote for what?
8. On 1st December 2009, Baroness Ashton became the EU's High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. Before this, what position had she been elected to?
9. Which was the number one selling single of the last decade, according to Radio 1?
10. According to Amazon, which was the best selling DVD/Blu-ray of the decade?

Answers after Aftershock

Sports Day Results

Team Results

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
<i>Boys</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Boys</i>
1st – Blundell – 142 pts	1st – Blundell – 148 pts	1st – Blundell – 135 pts	1st – Shirley – 135 pts
2nd – Graham – 129 pt	=2nd – Graham – 115 pts	2nd – Graham – 122 pts	2nd – Graham – 127 pts
3rd – Shirley – 117 pts	=2nd – Shirley – 115 pts	3rd – Shirley – 120 pts	3rd – Bingham – 94 pts
4th – Bingham – 102 pts	4th – Bingham – 106 pts	4th – Blundell – 109 pts	4th – Blundell – 63 pts
<i>Girls</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Girls</i>
1st – Blundell – 129 pts	1st – Graham – 118 pts	1st – Bingham – 144 pts	1st – Blundell – 99 pts
2nd – Shirley – 102 pts	2nd – Bingham – 112 pts	2nd – Graham – 105 pts	2nd – Bingham – 94 pts
3rd – Graham – 97 pts	3rd – Shirley – 85 pts	3rd – Shirley – 77 pts	3rd – Graham – 87 pts
4th – Bingham – 80 pts	4th – Blundell – 69 pts	4th – Blundell – 62 pts	4th – Shirley – 86 pts

Individual Year Champion Results

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
<i>Boys</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Boys</i>
1st – Luke Sullivan & Aidan Riley, Nelson Idama	1st – Gavin Spruin	Callum Hancock	Grant Helm
2nd – David Murphy	2nd – Luke Findlay	2nd – Jason Yu	2nd – Aiden Riley
3rd – Darnel Ryan	3rd – Jonathon Ashcroft	3rd – Ben Thompson & Dylan Costanzo	3rd – James Rhodes
4th – Jacky Hou	4th – Daniel Harvey & Thomas Year	4th – James Russell & Dileep Karthikappallil	4th – Peter Robinson, Jack Luscombe & Jake Cockburn
<i>Girls</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Girls</i>
1st – Elena Lindsey	1st – Erin Lee & Annie Mosley	1st – Katie Blackmore	1st – Jessica Dickinson
2nd – Hannah Shore, Rae Coldham & Harriet Power	2nd – Alana Borkwood	2nd – Florence Binks	2nd – Ashley O'Mera
3rd – Georgia Staunton	3rd – Hoi-Lam Ng	3rd – Sorcha Twoney-Harris	3rd – Rachel Holgate
4th – Josephine Gibson	4th – Laura Gillin	4th – Katy Ashworth	4th – Charlotte Holmes & Sarah Edwards

Cross Country

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
<i>Boys</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Boys</i>
1st – Luke Sullivan	Gavin Spruin	Callum Hancock	Jake Cockburn
2nd – Adam Carus-McDonald	Conall Jager	Ben Thompson	Andrew Beggs
3rd – Edward Taft	Andrew Callaway	Lee Smith	Theo Jackson
4th – Jacob Moss	Jasper Johns	Jason Yu	James Rhodes
<i>Girls</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Girls</i>
1st – Tanerth Preece-Roberts	Erin Lee	Katie Blackmore	Jessica Dickinson
2nd – Eleanor Roberts	Alice Blanchard	Sorcha Twoney-Harris	Louise Goodwin
3rd – Elena Lyndsey	Timah Julienne-Tabit	Molly Howarth-Maddison	Yazamin Marshall
4th – Ellie Lewis	Nicole Jackson	Emma Kelly	Elizabeth Peacock

Sports Day



Year 9 GCSE PE Group

Merseyside Youth Games

This group accepted the challenge of organising and managing the Primary Schools Hockey Tournament. The group experienced different roles: managing, squash, recording scores and taking control of the timing.

Two schools from each of the 6 boroughs – Liverpool, Halton, St Helens, Sefton, Knowsley & Wirral take part.

During the proceedings the hockey section had a visit from Seb Coe. Subsequent matches had to be rescheduled, because of the delay, but this was done successfully and presentations later went ahead.

In order to move proceeds on faster, the timekeepers were told that they were in overall charge. That meant: staff from the school, the children, the official umpires and any further form of interruption.

Once reassured of this situation, the youngsters took total control and did an excellent job.

Congratulations to Yr9 GCSE group.

Ms Arnold

The Charity Cross Country Race

On the 25th March '09 year's 7-10 pupils of Bluecoat Coat School gathered on the Mystery to participate in the annual charity race. It was a cold afternoon yet everyone was fully taking part and getting quite competitive!

The races took place one after the other; a girl's race and then a boys race from different years. The course went all the way round the Mystery; it was a very hard 2½ miles.

Overall we raised a grand total of £796.06 which was very happily received by the charity Stick 'n' Step. Stick 'n' Step is a voluntary charity, which gets no government funding. The charity helps children suffering from cerebral palsy to boost their confidence and learn to walk - hopefully to lead a normal and happy life.

The run was a great success and will take place again next year and we will hopefully raise even more!

Liverpool Parks Tennis Tournament

Two boys from Year 9 – Jeffery Chu and Matthew Hodgkinson and one Year 7 girl, Hattie Power took up the challenge to play in the tournament. The rain seemed to be ordered for 5:15pm each day. In the end, players were transported to all of the local tennis clubs: Liverpool Cricket and Sports Club, Bohemians, Palmerston, East Wavertree & Vagabonds.

Jeffery entered the singles and doubles. He was beaten in the second round by the boy who was runner-up last year and the winner this year.

Matthew entered the doubles with Jeffery. They reached the semi-finals. Hattie entered the singles but was unfortunately beaten by this year's winner.

JQA

Badminton

This was a year of great success for our badminton teams. In the spring of 2009 our KS4 Boys and KS4 Girls teams became Liverpool Schools' Champions. They then played against Manchester Schools' Champions at the Echo Arena during the World Badminton Tournament. This was a wonderful experience for them playing in front of a huge audience and although initially nervous gained confidence to beat the Manchester Champions. They also enjoyed a master class with the British Olympic Badminton silver medallist Gail Emms.

During the autumn of 2009 and early spring of 2010 our KS4 Girls and Boys teams again became Liverpool Champions. This entitled them to proceed to play in the Merseyside round of the Center Parcs National Badminton Tournament. After many matches in their respective groups our Boys team of Peter Athans, Joey Fong, Eric Diep and William Truong beat Birkdale School and Calday Grange Grammar School in the group winners' play off, a tremendous victory, and eventually finished 5th nationally, at the end of April. They represented Merseyside in the North West Region round. Commiserations go to our Girls team of Sarah Zhao, Alex Zhong, Alice Haughan and Ryta Kamarova who played well against some strong teams to finish third in the group winners' play off. Congratulations to all!

Mr K G Caulkin

Year 7 Football

Squad:

Usen Jones (Captain)	
Michael Harrison	Alasdair Clark
Ryan Gaffney	Max Thelen
Tom Fletcher	Sam Milley
Liam Dunne	Blaise Best-Barton
Nathan Wyman	Jacob Barrett-Baxendale
Michael Harkness	Thomas Ravenscroft
Liam Cors	Dominic Burke

The first half of the season for the Year 7 football team has shown a lot of promise. The season began with a defeat to a strong Cardinal Heenan team but since then the team has gone from strength to strength and the first victory followed quickly: 6-0 against De La Salle. Further wins followed against St Margarets (9-2), West Derby (7-1) and Knowsley Hey (13-1). The team is developing quickly and is showing a lot of potential for the coming years, playing with ability and flair. In the ESFA National Cup victories came in the early rounds against Alder Grange School from Rossendale (2-1) before a trip to play Southlands School in Chorley ended in a 17-1 victory. Unfortunately the team went out 3-1 to Blessed Trinity School from Burnley in the next round. This has since been followed up with a further league victory, 5-2 against Alsop. The strike partnership of Alasdair Clark and Max Thelen are a constant threat and the midfield pairing of Usen Jones and Liam Cors are a match for anybody. The second half of the season promises to be exciting with the team going well in the league and making the end of season play offs as well as hoping to go far in both the Liverpool & Merseyside Cup competitions. The boys have been a pleasure to work with, showing a lot of commitment as well as ability.

Year 7 5-a-side

LIVERPOOL CHAMPIONS

Squad:

Usen Jones (captain)	
Michael Harrison	Alasdair Clark
Max Thelen	Nathan Wyman
Liam Cors	Dominic Burke
Ryan Gaffney	

In December, the Year 7 squad were crowned as Liverpool City Champions. They achieved victory in the competition with wins against Alsop (4-0), St Francis of Assisi (3-0), De La Salle (5-1) and St Margaret's (3-0). They completed the finals of the competition unbeaten and thoroughly deserved their success, playing with a lot of skill and determination; they then progressed to play in the Merseyside Finals, where unfortunately they were beaten 1-0 in the semi-final by the eventual winners Halewood.

Mr. J. Adamson

Cricket U12

The U12 cricket season started extremely early with practice sessions taking place in the winter months in the indoor nets to prepare the boys for the challenges that lay ahead. What struck me from an early stage was the enthusiasm and energy that the squad possessed and this, along with the undoubted cricketing talent, will inevitably lead to success as the squad moves through the School. Indeed, the 2009 season was not without notable achievements, both collectively and individually.

The team enjoyed excellent runs in both the Lancashire and the Liverpool Cups, getting to the Final in the latter before being unfortunately beaten by a strong St. Margarets side. The highlight of the season for most of the squad and myself were the victories at Merchant Taylors and Kings Chester, schools that are very much renowned for their cricket and these notable 'scalps' should give the boys great confidence as the 2010 season approaches. The strength of the team is very much in their bowling, thus the aim this season is to score more runs to give the bowlers totals that they will be able to defend. Thank-you to all the boys who represented the team last season and special thanks must go to the Captain, Rishi Banerjee, who led the team astutely throughout the campaign.

Mr. S. Jamieson

Cricket U15

Captain - Theo Jackson

Rain, cricket's eternal enemy, sadly had an effect in some of the fixtures this season. Despite this factor, the team won six out of the completed matches. The mainstay of the batting was James Rhodes, who has a variety of shots all round the wicket. Peter Robinson, a hard-hitting batsman, had his moments. The other batsmen, Theo Jackson and Andrew Beggs, all scored runs from time to time. Matthew Gunson, Peter Athans and Matthew Shore show promise with the bat.

On the bowling front, Andrew Beggs was the most accurate and economical. Peter Athans and Callum Watling were capable of bowling the unplayable delivery. The spin department was over subscribed with Theo Jackson, Danny Little and James Rhodes all producing good performances. The fielding of the side improved throughout the season. The following players represented the side during the season:-

Theo Jackson, James Rhodes, Andrew Beggs, Peter Robinson, Peter Athans, Matthew Gunson, Callum Watling, Danny Little, Matthew Shore, Jonathan Riley, Matthew Hodgkinson, Michael Boyes, Jack Luscombe, Sam Batterton, William Truong, Michael McNulty and Nelson Idama.

Mr. J. Rees

U15 Basketball

Captain – Dileep Karthikappallil



It was a successful season, losing in the North West of England Finals in both National Competitions to Helsby High School, subsequent National Champions. A Liverpool Final still to be played reflects the progress made by all the players.

The following represented the side:- Dileep Karthikappallil and Adam Gaffney, Callum Hancock, Alistair Rutherford, James Russell, Sam Batterton, Lee Smith, Joe Moorcroft-Moran, Matthew Shore, William Truong, Harry Bleasdale, John Ogundele, Robert Fiske and Luke Chandler.

U16 Basketball

Captain – Nelson Idama



The second season of playing in the National Club league as a school team has once again led to great development of individual skills and team concepts. A fifty percent win record in this league was excellent. The performances in the school matches therefore improved, and the team had another successful season.

The following players represented the team:- Nelson Idama, James Rhodes, Peter Robinson, Andrew Beggs, Matthew Gunson, Theo Jackson, Michael McNulty, Grant Helm, Jamie Walsh, Aidan Riley, Dileep Karthikappallil, Callum Hancock and William Truong.

U19 Basketball

Captain – Jack Bedford



The team reached the last 32 stage of the National Competition, losing to a strong Blackpool Sixth Form College. The Liverpool Cup final is to be played after Easter.

The following students represented the team:- Jack Bedford, Danny Roberts, John Edosomwan, Luke Williams, Alex Edwards, James Rhodes, Andrew Beggs, Nelson Idama and Peter Robinson.

Yr7 Basketball

Dominic Burke, Michael Harrison, Alistair Clark, Samuel Miley, Jacob Barrett-Baxendale, Ryan Gaffney, Usen Jones, Stephen Chen, Liam Cors, Ben Kiiver, Liam Dunne, Jonathan Lau, Sam Russell, Suliman Assaad, Blaise Best-Barton, Tom Fletcher, Max Thelen, Nathan Wyman (Captain) and Daniel Harper.

Congratulations to the above students for making the U12 Basketball Squad. The future looks very promising after the recent Tournament at St Columbus School in St Albans, Hertfordshire.

The boys played 4 fixtures, winning 2 and losing 2.

Mr Phelan

Yr8 Basketball

David Murphy (Captain), Jon Chu (V Captain), Luke Sullivan, Jacky Hou, Jack Kauffman-Harding, Jack Seasman, Jo Small, Patrick Hanlon, Darnel Ryan, Natty Wyman, Dominic Lees and Callum Smith.

The team has made good progress and was one game away from reaching the last 8 Nationally.

At present we are awaiting to play Shorefields in the Liverpool Cup Semi Final.

Mr Phelan

U15 Football

Lee Smith (Captain), Matthew Hodgkinson, Adam Gaffney, Joe Moorcroft-Moran, Callum Taylor, Jamie Mackreth, Joe Hunt, Michael Boyes, Anthony Carney, James Russell, Ben Thompson, Robert Fiske, Sam Batterton, Matthew Shore, Mark Smyth and Mark Sung.

A thoroughly enjoyable season has seen the boys play some fantastic football, most notably at QEGS, and losing narrowly in both the Liverpool and Merseyside Cups to Shorefields.

Thank you once again to all the parents for their support and especially Winstone Landscaping who have provided the boys with a kit.

Mr Phelan

St Laurence's College, Brisbane, Australia UK Football Tour 2009

We welcomed our friends from Australia once again in April.

A big thank you to the parents and students who kindly offered to act as host families:

Students:

Yr13 Dan Oliver, Dan Corns and George Mansfield

Yr12 Daniel Roberts, Alex Mallon, Craig Morrow, Alex Edwards, Tiffany Deans-Green, James Platt and April Cockburn.

Yr11 Nelson Idama, Matthew Gunson, Peter Robinson, Charlotte Holmes, Georgina Hunt and Jake Cockburn.

Yr10 Callum Hancock, Florence Binks and Joe Hunt

Tour Party

Tour Director – Jim McLauchlan

Staff – Michelle McLauchlan

Eddie Wallace

Tony Royle



Daniel Cornes, presenting a Blue Coat Shield to the Australians, prior to the last game of the tour which was the Blue Coat, UK versus St Laurence's, Australia, for the Ashes Challenge Trophy, which will be played for each time either school tours.

We are very grateful to The Blue Coat Old Blues Brotherly Society for the donation of the Shield and books about the School's history.

The Blue Coat School will be returning to Australia in July 2011.

Mr Phelan

Athletics

The following students were City champions.

Yr7 Joseph Boyland 100m, 200m

Relay Team - Joseph Boyland, David Murphy, Luke Sullivan, Adam Carus-McDonald

Yr8 Gavin Spruin 400m

Congratulations to all those students who participated in the Central District Championships, Individual finals and the Champion schools.

Mr Phelan

KS4 Boys Badminton

On January 29th 2010 our KS4 Boys Badminton team, representing Merseyside, won the North West Regional Round of the Center Parcs National Badminton Tournament. They played against the winners of Lancashire, Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Cumbria. They now play in the National Finals at Center Parcs, Nottingham, over the weekend of 24/25th April.

They played extremely well but were tired towards the end of the day. However, the standard of badminton was notably high with some exceptional and very close matches.

Our team consisted of Peter Athans & Joey Fong of Yr11 and William Truong & Eric Diep of Yr10. They all received a gold medal, badminton racket and other goodies from the sponsors.

A memorable day for the team!

Keith Caulkin.



St. Laurence's College Team

Results

Blue Coat u-16 won 2-0

Blue Coat select team won 3-0

Blue Coat u-19 won 4-0 to win the ashes challenge trophy for 2010

Rainhill u-16 won 3-1

Woolton u-16 won 3-0

Forefield u-17 won 3-2

1st XI Football

Elliott Kwong: Captain

After a good cup run in previous years, expectations were high for the current first XI, but a thin squad, coupled with injuries, lead to a disappointing campaign. The back four consisting of Daniel Corns and Elliott Kwong, with Michael Blackmore providing Glen Johnson runs and Gary Chan at the heart of most attacks, proved a solid defence. Contributions from the ever-running Michael Tancered and the flair play from Peter Robinson helped add width to the midfield, bolstered by the strength of James Platt and top goal scorer Alex Yoh creating a dynamic midfield. Tom Hughes and Lee Roberts spearheaded the attack of the team.



Yet with all the potential, the side went out prematurely in both National Cup and Merseyside competitions. Losing to sides that were below par and not taking our own opportunities proved costly on both occasions. Although, throughout the season we played with passion and commitment in all games, most notably against Wilmslow High School where despite being 1-0, we went on to win 3-1 thanks to a hat trick by Alex Yoh. Daniel Corns also showed us his predator instincts in front of goal with a glorious return to his natural role as a striker bagging a hat trick against Kings Chester and helping secure the victory.

After seven years of school football, Mr Barends and Mr Ainsworth deserve a big thank you for coaching us in the lower years, and especially Mr Rees for the inspiring team talks! Good luck to the future first XI squad and to all of those playing university football next year.

Valuable contributions from the following:

Alex Edwards, Jonathan Edosomwan, Arron Argomandkhah, Ryan Gowns, Daniel Bartling, Sean Furlong, Liam Loftus, Matty Gunson

1st XI Hockey

A. Mallon, L. Whitehouse, R. McWaters, S. Wilson, R. Moss, T. Deans-Green, C. Holmes, A. O'Meara, S.Hodgkiss, J.Dickinson, S.Koshy, M.Mak, E. Beggs (capt.) E.Derby, C.Cunningham, C.Dickinson

This has been the final season for many of the current 1st XI hockey team and, despite having played fewer games than in previous seasons, it has been an enjoyable one. We have won most of our friendly matches and our losses, whilst disappointing, have been productive as we have learned more about playing as a team and have focused on our weak points in training. I have felt it an honour to have captained this team for 6 years. We have developed as players, with 8 of us playing hockey at club level and 4 at Junior County level. We have been on tour, twice to Amsterdam and once to Barbados which, as well as challenging us in our hockey, have been fantastic cultural and social experiences to take away with us as we leave Blue Coat this year. Thank you to all who have been involved.

Ellie Beggs

Netball

2009

The following teams qualified and took part in the Liverpool Schools League Finals to finish 3rd: Yr8, Y10

2010

Liverpool Schools League results and positions:

Yr 7: 3rd Yr 8: 7th Yr 9: 4th Yr 10: 4th Yr 11: 4th

Athletics

The following girls qualified and took part in the Liverpool City Finals in the following events:

Liverpool City Final Achievements:

Hattie Power: 2nd in the Discus

Erin Lee came: 2nd in the 800m and 3rd in the 200m

Annie Mossley: 3rd in both the Hurdles and the 100m

Rain

I would like to write a poem about rain.
I think that I've got the time,
But I don't really know that much about rain,
And I don't really know how to rhyme.

All that I know about rain is this:
That it always makes people wet,
And that it can make people angry too,
But this is as far as I get.

Maybe I should start with something classic,
Like "The rain doth flow on me",
But I'm not very good at that Shakespeare talk,
I'm really rather trendy, you see.

Would you look at that! I've written a poem,
But it's not really at all about rain,
You could say I've defeated the object,
Would it be wise if I just start again?

By Immy Cooper, 8 Graham

Cheerleading

2009

The cheerleading squad went on to win the Liverpool School Competition becoming City Champions for the second Year running!!! The squad also competed in a National Cheerleading Competition that was held at the Manchester Velodrome. The high standard and experience of many squads involved made the competition challenging. However, our relatively novice squad did exceptionally well to finish 6th in their category.

2010

The current squad have just performed in round 1 in the South Liverpool Partnership Competition and are currently in the lead by 1 point!!!

Good luck for the next round, here's hoping for a 3rd year of success!

Dance



2009

The Blue Coat Dance Show took place at Parklands CLC. It was again a great success and a spectacular display of our students' ability, commitment and creativity. A very big thank you to Jenny Morris who choreographed many of the dances and worked tirelessly to help put the show together.

Miss Cornwall

The Robbery

I'm just a little ladybird,
Hearing everything people say,
Flying about from leaf to leaf,
In the sunshine every day.

Yesterday, I flew inside,
And perched on someone's hat.
Pretending to be a bunch of grapes,
And trying to lie flat.

I heard a great big argument,
About something called money.
Apparently, some had been stolen
In a classic bank robbery.

After a while, the door slammed shut,
The angry policeman had gone.
But I was still on the woman's hat,
And I knew what she had done.

She gave the laugh of a demon,
And scurried on tiptoe upstairs.
Bending down, underneath the bed,
She pulled out what was there.

A treasure chest with a heavy lock,
Unlocked with a wrought-iron key,
What's in it? I thought and wondered,
And craned my neck to see.

Piles of coins, buckets of notes,
Money, dosh galore!
I gasped out loud, but she didn't hear,
Then came the knock on the door.

The treasure chest was immediately
slammed shut,
Shoved back underneath the bed.
The woman hastily hurried out of the
room,
And an idea slowly formed in my head.

I rushed out from beneath the hat,
Yelling fit to bust.
I buzzed and flew right round the
hall,
Scattering all the dust.

The woman frowned, the policeman
peered
As I led them towards the money,
But the crafty old thief grabbed a
heavy glass jar,
And trapped me; it just wasn't funny.

I was carried into the sitting room,
Put down on a small coffee table.
But it was on the edge, and I could
read
The writing on the faded white label.

Then it came to me, a sudden idea,
It came to me at last.
I heaved and banged, and shoved and
punched,
And pushed upon the glass.

It worked! It worked! The jar I was in
Topped to the floor with a crash.
It broke in half and lay in pieces
While I flew up to the ceiling in a
flash.

I saw the woman shake her fist,
And the bewildered policeman gawk
So I perched on his sleeve then
guided him
To where all the cash was stored.

This time, the robber didn't dare
intervene.
She attempted no form of protest.
She was led away in handcuffs to her
dark, dirty cell,
Sobbing uncontrollably about her
arrest.

I'm just a little ladybird,
Hearing everything people say,
Flying about from leaf to leaf,
In the sunshine every day.

By Rachael Chung 8BL

The Peter Arnold Craft Annual Creative Writing Competition Winners

This is an annual in-school competition, run by Mrs Ludlow and named after a former headmaster.

Imagination - see Robert Brennan's poem on p27

The Forbidden Forest!

We were scrambling through the deepest, darkest part of the forbidden forest, under huge muscular branches, and over insect infected logs, covered in some of the best looking fungi I've ever seen, it was like a mosaic.

All these trees were annoying me though, and after what seemed like days (but was actually only five minutes), I was covered in loads of long thin scratches, I must have looked like Frankenstein's, monster. It was due to all the long bony twigs that tugged desperately as we passed.

At times I thought I could hear the trees as they whispered quietly and groaned tiredly. The forest's deadly inhabitants raged at us as we sped past, but then cried out with such sadness in their voices it could break a grown man.

Ten very long minutes later, when we still couldn't see any hopeful signs of civilisation, I shouted out with such ferocity that the very ground trembled. The only thing that gave me the motivation to carry on was the fact that the towering trees with their thin leaves scared me.

By Robert Nolan Year 8
Key Stage 3 Winner

I opened my eyes in surprise as the warmth of the golden morning sun, for the first time this winter, poured through my little window. Pushing past the faded but still luxurious velvet drapes, I gasped as the now thinning layer of ice on the window ledge caught my eye. There, among the last of the crystallised raindrops from yesterday's hailstorm, a beautiful butterfly lay frozen, its wings forever suspended in a soundless, motionless flight.

Desiring to prise it out and call it mine, I held my hand out and touched the firm but ever so thin shield of ice protecting the fossilised beauty and, as if I had been struck by lightning, my eyes widened and feet anchored to the floor as all my human senses suddenly but slowly slipped out of my body.

The sky was blue, the snow was white. The familiarity of the grey, antique house and the lightning blue car somehow surprised me - I was looking at them from above.

Daisy Zhai 10GR

America

Wouldn't it be nice to go on a road trip?
Across America through the land,
Seeing the sights you've never seen,
On the scorching summer's sand.

The casinos in Las Vegas,
Empire State, you can guess where,
Do the C.S.I. trip, go to Miami,
See the Fresh Prince in Bel Air,

Hot air balloon ride over the canyon,
To Florida to see Mickey Mouse,
Visit the cowboys in Texas,
To Dallas' famous steak house.

Maybe we'll go to Hollywood,
Or Washington DC,
Maybe we'll go to some islands,
Like Liberty or Florida's Quay.

I'd like to go to California,
And visit Mississippi for a day,
I want to go to New Jersey,
And meet Mikey Way.

I've all these places to go,
And we won't have time for the zoo,
But it wouldn't be the same without all my friends,
And riding in a VW.

By Elena Lindsey 8 Graham.

How to impress on ... Valentine's Day

Here's our step-by-step guide to the love-sick you, not sure how to impress, here's what to do:-

Step one chat her up a bit,
Tell her that she's really fit.

Step two, it's important: your first date,
Do make sure you don't turn up late.

Step three, make sure you don't say anything mean,
and ensure you keep your jokes clean!
Don't dribble your food down your chin
And a cheery smile is bound to win.
Always treat each other as special and never appear
artificial.

There is not much to say when it comes to the first
kiss,
My only advice is make sure you don't miss!
Now you've progressed onto date 2.
If you follow the formula your love will stay true.

By Elin Webster 8GR
Imogen Cooper 8GR
John Wu 8GR

This poem has been published in an anthology entitled 'Bust-a-Rhyme' 21st Century key-hole:

Shall I bust-a-rhyme about real life?
Without lies, manipulation and media hype?
About social struggle against a class;
the omnipresent limit of a ceiling of glass.
Poverty-stricken: recession's vicious cycle,
MP expenses - no reputation for recycle.
Education disjunct: a social barrier alone,
competitive and bullying: an elitist success zone.
Big Brother culture, paparazzi's off the hook;
MSN, Myspace, Twitter, Facebook.
Gang culture, knife crime: a criminalized youth,

drinking, drug taking, corrupt and uncouth.
Litter bugged streets plaguing the Earth,
Greenhouse Gases: industrious pollution from
amongst the mirth.
Celebrity idols; super-size, anorexia and surgery;
privatisation, no money, banker payout: Fred the
Shred robbery...
21st Century life.

Krystyn Durkin

Notes from a Very Small Island

I was sitting inside a metal bird and watching some small children's film that I couldn't care less about, as we made our way to 39°51'45"N 004°13'07"E (or Menorca's only airport in Mahon for those of you who don't know). We touched down onto the warm asphalt at about 2.15.

The man at passport control looked new. He seemed enthusiastic. He took our passports and looked at us, trying to determine if we were illegal immigrants, terrorists or tourists; eventually he seemed to settled on the latter, and let us through. It was our first chance to try out some Spanish and we did. Well, we tried.

Waiting at the rent-a-car desk trying to actually rent a car was not an easy business. We had to work our way through fifteen pages of legal documents amid heckles of 'hurry up' from the every-growing queue.

"Just sign 'ere an' 'ere an' 'ere" was exactly what I expected him to say and was very surprised when he didn't say just that.

We eventually left the desk and could hear the screams of anguish as the next member of the hundred strong queue realised what torture awaited them.

We departed from the only terminal and made our way slowly through the hot, dry but, surprisingly, green landscape to the car hire complex and picked up our non-descript black car.

You must remember this one fact about the Balearic isle, which is that the island itself is incredibly small; it is less than fifty kilometres across; this means that a car is almost completely unnecessary.

For a small island, Menorca has a lot of roundabouts; you really can't go a hundred meters without dizzying yourself; another thing I noticed was that the flora and fauna of the isle seemed to consist of weird beetles, cacti and loud, barking, dogs.

Arrival at the villa was a relief - meant that I could finally cool off with a well-deserved dip into the pool. Reclining in the pool (no, don't ask how) I couldn't help but contemplate on our drive through the small town of Cala en Porta and how, well, British the island is; they have fluent English speakers, signs in English, names of restaurants in English, the villa owners were English and dogs barked just like the ones that you knew would rip your throat out if they didn't have that muzzle on, just like back in England.

As the darkness crawled around us like an old lady's shawl, we made our way down to one of the many English restaurants in the town centre. After much care and deliberation we finally selected one that seemed suitable; it was called the Salamandra; I wondered why bother having a name in Spanish when it was a quintessentially English place. I ordered some fish dish. My brother had some miscellaneous meat-sorry, I mean chicken-nuggets.

The excursion was eventually over after convincing some five year old, in the soft play area, that I was really fifty eight and owned a mansion in some far off county that I was Prime Minister of.

We wandered off to the villa and decided to go to bed.

Sleep, the nemesis of every child, does not come easily in Cala en Porter. If New York is the city that never sleeps, then Cala en Porter is the city that is trying-really-hard-to-get-to-sleep-but-can-never-seem-to-manage-it-because-of-loud-music-heat-AND-THOSE-BLUMMIN'-DOGS.

When sleep finally came, it didn't last long enough. I was tired and sluggish but, thankfully, not, like the rest of my family, covered from head to toe in mosquito bites. After a customary dip in the pool we embarked on our next great English themed adventure.

We jumped into the car prepared to set off. We were met by Mr Million-degrees again and sweltered all the way to the Place-With-Lots-Of-Water-That-Not-Many-People-Swim-In. Catchy name, isn't it?

Okay, I'll come clean, that's not its name, but it's a pretty good description of the Aqua-park. Like everything else in Menorca, it caters very well for the English. What about the Portuguese? I couldn't help but think.

The aqua park has a number of attractions, such as: the pool and the Jacuzzi; but no attraction was an attraction compared to this attraction. It was the, I mean they were the flumes. Great juggernauts of flumes they were, two hundred feet into the air, curving around in their mysterious patterns, each with its own speciality; the Black Hole was pitch black inside, you would never know when you would reach the bottom, Rio Adventura as an open topped flume; two could go down it at once, the giant slide was the one for the faint, but not too faint, hearted and the Kamikaze was something special; it was the only slide that ran straight but don't let that put you off, because, in the words of my brother: "That broke me nose!"

We left happy, hungry, and hoping England hadn't lost at the cricket. Sadly, there was no English themed restaurant tonight, although, we were permitted a barbeque and lots off tough steak that only my dad and I could eat without throwing up. Sleep once again didn't come easily. But, thank god, it came.

After our last customary dip in the pool, as it was the last day, we went to the beach. The beach was the most... 'postcardly' place I had ever been. The best thing about the beach, well the best thing about any beach, is undoubtedly the sea. The sea was shallow. When I say shallow I mean shallow. If the normal depth of water was, for instance, an elephant, then the depth of water at Cala en porter would be a hair of a vertically challenged fly's nostril. You could wade out one hundred meters and it would STILL be no deeper than my knees.

Eventually, (although force was required), I was parted from my beloved beach. And so all things must come to an end; even football (hopefully). This is why my accounts must too. And so... I sit here in a metal bird watching some film I couldn't care less about as we made our way home to England. And rain.

By Joe Clarke

The Wonderful Adventure of Gary

Chapter 1

I disembarked the train at Lime St. Station, slipping up on a decomposing banana skin on the platform. A sign stood before me, pointing me in the direction of Skelhorne St, and Lord Nelson St. I carried on past this, where a bearded, clearly drunken man was apparently having an argument with a ticket-seller.

'But I don't want...none of your...rubbish.. I have...famous friends...'

He walked off, frequently tripping up, belching, cursing, and starting a nonsensical conversation with an old hound that was tied up on a pillar. A lot had changed in my time away; repairs had been made to the reception desk, and upon emerging out onto the bustling streets, I noticed that the shady character I had always believed to be a drug dealer was gone.

Saint George's Hall stood alone, grand as always. Bright signs were hung up outside shop windows, glaring amongst the greys and browns of the buildings they belonged to. People gathered outside The Empire, waiting patiently to see Liverpool's Tribute to Michael Jackson.

I took a shortcut down an alleyway that I knew led to Whitechapel. Amongst the tall, dilapidated buildings, I felt a peculiar sensation that I was, at last, home. Graffiti had ruined any possibility of these buildings being beautiful. I gathered that this was Stez's patch, and that he got with Kelly before Gimp Jim. Trying to ignore the recurrent swear words, I left the alley and was engulfed by a sudden brightness. A camera flashed, with shouts of 'Happy Birthday!' and 'Surprise!'.

Chapter 2

I left the people who had confused me with a man called Liam. They were disappointed, to say the least. A lovely funeral hearse drove by, accompanied by a gaggle of mourners. Walking past (and muttering my deepest sympathy between breaths) I entered St. John's Shopping Centre. One particular shop caught my eye: Inferno, a men's clothing store. My clothes had garnered a lot of mud after six years spent in the Congo, but I had only just realised how much. One specific shirt caught my attention - it was blood red and with a price tag of \$6.99.

No, that couldn't possibly be right. \$6.99? This was Britain, not the United States. I lifted the shirt and took it over to the counter. The guy there had tanned skin, was of a large build and wore a cap emblazoned with the legend: DON'T PARTY NAKED. Warily, I approached him.

'Err... hello?' I said to him, at which he angled his head towards me.

'Wat? Ga wegl' was his response. He was foreign. I

understood that ga wegl was Dutch for 'go away' and not wanting to stay in this man's presence any longer, I left with an unnecessary swiftness.

The next place seemed more promising. It was a restaurant. It was nearly devoid of customers inside, and I was rather hungry, so I entered, and proceeded towards the counter. Browsing through a decorative little menu, I ordered a portion of nachos with a cheesy dip, followed by Spaghetti Bolognese, with an ice cream for dessert. I waited patiently for the food to be prepared.

I glanced at the other patrons. Apart from myself, there was a man with one eye and an old lady. Surprising, as a restaurant of this luxury deserved, in my opinion, more customers. I took a seat by the window whence my food arrived.

Chapter 3

St John's was very nearly empty. Greggs, a shop called Jazzco and an ominously dark and dreary shop called RE: LOAD were apparently the only other shops attracting any business... putting this revelation at the back of my mind, I ate. The food was cold. So that was why there were only three diners. One-eye approached me. Startled yet intrigued, I rotated towards him.

'Daaaaaaaave?' he said.

'Err.. no, I'm not Dave. I'm Gary', I replied; as I turned away he spoke again.

'Daaaaaaaave? Daaaaaaaave! Daaaaaaaave!' he repeated, and he began to shake me vigorously. Disturbed, I barged past him, and once again slipped up on an old banana skin.

Back on my feet, I ran out of the shopping centre. A policeman attempted to block my exit.

'And WHERE do you think YOU'RE going?' He asked.

Out of breath, I said 'I... I'm trying to get of here', and gave a brief explanation of what had happened. After a prolonged search I was allowed passage out of the shopping centre. Too much had changed. I suppose I had forgotten what happened with time. Changes take their places in history. Old can become new. I saw St. John's Beacon, towering over Liverpool. Down the road was St. John's Garden. What did St. John do for Liverpool? As far as I knew it was the PEOPLE of this great city that had so proudly served.

And with that, I smiled.

By Anthony Thompson

Aftershock

The Squirrel in your hands was born as the Noughties were drawing to a close. It took its first tentative steps before Christmas, foraged articles and pieces of art in those first weeks of 2010, and now, fully grown, it has thrown on with gusto its customised robe, and is ready to take up its ancestral residence on your shelves and hopefully, in your hearts.

This Squirrel Team has comprised Zoe Bond, Mat Costello, David Jeffery, Laurette Lau, Shaun Rigby, and myself. Aside from the promise of our names in the Squirrel - and its name on our UCAS forms - an unexpected perk of this job this year was to find out early when the school would be closed for the Big Freeze from our editor, whom we would very much like to thank, not least for being Mrs Ludlow.

On this course we have gained a profound respect for the punctual contributions of our fellow scholars, a new and transferable ability to negotiate the hurdles of deadlines, even further proof of our dedication to this wonderful language of ours, and a very enjoyable run, with the Squirrel, in this field of publishing.

The finishing line is in sight:

Verba volant, scripta manet – Spoken words fly away, what is written remains.

Absumus! (We're outta here!)

Olivia Thompson, L6E

Fun Quiz Answers

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Borders | 7. Christmas. |
| 2. The afro. Seriously. | 8. None. The woman representing you on the world stage has never been elected to public office. |
| 3. 56 kcal. | 9. 'Anything is Possible/Evergreen' [a double A-side] by Will Young |
| 4. 'The Joker' and 'Angel of the Morning' | 10. Mamma Mia! |
| 5. 7400 people per day. | |
| 6. William Pitt the Younger | |



Kylie Guan

QUALITY

laser

SCHOOLWEAR

The Uniform Specialist

Our uniforms are worn by thousands of school children throughout Merseyside

LARGEST RANGE • LOWEST PRICES • HELPFUL, EXPERIENCED STAFF

We carry large stocks of
Blue Coat uniform
in every size imaginable ...
throughout the year!

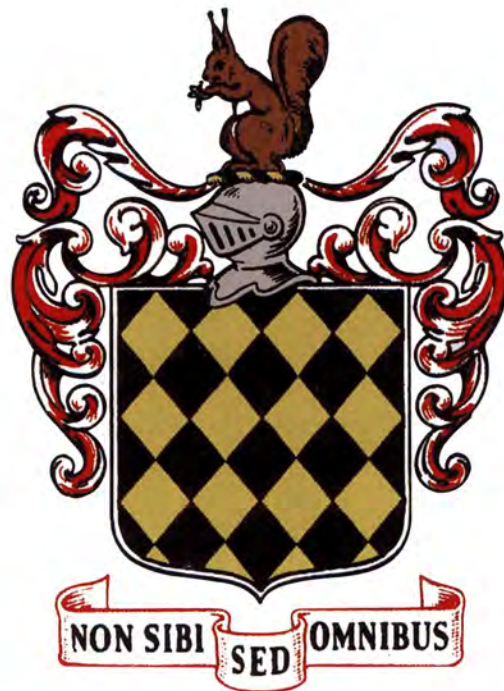
LASER SCHOOLWEAR

Open Monday to Saturday 9.30am - 5pm

0151 709 0701

92 - 100 London Road, Liverpool L3





SQUIRREL 2009/10