

SQUIRREL

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL

2008/09



Blue Coat Parents' Association

Lyndsay Lynch, Chair

Jim Williams, Vice Chair

Jane Findlay, Secretary

Peter Lynch, Treasurer

Our aim is to raise funds, have fun and allocate monies to the School and its variety of Clubs and Associations.

We have had several successful events already this year with the final event being:

Summer Fayre on Sunday 12th July

Please support us in our effort to raise funds by attending the Fayre.

We are always grateful for the many donations we receive throughout the year, please be as generous as you can. If you would like to get involved please e-mail us at:

jane@bluecoatoccasions.co.uk

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the previous years and hope to see you at our many varied events in the future.

LIVERPOOL BLUE COAT SCHOOL



SQUIRREL

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL

08/09

Editor: Mrs B D G Ludlow

Editorial Team: Alex Leece, Ashley Williams, David Jeffery,
Sasha St John Murphy, Laurette Lau and Daniel Inwood.

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

Cover Illustration: Lara Rimmer, Year 10
School Photograph: Mr E J Crighton

First published in 2009 by The Blue Coat School
"Squirrel 2008/09" © Blue Coat School MMV
Designed and produced by Crown Printing, Liverpool

Contents

Editorial	3	Christian Union	41
Headteacher's Report	5	Badminton Club	42
Avete	8	Music	
Valete	11	Music Report 2008-09	43
Pupil Achievements		Drama	
Entry into Higher Education	14	Thoroughly Modern Millie	45
Form Prizes	16	School Trips	
Academic Prizes	16	Blood Wedding – Bodas de Sangre	47
Special Prizes	17	Ballet Trip	48
Success in Music Examinations	18	Camelot Trip	48
School Colour Awards	19	Empire Theatre	48
Physics Olympiad 2008	19	Alton Towers 2008	48
GCSE Results – Summer 2008	20	GCSE Berlin Trip	49
A level Results – Summer 2008	20	Oxford Dinner 2009	49
Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards	21	Kenya Trip	50
La Princesse	21	Tod Travel Scholarship – Czech Republic	55
The Mathematics Specialism	22	Spain Trip 2008	56
Poetry of Place Competition 2008	25	Model United Nations General Assembly	57
Finalists' Poems	25	Alton Towers Trip	57
Teachers' Section	26	Chester Zoo	58
Year 13 Economics Target 2.0 Team	27	Blencathra	58
The Athenaeum Writer in Residence Award	27	Berlin Trip	59
British Physics Olympiad 2009 & AS Competition 2008	29	Croxthall Creative Writing Course	60
		Howarth Trip	61
School Events		English Trip to Parkland CLC	61
The Duke of Gloucester's visit to the Blue Coat	30	Students & Staff	
Enrichment Day	31	Prize Quiz!	62
Classical Greek at Liverpool University	31	Out of the Blue	62
Santa Dash	31	Teacher News	62
Medlink 2008	32	Pupil Quotes	62
Year 7 Social	32	Teacher Quotes	63
Winged Words Poetry Evening, April 2008	33	School Sports	
Teen Idol 2008	34	Sports Day Results	64
The Glories of English Church Music	34	Individual Year Champions	64
Liverpool Performing Arts Festival 2008	36	Cross Country	64
Dance Show 08-09	36	Dance Competition	66
Dance Workshop	36	Girls' Athletics	66
'Traces' – Live Art Project	37	Liverpool City Champions	66
Clubs and Societies		Ski Trip - Mera 2009	67
Art Club	38	Gala Day and Gala Dinner	67
Computer Club	38	Golf	68
Law Society	38	Hockey	68
Sixth Form Health and Fitness Club	38	Netball 08-09	69
Craft Club	39	Table Tennis	69
Social Services Committee Report 2007-2008	39	Cheerleading	70
Junior Philosophy Club	39	Cricket	71
Creative Writing Club	40	Basketball	72
Table Tennis Club	40	Football	74
Bridge Club	41	Creative Writing & Art	throughout the magazine
Library Club	41	Aftershock	80

Non sibi sed omnibus

Fourteen Cyclops-like creatures ran, jumped, yelped and clapped in the darkness of the school yard as a luminous disc whirled above their heads. Leggy shadows with pointed knees and long arms stretched across the school wall. This is no scene from a science fiction novel, but fourteen students Kenya bound, playing with an illuminated Frisbee with headlamps strapped to their heads: a bit of early team building activity which would prove important later.

It didn't all start here, of course. Fourteen months of preparation and fund raising were required, and we are especially grateful to donations from Caroline Tod (Tod Travel Scholarships), Mr Cook (Gifted and Talented) and The Blue Coat Old Blues Brotherly Society. A group of students and I performed bag packing at Asda before Christmas 2007, a number of students entered the Santa Dash for sponsorship; a somewhat loquacious student was amply paid to remain silent for 24 hours and two hirsute young men suffered the pain and humiliation of having their legs waxed in the usually studious environment of CO5.

Endurance levels would be further tested, not least by the long journey. Yet, although exhausted and arriving in the middle of the night, we couldn't resist donning our Cyclops lamps and chasing ghost crabs round the soft white sand of Diani Beach on arrival. The sight that greeted us on our first morning made the fourteen months and long journey all worthwhile: azure blue of sea and sky melded on the horizon; white sand, clear sea and a volley ball net offering ample opportunities for recreation on our day of rest. We were to need this time for recovery from jet lag in preparation for the arduous days ahead.

Teams come together for various activities during the course of the School year. The Duke of Gloucester's visit brought appropriate royal recognition for the School in its 300th year, and required a lot of organisation. The Traces and Live Arts Projects and every football, hockey and netball match all demand co-operation. All these require teams, not only on the day in question, but through support and preparation weeks beforehand: staff and students working together to make things happen. *Non sibi sed omnibus*: not for oneself, but for all. Business companies invest in team-building projects for their employees, recognising the importance of a corporate purpose and mutual dependency.

As a team, our first week in Kenya involved marine identification and conservation, ('Where do all the flip flops come from?') and a scuba diving course. It was such a privilege to be diving with the students as they qualified as divers. The first open-water dives are quite frightening: there is so much to remember, as well as becoming acquainted with the Darth Vader like noise of your own breathing. Everyone had a buddy, and for several students the diving element of the trip had been the part they anticipated with fear. With assistance, any thus affected were able to overcome it. Members of a Masai tribe entertained us with their dance techniques, and Melissa, Nat and others joined in enthusiastically. During a trip to a mangrove swamp we were able to taste the food and drink produced by the local people from their available crops, and it was delicious. And Kerrie

Richardson displayed how to strategically place her rucksack straps effectively. Colin's eating habits became a focal point – he wasn't eating enough – so it was with great relief when we went out for a meal on our last night and we watched him devour a steak meal for two.

The most heart-wrenching event of the first week was a trip to the first school we visited. Our intention was to teach marine conservation techniques, but friendly banter and even some A level Maths lessons later, Dave Boulton gave a 'vote of thanks' at the assembly which took place on the rough terrain that was the school yard. With only 5 minutes' notice to prepare, and as an ambassador for Blue Coat in Kenya, Dave did us proud. The Kenyan students and staff had welcomed us with dazzling smiles and warm handshakes. Their happiness, in spite of their poverty, (few students owned a pair of shoes), was a lesson to us all, and it was a very solemn Blue Coat group that returned on the bus back to camp.

Our next camp, Makongeni, was to prove the most physically demanding. Our Team Leader, Stacey, kept us on our toes and ensured our success. In half the time it had taken larger school groups, we smashed up and replaced a classroom floor without electrical tools. Mr McBride came into his own, having had first-hand experience of labouring skills when he was a teenager, and his expertise, coupled with a by now well-established team-spirit, guaranteed our achievements. Charly Benbow wheeled the heaviest barrows and her developing muscles made Richard Leng's bespectacled eyes pop with envy. And enter, stage right, the pick axe wielding Portia, in a guise no teacher thought her capable of. We were ably rewarded: with the opportunity to do another! Also, 2 blackboards and a notice board required replacement. Where would we have been without the power and might Paul and Hooley displayed? Coupled with teaching English, Maths and Drama, (students as well as teachers), and dodging the raindrops with our barrows of cement, we slept well at this camp. The endearing children were enamoured with James Richmond and could regularly be heard cooing 'Jaaaay'. The most poignant aspect of this section of the trip was the first day we walked into Makongeni Primary School and the children started singing the 'Jambo' song of welcome. Their warmth was a witness to us all, including the occasional visits to the village to buy home made doughnuts for a shilling. We witnessed the basic huts and facilities that the Makongeni people had.

The final camp was different again. How many school trips can you go on where 'miss' comes to your tent to deliver the notice: 'There's no need to panic, but there's a lion on its way to camp. Now you're quite safe staying here as long as you're in 3s, but everyone else is gathering at the mess tent.'? Thank God for electric fences, and the fact that the elephants and lions were actually more afraid of the noises we managed to make at the camp.

Whilst at Tsavo camp we visited a witch doctor, where Dave Boulton again practised his magic skills in public as he robed and danced. We also saw an amazingly agile septuagenarian, who climbed tall trees barefoot to extract the sap, which produced intoxicating liquor. A chapatti making demonstration was educational and tasty. The phenomenon that is Mr McBride astounded students with his unsurpassable stamina in keep fit sessions he organised, (supported by the odd afternoon nap).

Safari trips to Tsavo East brought a new star to light. His proverbial 'I've seen it', when the rest of us jumped from our seats wielding

flash-free cameras, was tested to the fore when a yellow baboon had designs on Hodgy's lunch.

Sasenyi Primary School was the most tear provoking of our entire trip. We only had 1 day there: flattening ground and removing stones and foliage in preparation for construction, and helping to reinforce the crumbling walls of the existing building. The students danced and played with us, including on their crudely made wooden see-saw (a log and a trunk). The cramped classrooms and water supply system, the latter consisting of one tank and a few pipes supported by branches stuck in the ground, had our mouths agape. We were only the 3rd school group to visit, and the children there had only recently seen their first 'white' person. At lunchtime, we guiltily picked at our packed lunches whilst sitting in the bus, as the children queued with their bowls in front of the makeshift kitchen of open fires and pans, for rice and split peas. Some even retained some food to take home later. We have recently run a raffle to raise money for this school, and we're grateful for all who donated prizes or bought tickets. The Headmaster, Mr Mwasi, is very grateful for this, and has sent the message: 'Thank you and God bless you all.' It's reassuring that even though we're now thousands of miles away, we can still do a little to assist. At the end of our day-long visit to the school, Colin Poole represented the thoughts of each one of us as he wrote in the school's visitor book: 'Thanks for giving me the best day of my life'.

We helped plant trees and made paper from elephant dung. We truly got our hands dirty on this trip! Survival techniques followed: shelter building with leaves and wood, and trying to light a fire. Fortunately, should these techniques ever be required in the future, we are not likely to be confronted with the determined, grim faced Stacey wielding buckets of cold water, on a mission to test the shelters' susceptibility to rain!

On our last, tearful night, gathered around a campfire (which we hadn't managed to build alone with twigs, despite the lessons), we gazed at the beautiful, clear, star-bedecked sky and shared our best moments. Stacey had the brilliant idea of having a fancy dress party

and the team spirit, which had conveyed us through a whole month, surfaced yet again as we assisted each other with our costumes. Romance had blossomed between some of our boys and girls from other schools, but Richard wanted to ensure everyone had his phone number, which was emblazoned on his shirt that night. Caitlin was the most sophisticated dresser that night, and Dave Boulton was awarded first prize for his bottle of sun tan lotion costume, which entailed wearing an orange bin on his head. And if we were short of tables, Mr McBride had one to spare. Around his neck, that is.

I know it's a cliché, but the students and staff all had the time of their lives, and for many they developed life-changing attitudes. Not least for David Preston, for whom the trip changed his life direction dramatically. Upon his return, rather than the gap year he'd planned, he enrolled for a course in Marine Biology and Zoology, fuelled by his experiences in Kenya. You can read the students' own accounts of their experiences later in the magazine. All of them were excellent ambassadors of the Blue Coat School, and this was the longest trip the school has done (excepting during war time). The students were rightfully awarded the Westminster Plate for outstanding achievement and I am very proud to have been part of their Team.

Mrs B D G Ludlow

Editor

Acknowledgements

I am very grateful to the Editorial Team, whose unstinting efforts to type, email, interview and pester have made this magazine possible. Mr. L Lander has helped with publishing advice. Thanks to Mr. D Newton of the library who has provided the prize for the quiz. Many thanks to all students who are mentioned within these pages, and the numerous staff who have assisted them: it is your success that we celebrate.



Oliver Kennedy

Prizegiving Speech 8th December 2008

Ladies, Gentlemen, Distinguished guests' especially our guest speaker Stephen Parry, members of staff, governors, trustees, parents and students, especially the students, whose achievements we are here tonight to celebrate. Although we will salute the prizewinners tonight, we know that they represent a very talented group that are not all with us on this special occasion. I think we can truly say that they are winners in a world-class field.

2007-08 has been a very notable year for the Blue Coat School. The 300th birthday has provided a very good reason to celebrate the talents of the students in a variety of ways, as well as to remind us of the reasons as to why education was so important as a means of improvement three centuries ago just as it is today. The Blue Coat School still prides itself on encouraging students to achieve their potential both academically and in other spheres wherever their talents may lie. As I hope to show, the opportunities for students are plentiful and diverse as well as being supported.

One of the first events of this year was the opening of the Astroturf pitch, one of the two birthday presents paid for by the Tricentenary Appeal Fund. Football and Hockey competitions were held, together with a visit from Old Blue professional footballer Kevin Nolan, and finished with a firework display.

The second present was the new Sixth Form Study area in the East Wing, a very valuable addition to the accommodation of the school and given to the Year 13 students to help and support them when they are preparing for those all-important A level exams. As you will see from the prizes and the programme, they have certainly used this facility effectively.

September 2007 saw the designation of Specialist School status in Science and Maths for Blue Coat. Our sponsors are Rathbones Investment Bankers and the School's Foundation.

It has certainly allowed the school to invest further in equipment and personnel to improve teaching and learning across departments, especially in Science and Maths. It has also provided the opportunity for the students to enter competitions, attend lectures and workshops, but also to bring enrichment activities into the school. In December, there was the inaugural annual Rathbone lecture, given by Dr Nick Greeves, a senior Chemistry lecturer from the University. In March, for Science week, where our theme was Space, there was a visit from a Russian cosmonaut, who gave two lectures and Rocket workshops. The site just outside the Clock Tower entrance provided the site for a rocket, which would be launched later in the year. The students also had a day where they built their own rockets. But probably the highlights of the year for the specialism were the Forensic Days, which provided the launch event for our link with our 4 primary school partners. Year 9 students worked with Year 6 students under the guidance of a team of staff to solve a crime on the school premises with suspects provided by staff and students. But Merseyside police also supported the event with personnel, suitably attired, as well as crime scene equipment. In many ways this sums up the specialism, through Science and Maths, students, staff from all disciplines, children and staff from the primary schools, other adults all working together to learn and have fun. My thanks go to all my colleagues who were involved during this year, but I know that I will be telling you each year about the events associated with the Specialist status; it is a

fantastic development and opportunity for Blue Coat.

Whilst still on the subject of Science, Summer 2007 saw a group of seven Year 12 students accepted for Nuffield Bursary scholarships and in the award ceremony in the autumn, the overall individual winner was Felix Millne. Felix, together with another Blue Coat student, Mohammed Ali, went forward to the National Finals in London. A remarkable achievement for all these students and the staff involved. 10 students took part for 4 weeks this summer working at the Universities on very different projects; this really is a fantastic experience for them.

Going back to the Tricentenary events and celebrations, at the end of 2007, a very excited group of 43 students and four staff went on a successful cricket and hockey tour to Barbados, coming home on Christmas Eve. At the start of 2008, the staff and students all received a commemorative lapel badge. The calendar of events for the rest of the year was being finalised. The next big event was the concert in the Philharmonic Hall on March 17th. The choir, orchestra and many soloists were guided and directed by Mr Cook, Miss Horton and others to put on a magnificent concert programme, performed to the very highest professional standard. It was well supported by parents and friends of the Blue Coat School. A truly memorable evening.

April saw the first Dance Show produced by the students of the school, particularly Year 11, guided and supported by Miss Cornwall and Miss Morris from the Schools Sports Partnership and staged at Parklands CLC. The show was performed on two evenings to a very high standard and enjoyed by substantive audiences.

In June, the second Tricentenary concert was held in one of the most beautiful buildings in Liverpool, the concert room at St George's Hall. The vision of Blue Coat students, dressed in concert costume, and producing the most wonderful music, exhibiting their talent yet enjoying themselves, I hope is something that will be memorable for all those in the audience and for all the performers that evening.

On a Saturday in early June there was a Gala event, consisting of a large football tournament, for old boys, lasting all day, followed by a formal dinner in a superbly decorated Sports Hall. As always, excellent organisation and high standards typified this event. Particular thanks to Mr Rees and Mrs Beggs, supported by many staff for this and the trip to Barbados.

The Old Blues also hosted a Tricentenary event of a Special Reunion weekend for a large group who had travelled from all corners of the world. The weekend included a dinner in Shirley Hall, a service in the chapel, a visit into Liverpool to see the changes and the impact of the Capital of Culture, status plus much reminiscing.

The final event for the Summer term was the Celebration Dinner on July 4th in the Town Hall.

It is events like this that have typified this year, it has brought together so many different groups of people associated with the school who have joined together to remember all the very best that the Blue Coat School has to offer. It is also been pleasing to see that some of the events have been held in the wonderful buildings that make us all so proud to be The Liverpool Blue Coat School.

Although the year of celebration was supposed to finish at that point, as you will all be aware, it has continued into this term, where students joined with the artist Geraldine Pilgrim to put on a dramatic

Headteacher's Report

experience in the Bluecoat Arts Centre, the site of the original school, at the beginning of November, an event in the Capital of Culture programme. This was followed by the visit of the Duke of Gloucester, together with other City dignitaries, who toured the school, meeting staff and students, followed by lunch in the Boardroom, together with many representatives of different groups in the school.

It is at this point, I would like to say a special thank you to some of the people that have made all these events possible. I cannot mention them all by name, but the support staff have contributed a great deal, ensuring excellent organisation and back up, the Tricentenary committee, who have led on the appeal and events, The Parents Association for their fundraising and support and the Foundation for their many contributions, both in funds and facilities. I hope that every student has a special memory of the events of this special year.

The usual events of the year also occurred and they ensured that students had many opportunities to shine. The school play was *Oliver*, which was enjoyed by both audience and cast alike, with many fine performances. *Winged Words* provided a very good evening's entertainment of poetry reading, dramatically delivered by individuals and groups from students and staff.

Students obviously enjoy poetry, as there have been many contributions to various anthologies published during the year, including 61 students entered into the Foyle's Young Poets competition. The Creative Writing Club has enabled many students to enter competitions, with three students, Mohammed Ali, Lara Rimmer and Rytia Kamarova and one member of staff, Mrs Ludlow, all winning prizes.

In Art, students entered competitions, but the most prestigious event was that of the Rathbones exhibition for schools as part of the Capital of Culture. Mrs Watson helped coordinate this event and four of our students had their work exhibited, with Edward O'Connor for receiving a commendation, in the Port of Liverpool building during July.

Four Year 13 students, Alex Casimo, Drew Marsh, Luke McGee and Matthew Whelan represented the school in the prestigious Bank of England Target 2.0 competition. The team won the North West heat and came second by a narrow margin in the North of Britain final, winning £500 for the school.

Art, sport, music, drama and dance all enhance, enrich and bring together different groups within the school, these are very inclusive. My thanks to all the teaching and non teaching staff who not only ensure that these events happen, but also foster the very high standards that are exhibited and opportunities given to students where they learn dedication and to deliver at the very highest level.

In February, an Ofsted team of four inspectors, led by Mrs Milner, HMI, inspected the school. The 38 judgements included in the report were all either outstanding or good. The overall judgement was Good with outstanding features. Some aspects of the school that were outstanding included the following

- The standards reached by the students
- The personal development and well being of the students
- The attendance and behaviour of the students
- The extent of the students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Student safety and how well they develop workplace and other skills

The school was very pleased with the report and is already improving further.

The official student attendance (Years 7-11) for the last year was 97%, a key factor for student success. Standards have already improved.

Academically, changes were made at Key Stage 3, so that both Year 8 and Year 9 took SATs in May as the school had made the decision to condense Key Stage 3 into two years. Also, success was as expected for Year 9 students and they now progress to GCSEs on a solid foundation. The Year 8 students performed very well and confirmed that they were ready to move on to the next stage.

At GCSE, there had been changes in the Science specifications and to a modular exam. The signs were very good, students had responded well to the changes, staff had prepared well and were confident. GCSE results day proved very successful. For the second year running, all the students (100%) achieved 5A*-C grades, including English and Maths. This is a national statistic and only 40 schools in the country achieve 100%. There was also further improvement in A* and A grades. Of all the exams taken, 76% of all grades were A* or A. The further improvement on the record performance of the previous year was the continuation in some areas i.e. I.T. and English Language particularly but I am very pleased to report improvement in the three sciences and Modern Foreign Languages. Four students achieved all A* grades, but clearly tonight we will see just how many students gain GCSE prizes.

A level results day is one of the most significant days in the school calendar. It is the end for many students of seven years in the school, but for all two very special years in the Blue Coat Sixth Form. Their futures, their hopes, the direction in which they are going depends on these results, the city in which they will spend their next few years. Certainly, we share their nerves that day, the laughter, the tears; the rewards for hard work, the disappointment for some, but only a few. So I am very pleased to report that for the majority of those students, they achieved the grades needed to access the university and course of their choice. Tonight's programme shows how widespread the universities and how diverse the courses are. There are still more who are applying for university having taken a Gap year. The statistics from these results were again a new high. 99.4% of all grades were passes and 72% of all grades were at A or B. 25 students attained four or more A grades, a remarkable achievement. Four students gained places at Oxford and Cambridge and a high proportion gained places at Russell Group universities.

Results from this year's A/S modules indicate that next year's A level results will also be very good.

A review of this historic year would not be complete without mentioning my predecessor, Mr Tittershill. It is very appropriate that Mr T headed up the Tricentenary celebrations and the delivery of the two birthday presents. His career at Blue Coat lasted 42 years, including seven as Headmaster. His dedication, motivation and devotion to The Blue Coat School and all it stands for is legendary. He has overseen the school achieve its best ever results, seen it restored to being fully co-educational, the last time this occurred was at the end of the second world war. The school continues to go from strength to strength. I am sure I speak for us all in hoping he is enjoying a relaxed retirement and I hope he is very proud of having led a school whose students achieve so much.

One of the areas that the school that has grown in is reaching out and travelling. The school has established an exchange with our partner school in San Sebastian in Northern Spain. Twenty-four students from our partner school spent a week in Liverpool in December and 24 Blue Coat students made the trip to Spain in March. There were History trips to Versailles and Krakow for Sixth form students. The very popular annual ski trip to Italy took place. Nearer to home, the Oxford dinner took place at St Hilda's College for 70 students, colleagues and Governors. Year 10 students took part in the Enterprise week but also spent an exhausting day with the Marines. However, 14 students, plus two members of staff, Mrs Ludlow and Mr Mc Bride who spent four weeks of the summer holiday participating in the Camp Kenya programme, had a new experience. During their visit, they stayed in three camps where they repaired and replaced classrooms, taught English, Drama and Maths to eager students. They took part in conservation tasks, working well in teams. For the staff and students, it was a remarkable experience where they all learnt so much from others and about themselves. They have made links with the schools and are trying to raise more money to help and support the

vital work that is going on in Kenya. During the Spring term, a group of students came from St Laurence School in Australia for a week to play football and to see some of the great football grounds in the North West.

As I come to the end of this address, I cannot include every event that has happened during the year, but I am sure you would agree that Blue Coat School is a remarkable place to be, with so many opportunities for young people but also providing a first rate education. It's a wonderful school that brings together so many people who all appreciate what the school has given them and is continuing to give to young people. It has been a year where the school has reached out, whether it is to our primary partners through the specialism, to the City, sharing in its special year, to other countries where we have new friends and experiences, to Old Blues with special memories. Yet, the standards the students reach become higher and higher. My special thanks go to all my colleagues whose industry, ability and dedication support the students in so many ways. We now go forward into the next century with a very good record and much support behind us, looking forward, excited about the future.



Michelle Ariss



Mrs Anderson

Mrs. Anderson did a two year degree at Liverpool University in Sociology and Drama but for personal reasons changed to the University of Aberdeen in Scotland to do Philosophy and English (which she enjoyed very much). Before becoming an English teacher here, she has owned a shop and has been a learning support worker and has also done counselling training at schools; this was when she realised that she wanted to work in a school and applied to be an English and Drama teacher. She has worked all over different parts of England and has recently moved back to Liverpool (for four years to present) where she was originally brought up. Blue Coat, she claims, is her favourite school so far!

Mrs. Anderson, a vegetarian for twenty-six years and counting, enjoys walking and cycling, but not on roads. She likes to keep up with current affairs. Gardening is also something that she shows interest in and she told me that she has produced three gardens from scratch! Last year this mother of three went to San Francisco so her next "big thing" that she is looking forward to is going to Seattle next year.



Mrs Arnold

Mrs Arnold (known as "Jean" to both staff and students) is the friendly enthusiastic PE teacher who you will find doing any sport during her free time. She thinks the school is brilliant because "you can teach". Her past jobs include working as a teacher at La Sagesse, being an advisory teacher for both primary and secondary, and last but not least, working in a garden nursery.



Mr Boden

Mr. Boden joined the IT technician team as the manager without knowledge of how big the school was. He wanted to gain experience and to "work at one of the top schools". In the past, he was a games tester for Sony. He says he travels a lot (to which his colleague said he didn't but then Mr. Boden saved himself by saying he travelled to the same two places frequently... I guess it counts). He enjoys playing PC games when he has time but never in school as he is always helping out some poor unfortunate student whose computer has stopped working, or fixing the printers!



Mr Clayton

Mr Clayton, one of the latest additions to the growing science department, joins the Blue Coat teaching both Biology and Chemistry. After studying Human Biology at Kings College, London, Mr Clayton is currently learning to drive, much like many of his 6th form students. He enjoyed a wide variety of jobs before entering his first real teaching post here at the Blue Coat, and his first impressions of the school are very positive: he thinks it's a very nice school, with a friendly and comfortable ambience about it. The former Trombone player also enjoys cooking and running.



Mrs Cowan

Ever since the Easter holidays of 1966, Mrs. Cowan has been in love with Chemistry. It all happened while working hard towards her 'A Level equivalent' exams in summer and still to this day the memory has stayed with her. She attended the University of Leeds and says her experience there was absolutely fantastic. Her longest job so far has been working at Belvedere for 21 years, which was very interesting to hear.

She is married to Mr. Cowan, which means that they are working in the same department and it has turned out very well in her opinion! She says it is very 'unusual' but is very pleased. I can see the chemistry, haha.

Being a teacher hardly leaves free time, but Mrs. Cowan is very involved with church activities and music. She finds the school really nice, and I hope she enjoys her experience at Blue Coat.



Mr Dunkin

Mr Dunkin, nicknamed "The Squirrel from the Wirral" (how appropriate for this magazine!) can be found in the Chemistry department. He has been teaching for three years and his last school was Maidley. His first impressions of Blue Coat were "fantastic teachers, motivated and fun, and enthusiastic students". He once worked on a till at Tesco's but he did say that was a long time ago (apparently) and has also been a mental health nurse over on the Wirral.

He attended Lancaster University, due to being surprised by a family of ducks crossing the road. During his free time, he enjoys rock-climbing, cars and motorbikes, going to the cinema, going out with friends, and is currently learning to play the guitar.



Miss Wilson

We give a warm welcome the new Head of Maths. Miss Wilson's favourite subject at school was no doubt Maths, and this has lead to her current career. Having taken a degree in Maths and Education at Leeds University, she very much enjoys teaching and says that this school is "good".

When I asked about her likes and free time, she said that she very much enjoys horse-racing and that doing her family tree keeps her busy. When she isn't cooped up in the maths office, she does like to have a bit of cider (she said this while laughing). Nicknames, you ask? Miss. Wilson said "No" ... well not any that she knows of anyway!



Miss Hodson

Hailing all the way from America, Miss Hodson teaches Biology, Chemistry and the science and society aspect part of General Studies (for 6th formers). She studied at the Tennessee University as a biochemist and philosopher.

She has neither nicknames nor free time, although she does enjoy reading John Grisham or Jodi Picoult when she can. So far she thinks the school is very encouraging and is very impressed.

When prompted if she had anything interesting to say about herself, this bubbly teacher said that she has worked for Dolly Parton in the past! (I also heard from my sources that Miss Hodson bakes cakes for the staff but cannot eat them herself because chocolate gives her headaches!)



Mrs Hunter

Having done a Biology-Chemistry degree at Sheffield University, Mrs. Hunter chose to teach, as she wanted to influence the next generation (or next two generations now!). In the past she has worked in a hospital and has taught at Belvedere along with Mrs. Cowan.

Her first impressions of the school are that there are nice buildings that are well cared for. The staff is large in numbers and the students are mostly keen to do well and very enthusiastic.

She is a lay reader in church and likes to sing in choirs. If not found gardening or taking a walk, Mrs. Hunter likes to listen to contemporary or classical music. When prompted for a favourite band or singer, she thought long and hard and said she very much liked Katie Melua.



Mr Le Borgne

While I was waiting to interview Mr. Le Borgne I was sitting in a classroom waiting for him to finish the register, half paying attention until I caught the words "deaf French man" which made me laugh as he was referring to himself, hahah. This "French man" attended a university in Nantes (France), which he says was a

really good university.

In 2004 – 2005, he was a language assistant in Belfast and he did a training course last year at Blue Coat. He then was offered a job and he took the offer as he wanted to work in the "best school in Liverpool". He thinks the school is brilliant with very well behaved students.

He knows how to play the guitar and in his free time he goes out with friends. He likes to watch football and says he supports Liverpool or Arsenal. I told him it should be Liverpool all the way and we ended the interview with him chuckling happily.



Lionel

Bonjour ! Je m'appelle Lionel et j'ai 24 ans.

Je suis l'assistant de français de Blue Coat School durant l'année scolaire 2008/09. Je suis originaire d'Alsace (à côté de l'Allemagne et de la Suisse) où j'ai grandi, puis je suis parti pour faire mes études. J'ai habité à Paris, Grenoble et surtout Lyon qui est ma ville française préférée. Lyon est une ville fantastique que je vous encourage à visiter si vous voyagez en France.

Maintenant, j'habite à Liverpool depuis le mois d'octobre et je suis très heureux de vivre ici car les Scousers sont très accueillants. Je trouve la ville très belle, attractive et animée, j'apprécie le centre-ville avec le mélange des bâtiments anciens (les docks, le Liver building) et des nouveaux bâtiments qui forment le centre commercial Liverpool One. De plus, je suis passionné de football, je supporte le club de Lyon et surtout le Liverpool FC depuis longtemps. J'aime également beaucoup la musique britannique, les Beatles notamment, ainsi qu'assister à des concerts à Liverpool ou à Manchester. C'est aussi un véritable plaisir de découvrir l'Angleterre qui est un fabuleux pays pour le football et la musique, mes passions. Avant de partir, mes amis en France m'avaient dit de faire attention car la météo anglaise est horrible mais je ne la trouve pas si mauvaise que cela !

Enfin, je pense qu'enseigner les langues à l'étranger est une excellente expérience, surtout dans une école comme Blue Coat School où les professeurs sont sympas et les élèves sont sérieux et disciplinés !



Miss Lunney

Miss Lunney didn't want to follow her mother's footsteps to become a teacher. This all changed during her 3rd year at the University of Durham where she did a Maths degree for four years. It was a small university but being situated near Newcastle it was good for nights out with friends.

Having a strong passion for Maths and after attending a teaching course at a primary school, she knew this is what she wanted to do. Her first job after education was teaching and her previous school was an all-boys school that didn't have a 6th form. This influenced her decision to choose the Blue Coat.

Miss Lunney (who likes to be called 'Ellie' by friends), enjoys reading, especially the fantasy genre. She is very into Jim Butcher at the moment and of course Tolkien, the writer of Lord of the Rings.



Mr Moore

Mr Moore is the new addition to the History department, this being his first year teaching (but I wasn't meant to tell anyone! So you didn't read it here, haha). So far he is "loving it" – said only in the tone of the too famous McDonald catchphrase of course. He is very interested in History, his favourite historic figures being Richard the

Lion Heart and Wellington. He attended Liverpool University (where he did a History BA and MA) because I quote: "some royal

idiot robbed my place at St. Andrews". Past jobs include being a trainee business advisor (accountant), working in local hotels and bars and he has been to South Africa for coaching and teaching.

When he's not too busy he likes to either pop into the pub, listen to Bon Jovi, watch football (supporting Liverpool) or plays sport - golf, cricket or hockey. When proposed the question of having anything interesting to say about himself he said that he has the same birthday as Richard the Third and Ghandi. But there's something better. His great grandfather was Terry (as in Terry's Chocolate Orange) and Mr. Moore said aggressively "they are not Dawn French's, they are mine!".

If he could be an animal he would love to be tiger because he likes them. For a superpower, he wants to teleport because it's "cool". He prefers smarties to skittles and his favourite flavour of crisp is salt and vinegar. His favourite films are 'anything James Bond' and his favourite TV programmes of all time are The A Team and Black Adder. He ended the interview by saying 'yorkshire puddings are the best'.



Mrs O'Rourke

Always fascinated by what the imagination can create, Mrs O'Rourke is the new addition to our already flourishing English department. She studied English Language and Literature alongside an Irish language course at Liverpool University. Her past jobs include being a learning support assistant and "you know, the usual," (by which I think she meant working at a local bar and as a waitress).

When this mother of two is not too busy correcting essays and daydreaming of being in Barbados as she does every morning, you will find her curled up with a good crime fiction novel or spending quality time with her friends and family.

First impressions were "You know, the usual," (this time meaning friendly, welcoming and enthusiastic). Being an English teacher, you would think Mrs O'Rourke had a larger range or vocabulary than "the usual," hahah.



Marta López Pérez

¡Hola! Soy Marta, la asistente de español. Muchos de vosotros ya me conocéis del año pasado. Este año vuelvo a estar en Blue Coat y es para mí un placer poder escribir en esta revista un año más.

Gracias a la oportunidad que me dio el colegio he podido repetir esta maravillosa experiencia. Decidí quedarme otro año más

en Liverpool porque es una ciudad maravillosa donde hay muchas cosas que hacer, desde ir a conciertos de música en los bares hasta ver un partido de fútbol en Anfield o Goodison Park.

Además aquí puedo practicar inglés y aprender muchas cosas sobre la enseñanza de idiomas en secundaria. Me encanta poder ayudar y preparar a los alumnos que han elegido el español como segunda lengua y estoy segura de que les va a ser muy útil en el futuro, así que ¡animaros a seguir estudiándolo!

El próximo año, cuando vuelva a España, voy a ser profesora de inglés en algún colegio de secundaria y me acordaré de los buenos momentos que pasé en este colegio y en esta ciudad.

Por último quiero daros las gracias a TODOS por estos dos maravillosos años y espero veros en Salamanca, mi ciudad, algún día. ¡Mucha suerte para el futuro!



Mrs Rimmer

Both staff and the students have made Mrs. Rimmer feel very welcome to this school, thus making her settle quickly into the Blue Coat "way of life". Her first impressions were that everyone she met made her feel welcome and had been friendly and supportive.

Mrs. Rimmer has two young sons, both whom keep her very busy. Living near the coast, she spends a lot of time outdoors enjoying long walks on the beach. During the occasional moments of having leisure time, she enjoys reading, meeting up with friends and, of course, indulging in a little retail therapy.

Having graduated from the University of Central Lancashire (BA (Hons) Marketing) she then spent 3 years working for Marks and Spencer's as a commercial manager before commencing teacher training. She has been teaching for three years and prior to coming to work at the Blue Coat, she taught at the North Liverpool Academy.



Mr Tu

This new IT technician can normally be found lurking at the back of the IT Office. He chose the Blue Coat School because he needed experience and this is his first proper job! When asked about what he thought of the school, he stroked his chin saying "not sure, I have no first impressions", which is something different

and unusual. He has no free time in school as he is always rushing about but likes to play games (PC and PS3) and enjoys reading when he can.



Martin Free

My name is Martin Free and I was born in Liverpool. I came to the Blue Coat School because I have had work experience as an ICT Technician working in a school and because I enjoyed it so much I decided that I wanted to become an ICT technician, most preferably in a school. My first impressions of the Blue Coat School were that it seemed

a really good place to work. The people I met with were nice and I have since got to know a few of them! My hobbies are reading, playing X-BOX 360 games and playing golf. My previous jobs would be working in St Julie's down the road; and a placement year as part of my University course working as an ICT technician in Holly Lodge.

Sandy Tittershill 1966-2008

When during the summer term of 2008 I was invited to join a Facebook Group called "It's all about Sandy," I knew something special was happening. Just like witnessing the Berlin Wall being breached or waiting in those last minutes of 1999 for midnight, I experienced an epiphany – the feeling that something important was passing.

It was the end of an era. Sandy Tittershill, after 42 years at the Blue Coat School, was leaving. Few would have thought in 1966 when he arrived as a young sports' teacher that he would retire as Headmaster.

His rise was slow and in some ways unspectacular, yet remarkable. He was always ambitious as a sportsman, someone who could have easily played cricket for Lancashire. Ormskirk born and bred, his early life revolved around the Cricket Club, so competition was second nature to him. After a couple of terms at St Bonaventure's in Aintree, and a stint coaching cricket in Holland, he arrived at a very different Blue Coat Hospital – one of cold corridors, peeling paint and an eternal feeling of dampness. With the new Headmaster Peter Arnold-Craft, things were to change rapidly, and the school was on the up and up.

A big breakthrough came in 1987 when Sandy led his U19 Football Team to becoming Champions of England – a major feat in such a massive contest. By then he was Head of P.E. and he was to take on further roles in Careers, Work Experience and UCAS. When the school needed a third deputy head – it was Sandy who rose to the challenge.

Shakespeare famously said that there is a tide in the affairs of man. When the previous Head secured a multi-million pound grant to rebuild the school, but wanted to rebuild it somewhere else, this was the flood tide. Sandy always knew that the Blue Coat belonged to Wavertree and to its Clock Tower, Board Room and Chapel. He stood up and said what many people only dared to think. They were extremely difficult times for everybody: the school was moving, then it was not moving, then it was moving again. When the Headmaster suddenly departed, there was vacuum, and then the Acting Head left to take up a Headship. Things were in a mess.

Perhaps the Governors looked to Sandy as a caretaker-head, someone to steady the school in a moment of crisis. While they chose well, their expectations were to be exceeded. Mr T (as he was affectionately known) was never merely going to tide the school over.

Appointed as Headmaster on 23rd April 2001, he set about with vigour appointing a new Senior Team. Great challenges lay ahead, and Sandy was always confident that having made the right decision to stay in Wavertree, we were going to get through this crisis.

Baroness Thatcher once said that Leadership is a matter of pointing out the stars and showing people how to reach them. Sandy launched himself into hyper-active mode and got the new school build going. It was a difficult time – introducing girls into Year 7 at the same time as moving the school around draughty tarpaulins and decanting classes into increasingly smaller spaces. The school day was adjusted and lunchtime

shortened to accommodate a reduced play space, yet academically, the results improved. The girls assimilated almost effortlessly; dignitaries came and went; plaques were unveiled; areas reopened; and the years rolled on. Eventually, after much stress, the new school opened fully and there was an unbelievable sense of achievement.

As the school was approaching its tercentenary, Sandy decided that the Blue Coat should award itself a Birthday Present. A Committee was formed and after years of fundraising, a new all-weather Astro turf pitch and a high-tech sixth form centre were opened.

During all this activity, the Church of England unexpectedly laid claims to ownership of the school. This came as a great surprise even for Anglicans on the staff. Whatever the school's origins, in modern times one of the school's strengths was its diversity: the school's profile was going to reflect the religious and cultural profile of Liverpool as a whole. Sandy was equally resolute on this issue: the school was going to remain a broadly Christian Foundation, while admitting children of other faiths, or no faith. The Church of England, which had failed to support the school in 1984 when it was threatened with closure, had to be pushed aside. And so it was.

During his long career at the Blue Coat School Sandy actually taught five different subjects – PE, Careers Education, English, Maths and Geography – and the School Inspectors judged him competent in all of them. It is difficult to imagine any other colleague taking on such a workload. Indeed, during the nineties, he taught all five subjects for two consecutive years. The academic standards achieved by the school were always Sandy's number one priority as Head and there is no doubt that the school today is ranked right up with the best of the grammar schools. He also made a number of telling appointments and there are many who will be grateful for his judgement and selection.

While Sandy's Headship might seem like a dream-ticket, there were also many moments of difficulty. The challenge, which Sandy overcame, was to deal with such issues: adversity often brings out the best in people. One of his strengths was to delight in daily school life, like tradition, assemblies, school music, dinner duty, trips abroad, reminiscing and recounting amusing incidents. He was also a link with the past, having been appointed by G G Watcyn, whose own career reached back to before the War. Now that the school is in excellent order, this is one of the key losses that will be mostly felt. Stories of the ghost of Peg-Leg, "Spitfire" Fred Unwin and Welsh International Dai Davies will soon mean less than nothing to new generations of Blue Coat students.

Fortunately, after such a long innings, he has decamped into the tea-tent of the Trustees Board Room where his wisdom hopefully will still have a benign influence on the futuristic Blue Coat School.

We wish him, his wife Jane and family a long and happy retirement, and suggest that he need never feel guilty about taking it easy, and enjoying the finer things of life.

Mr E J Crighton

Amanda Bailey

Amanda fast-tracked her way into Blue Coat in September 2006, having entered the teaching profession relatively late in a dynamic career which had previously included management positions at, inter alia, Marks and Spencer. Her youthful (sic) energy and distinctive laugh were put to great use in the Chemistry Department, where a sense of humour is necessary to survive being smoked out from time to time. The dulcet tones of her gentle voice were also very apparent in the staffroom, where she was quick to pick up ideas from others. Her meteoric rise continued: she was appointed to Community Liaison and Enrichment Co-ordinator positions, and was instrumental in the formation and running of the "Café Scientifique" club (although not all her invited speakers found favour with the fractious Nick Cowan!) It was a shock and disappointment for many when Amanda fast-tracked her way out of Blue Coat after only two years, having been offered promotion by a school in Altrincham. We expect her back here soon, in an "oversight" capacity!

Mr. N. Cowan

Michael Howell

Mike joined Blue Coat in September 2005 to join the growing Chemistry Department. A measure of his influence and success is that Nick Cowan stood down as Head of Department at the end of his first year here! He made his mark in (and on) Chemistry laboratory N12 – his lessons being remarkable for linking science to Harry Potter! He also instituted a successful School Rugby team. A creative inventor, one day his key-ring tablet dispenser – "Click 'n' Twist" – will be patented and marketed. He was a formidable arm-wrestler. A lively conversationalist in the staffroom. In the end his wanderlust got the better of him and ("1-2-3, what are you waiting for?") he left, along with his wife of infinite patience for a medium-term teaching post in Vietnam. His regular postcards back to his friends here always raise howls (groan!) of laughter.

Mr. N. Cowan



Frances Muscatelli

Who knew ants like Coke?

By Jamie Mackreth

When I arrived at my destination, it was the first time I had ever been to Greece, but it looked the most stunning place ever to exist. All around you there were flowers, vines, grass and old Greek buildings. Everywhere you went in the small village of Pefkos you could smell the sweet aroma of lime trees, and there was a constant sound of the turquoise sea lapping against the shore.

My hotel was the Lindia Thalassa, and my brother and I had been given a separate room to my mum and dad; I thought this was a brilliant idea: my brother and I not having to clean up or anything, we could just relax, excellent! The temperature was over 90°C there, so I was constantly thirsty. Just before we left to go on the boat tour, I poured myself a cool glass of coke and quickly drank it before I left.

The Lindia Thalassa hotel was almost perfect for its situation, on the cliff side overlooking the sea and a short walk away from the cliff bar and main street. Plus, the room and staff were excellent. When I returned from the boat trip I was very tired from having a swim in the deep sea. Of course I had been out for at least 4 hours without any food or drink. As my family and I trudged up the steep hill to our hotel, the sun was beating down on our backs, burning them to a crisp. As we drew closer and closer my thirst got stronger and stronger. I couldn't resist it: I sprinted back to our room and quickly poured myself another drink. It was so refreshing, the cool feeling of water with millions of little bubbles trickling down my throat. "Wait, it was not sparkling water." What were they? As I curiously peered into my glass, to my horror it was full of big blobs of ants scurrying around for the last bits of sugar, all individually waving their antennae. I must have drunk them, millions of them. In an instant I spat out the remainder of my drink and swilled my mouth with more water. This time: no Ants.

I now know why it was full of ants. If I'd have cleaned that one glass, I would not have had to go through that nightmare.

That Lady's Fat

My Childhood Memory by Nicholas Man

My childhood memory is when I was 4 or 5. It was 1999, and everyone was rushing around like busy bees for some reason. One day my cousins got asked to buy some snacks. My mum asked if they would bring me along to the shops with them and also to get some fresh air. As we walked to the shops it seemed hours, but actually was around 2 minutes. Upon my journey I could not have ignored it, but my cousins were very tall, as if giants, to me. When we arrived at the shops, I looked up and I saw the shop with the bright colours that caught my eye; as I read it in my mind we walked in, and I was asking myself 'What is Kwik Save?' While we walked in, my cousins asked me, "What do you want?" I was thinking hard and replied, "Biscuits". So we walked to the biscuits section, and then we picked some up. As we did so, something caught my eye, it was something I've never seen before and then I shouted, "That Lady's Fat." Luckily, I think she didn't notice, but as I looked at her she hurried away from that section. As she went away she had a funny waddle, but I noticed something else, my cousins burst out with laughter. As we picked up other items such as crisps, drinks and sweets, we quickly paid and left the shop. While we walked out I smelt the fresh air and noticed a change in the smell and colour of layout. Inside the shop, it smelt funny and was a dull colour, whereas outside it smelt very good and the colours of very green grass and trees hit my eye. As we walked back I couldn't help but ask my cousins about that Fat Lady. When we got back, my parents, aunty, cousins, brother and myself ate the snacks.

After, I had a little sleep, but was woken by the outburst of laughter. I thought it was about the encounter with the Fat Lady. As I pondered on, I eventually found out, it was about the Fat Lady. I felt very embarrassed with my outburst earlier.

Entry into Higher Education 2008

Student	University	Subject
Mohammad Ali	Oxford	Medicine
James Michael Gundry	Oxford	Physics (4 years)
Fengjia Cai	Oxford	Law with Law Studies in Europe
Francis Banwell	Cambridge	Modern Languages
Kamal Allen	Birmingham	Medicine
Hanza Ashur	Liverpool	Biological
Antony Au	Liverpool	Medicine
Katherine Bainbridge	Leeds	Midwifery
Ryan Beeley	Birmingham	History
Kristian Blackhall	Liverpool	Dental Surgery
Efua Cosima Borbin	City of London	Financial Economics
David Boulton	CEB	Sound Engineering & Production
Jack Bowker	Liverpool John Moores	Accounting & Finance
Grace Bradley	Cardiff	Medicine (first-year entry)
Carl Bramwell	Liverpool	Economics
Daniel Broda	Manchester	Philosophy & Politics
Liam Brown	Liverpool	Economics
James Burns	Southampton	Geography with Oceanography
Shirley Cao	Liverpool	Music
Alexander Casimo	London School of Economics	Economics
Daniel Caton	Hull	History
Craig Cavanagh	Durham	Chemistry (4 years)
Nicole Chung	Manchester	Actuarial Science and Mathematics
Elizabeth Cocklin	Liverpool	Physics with Astronomy
Sarah Creed	Liverpool	History
Alison Croft	Edinburgh	Mathematical Physics
Adam Cromby	Liverpool	Economics
Hannah Daley	Leeds	Genetics
Luke Dawkin	York	Chemistry (4 years)
Nile Denvir-Parry	S0AS College, London	Japanese
Ian Dixon	Northumbria	Quantity Surveying
Mark Dockray	Nottingham	Physics (4 years)
Les Drummond	Liverpool	Mathematics
Abdi Dualeh	Liverpool John Moores	Applied Psychology
James Dunn	Liverpool	Economics
Steven Edwards	Northumbria	Business with Economics
Mouid El-Amin	Birmingham	Accounting & Finance
Daniel Evans	Leicester	Mathematics (4 years)
Ashley Gavin	Liverpool	Zoology
Simon Gibbons	Liverpool	Hispanic Studies
Sam Gifford	Liverpool	Accounting
Katherine Gleave	Liverpool	Biological Sciences
Jennifer Graham	Leicester	American Studies with a year in USA
Lauren Green	Manchester	Architecture
Khaled Hadi	Liverpool	Medicine
Samuel Hardy	Liverpool	Physics (4 years)
Harry Harper	Birmingham	English Language and History
Ahmed Hassan	Aston	Pharmacy
Steven Haworth	Durham	Natural Sciences
Matthew Herdman	Edge Hill	Primary Education with QTS
Anna Higgins	Manchester	French Studies (4 years)
Lewis Hou	Edinburgh	Psychology
Paul Hughes	Liverpool	Mathematics with Education
Aleem Idowu-Thomas	Leeds	Law (3 years)
Iain Jackson	Durham	Economics
Elizabeth Jacobs	Liverpool John Moores	Politics
Fatemeh Jafarzadeh	Liverpool	Life Sciences applicable to Medicine
Helen Johnson	Durham	Natural Sciences
Gregory Jones	Manchester	Civil Engineering
Fatima Asma Kamal	Liverpool	Medicine (based at Lancaster University)
Andrew Kehoe	SHU	Computer Networks
Fatemeh Keshtkar	Liverpool	Medicine

Muhammad Khan	Keele	Medicine
Ahmed Khattak	Bristol	Medicine MBChB Standard entry (5 years)
Matthew Ko	Manchester	Dentistry (BDS first-year entry)
Nathan Ko	Manchester	Optometry
Aaron Koshy	Newcastle	Medicine (stage 1 entry)
Stratios Koytzoomis	Leeds	Popular & World Musics
Daniel Lee	Liverpool	Criminology and Sociology
Bonnie Lee Yan Tung	Manchester	Midwifery
Rachael Lomax	Liverpool	Psychology
Laurence Luscombe	Manchester	Mathematics
Adam Lyon-Jones	Durham	Physics
Andrew Marchant	Liverpool	Mathematics
Drew Marsh	Durham	Natural Sciences
Iain McDonald	Liverpool	Biological Sciences
Sophia McDonald	Leeds	Philosophy & Theology & Religious Studies
Luke McGee	Liverpool John Moores	Economics
Benedict McKenna	Manchester	Law
Ben McNally	Bath	Architectural Studies (4 year sandwich)
Gemal Mekki	Manchester Metropolitan	Economics
Andrew Mercer	Liverpool John Moores	Journalism & Digital Cultures
Leanne Messham	Liverpool	Psychology
Nicholas Miller	Bristol	Music
Felix Millne	Imperial College, London	Physics
John Monaghan	Liverpool John Moores	Maritime Business & Management
Angela Mui	Manchester	Law
Alex Murphy	Liverpool John Moores	Economics
Rachael Murphy	Manchester	Philosophy & Linguistics & English Language
Cornelia Nelson	Aberdeen	History & Politics
Joseph Nkansah	Sheffield	Dentistry
Natalie Noon	Liverpool	Dental Surgery
Nadia Omar	Liverpool	Anatomy & Human Biology
Mark-Anthony Page	Liverpool	Biological Sciences Foundation (1+3)
Caroline Parr	Liverpool	English Language & Literature
Daniel Pickersgill	Sussex	Banking & Finance
Liam Pickup	Liverpool John Moores	Law
Jonathan Potter	Liverpool	Politics & International Business
Nicholas Power	Sheffield	English Language & Literature
David Preston	Bangor	Zoology with Marine Zoology
Lydia Quick	Liverpool	English & Hispanic Studies
Joel Reed	Liverpool John Moores	Economics
Timothy Reeves	Bath	Integrated Mechanical & Electrical Engineering
Kerrie Richardson	Manchester	Medicine (5 years)
James Richmond	Liverpool	Aerospace Engineering (4 years)
Andrew Rose	Liverpool	Dental Surgery
Neil Shaw	Liverpool John Moores	Economics
Manbir Sherry	Birmingham	Urban & Regional Planning & Economics
Jonathan Shields	Liverpool	Economics
Madeleine Silverman	Leeds	Economics
Chrisitopher Smith	Liverpool John Moores	International Business Studies & Chinese
Benjamin Southam	City of London	Music
Andrew Spence	Loughborough	Ergonomics (Human Factors Design)
Paul Spencer	Liverpool	Civil Engineering
Gary Stanton	Liverpool	Computing with a Year in Industry
Rachel Stedman	Liverpool John Moores	Pharmaceutical Science & Biological Chemistry
Peter Stoddart	Liverpool	Pharmacology
Christopher Sweeney	Leicester	American Studies with a year in USA
Michael Sweeney	Birmingham	Sports Science & Materials Technology
Jonathon Tam	Newcastle	Medicine (stage 1 entry)
Luke Tregilgas	Liverpool	Pharmacology
Alexander Tsang	Manchester	Mathematics & Physics
Matthew Waddelow	Liverpool	Architecture
Adam Walker	Keele	Business Management & Finance
Adrian Wan	Liverpool	Politics & International Business
Le Wang	Manchester	Actuarial Science & Mathematics
Matthew Waterfield	Liverpool John Moores	Economics

Pupil Achievements

Miriam Watts
Peter Whitehead
Christopher Widdowson
Amy Wilson
Emma Wong
Joanna Wong
Charlotte Woodward
Josef Woolley
Yichen Wu
Kai-Wei Yin
Craig Yip
Jenny Zhou

Edinburgh
Liverpool
Liverpool John Moores
Liverpool
Liverpool
Liverpool John Moores
Lancaster
Liverpool
Nottingham
Liverpool
Liverpool
Manchester

Biological Sciences
Philosophy
Computer Engineering
Biochemistry
Architecture
Pharmacy
Philosophy & Religious Studies
Economics
Music
Medicine
Dental Surgery
Pharmacy

Form Prizes

Year 7

Erin Lee
Hania Aniq
Jenny Morris
Colin Lim
Grace Coleman
Anthony Lau
Alice Blanchard
Gavin Spruin

Year 8

Marharyta Kamarova
James Draper
Harry Bleasdale
Olivia Sung
Niamh Lawton
James Rooney
Chantelle Wu
Luke Jones

Year 9

Charlotte Holmes
Syafiq Rosidi
Megan Welsh
Jonathan Riley
Jamie Walsh
Rachel Hayes
Katy Sayer
Toby Underwood Hughes

Year 10

Craig Morrow
Francesca Fradley
Edward Parr
Kathryn Smith
Liam Loftus
Catherine Ainsworth
Rahatal Azad
Megan Jones

Academic Prizes

The Margaret Bryce Smith School Scholarships

Year 11

Lauren Atherton
Sophie Batterton
Kate Coenen-Rowe
Tim Lui
Leo Chen
Elliott Kwong
Daniel Inwood
Charles Williams
Richard Fong
Thomas Smith

Sarah Gannon
Jack Bedford
Emma Durham
Elizabeth Whitehouse
Lee Atkins
Michael Tapp
Jack England
Tony Ren
Emma Hawkins

Kiron Koshy
Alexander Hacillo
Emma Henigan
Thomas Browne
Gannah Hadi
Andrew Wong
Michael Higham
Zoe Bond
Paul Brannigan

Sharon Koshy
Qasim Masood
David Jeffery
Corinna Milroy
Jack Kenny
Paula Crosby
Marcus Quinn
Matthew Caine
Rebecca Smith

Year 12

Angela Boscarino
David McGowan
Michael Roberts
Rebecca Fry
Riccardo Lo Giudice
Lisa Tang
Oliver Johnson

Maxwell Berks
Robin Munby
Nusiba Taufik
Katherine Hughes
Edward O'Connor
Robert Whitehead
Justin Wong

Richard Gorst
Jing Ouyang
Steven Wenham
Daniel Idama
Oladapo Ogunbiyi
Nicholas Farandos

Rebecca Kuruvilla
Vlad Paraoan
Mathew Carmichael
Sophie Jain
Mengxia Sun
Richard Gray

Year 13

James Gundry
Mohammed Ali
Fengjia Cai
Craig Cavanagh
Helen Johnson
Alexander Casimo
Steven Haworth
Francis Banwell

Nastaran Sargazi
Craig Yip
Jenny Zhou
Samuel Hardy
Chloe Jackson
Iain Jackson
Drew Marsh
Joseph Nkansah

Alison Croft
Nile Denvir-Parry
Lewis Hou
Adam Lyon-Jones
Ben McNally
Nicholas Miller
Felix Millne
Angela Mui

Natalie Noon
Andrew Rose
Kai-Wei Yin
Mark Dockray
Fatemeh Keshkar
Jonathon Tam
Aaron Koshy
Daniel Evans

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)

Verse Speaking:

Lady President's Prize: (Head Girl)

Chairman's Prize: (Head of School)

Jing Ouyang

James Gundry

Francis Banwell

Kristian Blackhall

Mohammad Ali

Duncan Cowan

Greg Stuart, Magnus Rannala, Daniel Idama, Harry Edwards,
Gabrielle Thompson, Eleanor Beggs & Charlotte Dickinson

Helen Johnson

Louise Davis & Robert Fiske

Kristian Blackhall

Drew Marsh

Alex Leece

James Richmond

Matthew Caine, Thomas Maloney, Shaun Rigby,

Lauren Green, Matthew Ko

Richard Leung

Nicholas Miller

Hai Lin Leung

Nicholas Miller, Lawrence Luscombe, Alex Leece,

Benedict McKenna, Amy Hawken & Hollie Boyes

Fengjia Cai

Alexander Casimo

Iain Jackson

Daniel Broda

Lauren Green

Craig Cavanagh

Ryan Beeley

Mohammad Ali

Lewis Hou

Adam Gosling

Sarah Creed

Aaron Koshy

Benjamin Southam, Zoe Bond & Tayler Spruce

Christopher Plent, Holly Boyes, James Rose,

Lisa Tang & Winifred Garr

Samantha Dolan, Alex Leece & Fern Stocks

Natalie Noon

Alexander Casimo

The Eric Grimes Trophy - Year 7 Cricket Team

The Lord Alton Citizenship Award - Jenny Radcliff

The Andrew Allen Citizenship Award - Rebecca Kurivilla

The Westminster Plate (for outstanding achievement) - The Kenya Trip Students

Success in Music Examinations

Grade 1

Aneish Mangarai
Mark Keatinge
Gunawardena Sandani

Drums
Drum
Piano Theory

Christine Farandos
Oliver Bradley
Jack Davies
Olivia Thompson
Samantha Dolan

Flute
Flute
Piano
Piano Theory
Flute Theory
Flute
Clarinet & Piano Theory

Grade 2

Sophie Tsang
Kaylyn Chan
Chloe Zheng
Kyrán Crute
Alshymaa Essa
Andrew Callaway
Joseph Chung

Violin
Violin
Piano
Piano
Piano
Classical Guitar
Viola

Daniel How
Shaun Rigby
David Mansley
Sam Hughes
Andrew Wong
Joseph Chung
Michael Zhang
Angela Boscarino
Katy Sayer
Kyrán Crute
Harley Jones
Edwin Lau
Matthew Benton

Drums
Trumpet
Saxophone Theory
Theory
Piano
Piano
Piano
Violin
Flute
Piano & Piano Theory
Theory
Theory

Grade 3

Jack Hackett
Duncan Cowan
Katy Bradley
Katy Ashworth
Kyrán Crute
Ellen Robinson
Chloe Zheng
David Murphy
Matthew Shore
Samantha Dolan

Bassoon
Trombone
Cornet
Violin
Double Bass
Flute
Piano Theory
Guitar
Piano
Piano

Grade 6

Jack Luscombe
Peter Athans
Katherine Gilroy
Lewis Coenen-Rowe

Piano
Piano
Cello
Trumpet

Grade 4

Daniel How
Joey Fong
Joanna Bailey
Mark Johnson
Fiona Miller
Francesca Fradley
Bethany Leader

Piano
Piano
Singing
Guitar
Piano
Singing
Flute

Grade 7

Tim Lui
Sarah Zhao
Olivia Brown
Lewis Coenen-Rowe
Jack Luscombe
Amy Bennett
Samantha Dolan

Piano
Piano
Saxophone
Piano
Cello
Cello
Flute

Grade 5

Hua Yong Li
Francesca Fradley
Louis Maddox

Piano
Piano
Flute

Grade 8

Hai-Lin Leung
Peter Athans

Flute & Piano
Trumpet

Members of the Liverpool Youth Orchestra

Jack Hackett, Kit Runnels-Moss, Shaun Rigby, Katy Sayer, Jack Luscombe, Peter Athans, Katherine Gilroy, Rosie Elsmore, Andrew Wong, Rebecca Loveridge, Amy Bennett, Tiffany Wong, Jordan Taylor-Jones, Alex Cook & Robin Munby

Philharmonic Youth Orchestra

Alex Cook

Members of the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral Choir

Sarah Davies

Liverpool Youth Brass Ensemble

Peter Athans

The Knowsley Youth Orchestra

David Mansley

National Children's Brass Band of Great Britain

Peter Athans

Formby Brass Band

Peter Athans

The Liverpool Swing Band

Sam Hughes

School Colour Awards

RE-AWARDS

Association Football:	J.Gardiner, A.Casimo, H.Edwards, G.Stuart & Z.Washington-Young
Basketball:	R.Beeley, J.Bedford, D.Idama, D.Marsh, M.Rannala, M.Saxton & M.Sweeney
Cricket:	T.Bowman & M.Whelan
Golf:	G.Stuart

AWARDS

Association Football:	L. Brown, S. Gifford, E.Kwong, G.Molyneux-Chan, M.Rannala, M.Saxton, J.Tyrer & A.Yoh
Basketball:	B.Kelly, J.Leung, V.Paraoan, D.Roberts, M.Roberts, L.Williams
Cricket:	A.Ali, D.Chambers, T.Haggis, M. Ko, N.Ko, A.Khattak, P.Murphy, M.Rannala & G.Stuart
Golf:	T.Haggis
Hockey:	E.Beggs, K.Bellis, C.Dickinson, S.Hodgkiss, S.Koshy, M.Mak, R.McWaters, J.Ratcliffe, G.Thompson & E.Whitehouse
Netball:	N.Connell, K.Dean, W.Garr, N.Johnston, K.Wayland-Larty, C.McDonald, H.Railes & G.Thompson

DISTINCTIONS

Athletics:	The following were City Champions A.Mosley (100m), T. Taylor (200m), G.Spruin (400m), J.Yu (hurdles), J.Dickinson (hurdles & discus), D.McGuinness (400m) & E. Darby (javelin) G.Spruin, D.Harvey, T.Taylor & L.Findlay (4 x 100m relay)	
Cricket:	U12 Team	Liverpool Champions & Lancashire Cup Runners Up
Basketball:	U12 Team	Liverpool Champions
	U13 Team	Liverpool Runners-up
	U14 Team	Liverpool Runners-up and 6th Nationally
	U15 Team	Liverpool Champions and 6th Nationally
	U16 Team	Liverpool Champions
Hockey:	U19 Team	Liverpool Champions
	U16 Team	Merseyside Runners-up
	E. Beggs, C.Dickinson, J.Ratcliffe & S.Wilson represented Mersey-Lancs U17	
Netball:	E. Darby, A.O'Meara & C.Holmes represented Mersey-Lancs U15	
	A.Lewin represented Merseyside U14	
	C.Dickinson & G.Thompson represented Merseyside U16	

Physics Olympiad 2008

Silver:	James Gundry
Bronze I:	Steven Haworth
Bronze II:	Felix Millne, Daniel Evans, Craig Cavanagh, Adam Gosling, Gregory Jones, Tim Reeves, Helen Johnson & Paul Spencer
Commendation:	Paul Spencer, Adam Lyon-Jones, Alexander Tsang, Jonathan Tam & Kai-Wei Yin

GCSE Results – Summer 2008

	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	Total
Art	11	13	5	2						31
Biology	28	36	16	2		1				83
BS	29	14	3	1						47
Chemistry	40	35	7	2						84
D&T	2	15	1	2	2					22
English Language	45	65	10							120
English Literature	8	45	56	9						118
French	14	16	2							32
Geography	21	28	20	2						71
History	9	26	15							50
Information Technology	59	55	5							119
Latin	7	2								9
Mathematics	15	66	34	5						120
Music	5	8								13
Physics	27	39	14	4						84
Religious Studies	1	3	2							6
Science	4	19	8	5						36
Additional Science	2	8	11	1						22
Spanish	34	42	18	9	2					105
Chinese	3									3
PE	10	7	4							21
Total	374	542	231	44	4	1				1196

A level Results – Summer 2008

	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total
Art	7	4	1				12
Biology	20	11	7	3			41
Chemistry	28	15	10	3	1	1	58
Computing	1	3	1	3			8
D&T		1	4	3			8
Economics	9	12	6				27
English Literature	5	3	2	3			13
English Language & Literature	12	6	1	1			20
French	3	4	2	2	1		12
Geography	5	2	3				10
History	6	7	7	1			21
Information Technology	4	4	2	2			12
Latin	3						3
Mathematics	37	22	10	7	3	2	81
Further Maths	5	2	2		1	1	11
Music	2	2	2	1			7
PE		6	2	1			9
Physics	13	7	8	2	1		31
Religious Studies	3	1	2				6
Politics	8	2					10
Psychology	10	5	4		1		20
Spanish	2	5	2	2			11
General Studies	40	37	29	15	6		127
Chinese	1	1	1				3
Total	224	162	108	49	14	4	561

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards

The following students successfully completed their Bronze Award and received their certificates, badges and well-deserved recognition at the Echo Arena on the 5th March 09:

Bronica Gumbhir
Michael Tancred
Ellie Beggs
Ellis Johnston
Kieron Koshy
Leslie Tang
Gabi Thompson

Alex Hacillo
Charlie Dickinson
Tori Jones
Katherine Gilroy
Fern Montgomery
Wini Garr
Sophie Batterton
Andrew Wong

Daniel Bartling
Zoe Bond
Ben Miller
Sharon Koshy
Rebecca Warriner
Lauren McClaren
Alex Yoh

The following students have just embarked on their Bronze/ Silver award and have successfully completed their first day walk.

Bronze:

Brogan Moss, Elham Mahoody, Georgina Hunt, Charlotte Holmes, Marina Ransome, Michael Head, Daniel Little, Callum Watling, Ben Stoker, Robert Hughes, Lara Rimmer, Janet Wong, Libby Peacock, Asley O'Meara, Emma Findlay, Jake Cockburn, Rosie Lane, Sara Edwards, Jake Atkin, James Rhodes, Vanessa Ferguson, Ashley Davies, Sarah Zhao, Melisa Atherton, Alshymaa Essa, Katie Conry, Rachel Hayes, Alison McNulty, Chris Rathe, Joshua Owens, Theo Jackson, Beth Currie, Carlos Walker-Ravena, Michael Ashton, Amy Lewin

Silver:

Liam Brown, Zoe Morrison Griffiths, Rebecca Croft, Kit Runnels Moss, Kieran Woods, Alex Hacillo, Gabi Thompson, Elizabeth Renshaw, Leslie Tang, Emma Wakefield, Quasim Masood, Heather Nielson, Tony Renshaw, Dale Charnock, Omer Armizadah, Chris Loftus, Bronica Gumbhir, Liz Whitehouse, Ben Miller, Daniel Bartling, Philip Crawley.

Thank you to Miss Henderson for attending the day walk with the Bronze students.

S. Cornwall



Bronze award participants on their day walk at Helsby Hall.

La Princesse

Congratulations to Erin Burns, year 8, who was a runner up in the competition run by Liverpool Central Library. She went to an award ceremony at the Library and received book tokens as

an award. She had to write an imaginative piece about what happened to *La Machine*, La Princesse, when it entered the Tunnel. Well done, Erin! Keep up with the writing.

The Mathematics Specialism

This year has been a very busy one in the Mathematics Department. Having been newly designated a joint specialism with Science, we have set about creating a full programme of enrichment activities aimed at giving all our students the opportunity to extend and apply their knowledge through various different clubs and competitions.

UKMT Mathematics Challenges

This year we have seen approximately 500 students sitting 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 Junior Challenge 2008 only a small number of Year 8 students were entered. They achieved 4 Gold, and 2 Bronze certificates. The Gold certificate winners were:

Jack Hackett	Joe Moorcroft-Moran
Liam McRoe	Ben Neo

In the Intermediate Challenge 2008 Year 9, 10 and 11 students achieved 13 Gold, 14 Silver and 11 Bronze certificates. The Gold certificate winners were:

Lewis Coenen-Rowe	Harley Jones
Philip Crawley	Alex Hacillo
Jack Davies	Shalini Kanapathywasam
Emma Durham	Liam Loftus
Helen Fee	Corinna Milroy
Sarah Gannon	Tony Ren
Michael Tancred	

In the Senior Challenge 2008 Year 11, 12 and 13 students achieved 6 Gold, 18 Silver and 44 Bronze certificates. The Gold certificate winners were:

Philip Crawley	Katherine Hughes
Gregg Gaffney	James Liu
David Henderson	Tony Ren

British Mathematical Olympiad

James Liu, Year 12, by virtue of a score of 100 on the Senior Mathematical Challenge qualified for the next round – the British Mathematical Olympiad. There are only about 1000 students invited to participate in this follow-up round which consists of a 3½ hour exam containing six questions. James achieved a creditable 21 out of 60 and was rewarded with a certificate of Distinction.

European Kangaroo Maths Challenge

The European Kangaroo is a competition which follows the same structure as the AMC (Australian Mathematic Competition). There are twenty-five multiple questions. This paper is taken throughout Europe by over 3 million pupils from more than 37 countries. Three students from Year 11 qualified for this event for the first time. They were:

Philip Crawley Harley Jones Corinna Milroy

Intermediate Mathematical Olympiad

Helen Fee from Year 10 qualified for the Intermediate Mathematical Olympiad. The paper lasted 2 hours 30 minutes and required Helen to attempt 6 very testing questions. This was the first time in recent years that a Blue Coat Student has qualified for the Olympiad, with Helen acquitting herself very well indeed. Well Done!

UKMT Team Maths Challenge

This is a four person team competition for two Year 8 and two Year 9 students. The three 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 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 2008 Blue Coat was represented in the Regional Final at Liverpool University by Jack Hackett, Ben Neo, Katy Sayer and Daisy Zhai. The team thoroughly enjoyed the day and finished in a creditable 5th place. We look forward to this year's event which will take place on Monday 23 March, again at Liverpool University.



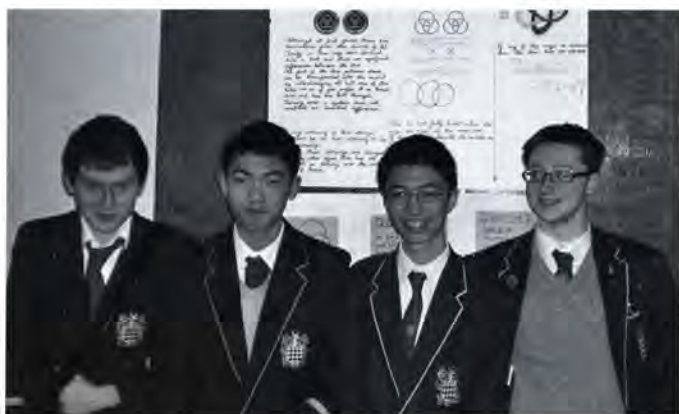
UKMT and Further Maths Network Senior Team Maths Challenge

This event ran as a pilot event in 2007/8 and the Blue Coat were represented at the Regional Final by Alison Croft, Katherine Hughes, Helen Johnston and Vlad Paraoan. Against tough competition the team finished in a creditable 6th place.

After a successful pilot event last Year the Senior Team Maths Challenge has now become a permanent feature in the Maths competition calendar. It follows a similar format to the Team Maths Challenge for Years 8 and 9 but for Years 12 and 13, and although the final event is a relay it does not involve any running!

In November 2008 our team of Philip Crawley, Harley Jones, James Liu and Tony Ren competed in the Regional Final at Liverpool University. Despite strong opposition, and the fact that all our team were from Year 12, Blue Coat won and qualified for the National Final in February 2009.

After a week's postponement due to the snow, the Final eventually took place on Tuesday 10 February. Sixty teams were in the final and after three gruelling rounds the team finished with a total score of 133/188, giving a finishing position of 24 out of 60. This was an outstanding achievement and the whole team deserve our congratulations. The standard has now been set for future years and also for our Junior Team!



Pictured above: Senior Maths Team: Philip Crawley, James Liu, Tony Ren & Harley Jones

Maths Leader Award

Sports Leader is an established and respected award for developing skills such as organisation, motivation and communication through sports. They have recently extended their awards to Maths with the introduction of the Maths Leader Award. This award aims to develop skills in young people to enable them to lead others through basic maths activities.

We have offered this as an extra-curricular activity to Year 10 and currently have approximately 40 students working towards this award. Students are already starting to deliver activities to their peers after only a few sessions and are gaining in confidence. It is hoped that all those who gain the Maths Leader Award will be heavily involved in running the Fun Maths Roadshow Events to be held later in the Year for both Primary Schools and Year 7 and 8 students.

Cipher Challenge Club

In the Autumn Term many of our sixth form students took the opportunity to take place in the National Cipher Challenge, which was organised by Southampton University. The competition ran over the course of 10 weeks and saw two of our teams pick up prizes for their weekly submissions.

Following the success of this competition a cipher club has been newly formed and will allow Key Stage 3 and 4 students to get a flavour for code breaking, with the hope that they may be the National Cipher Challenge champions next year!



The Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge

Throughout the year, students from Years 7-10 have been taking part in The Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge. This involves teams setting up a virtual racing car to race against cars set up by other teams. Maths skills are required to set up the car to negotiate a given track and weather conditions. Top speeds on different sections of the circuit need to be calculated to ensure that the car does not run out or crash before finishing the race. The aim is to finish the quickest in simulated races. Heats for this are being run in school, with the winning team submitting their set up for the first 'Knock Out Round' in March.

F1 in Schools – The Formula One Technology Challenge

This is a new competition to the Blue Coat and will start in the Summer Term with Year 7 and will continue into Year 8 in the Autumn Term. The aim is to design, test and manufacture a miniature compressed air powered balsa wood Formula One car. Teams will also need to consider budgets. This is a joint venture between the Maths and Design Technology Departments with the Design Technology Department taking the lead role. We look forward to seeing how this develops over the course of the Year.

Lunchtime Maths Support

In an effort to help students in any Key Stage with their Maths, support sessions take place every lunchtime in C03 from 1.00pm until 1.30pm. The sessions operate as drop-in sessions whereby students can just turn up to get some extra help with a particular topic, or alternatively use the time to complete some maths homework.

Pupil Achievements

Primary School Outreach

As an extension to our work in Primary schools, some of our Sixth Form students have been involved in running After School Games Clubs at these schools. This not only encourages a greater participation in Mathematics in the Primary schools but also gives our Sixth Form students valuable experience in contributing to the wider community.

Adult Maths Sessions

We are currently trialling a Maths GCSE Taster course for adults with the intention of offering more courses, with possible accreditation, next academic year. Courses could also be run to enable you to offer more support with your child's homework by both refreshing and

updating your Maths skills. We are keen to offer courses for which there is demand so please, if there is something you would find useful, let us know!

Sixth Form Health and Fitness Club

A healthy body leads to a healthy mind (or at least that is what we are led to believe!). Many of our sixth form students have been putting this philosophy into practice twice a week this year through morning fitness training sessions. The sessions, which are based on circuit training exercises, are open to all regardless of prior experience or ability and take place on Wednesday and Thursday mornings in the Sports Hall.

G. McBride

University Lectures

Throughout 2007/2008 and continuing into 2009, Blue Coat Sixth Form Mathematicians have been invited to several Popular Mathematics Lectures hosted by the University Of Liverpool's MathSoc (Student Mathematics Society). These lectures have been well attended and the students have found them both informative and enjoyable. The lectures have covered a variety of *interesting and popular* Mathematics that is designed to enhance the general Mathematical knowledge of University and 6th Form students. Some of the topics that have been covered are "*Dice and Doughnuts: An Introduction to Topology*", "*Strange Loops and*



Incompleteness: An Introduction to Gödel's Theorem" and "*Higher Dimensional Counting: How Many Lines Are There In A Plane?*"



Conal Traverse

Poetry of Place Competition 2008

Congratulations to Ryta Kamarova of year 9 who was in the final 18 of nearly 1,000 entries across Merseyside in this annual poetry competition, and Lara Rimmer of year 10, for her 2nd place position. Both girls were given a prize at an Awards Ceremony at the Liver Buildings in October.

In attendance were the CEO of Royal Liver, Steve Burnett, and the Director of Liverpool City Council, Warren Bradley, who are in this photograph.

Mrs Ludlow won first prize in the Teacher Section of the competition.



Finalists' Poems

A Breeze Across The Mersey

A breeze across the Mersey
Hits a cathedral
Whose bell chimes
Into the distance; Far away
A dog hears, walking near the Palm House.
The owner's on the phone
She's talking to her husband who
Is working in the Walker Art Gallery.
Three Japanese tourists are there
Photographing the Beatles
Born on Penny Lane, their songs are
Sung all over. Like in the town

Lara Rimmer Year 10 (2nd Prize)

A gift shop plays 'Yellow Submarine'
A customer hears and buys
A CD for her niece, who was in Chinatown,
On a cultural trip for her school.
The balloon she bought is lost
As it drifts away above the
Mersey; A sailor on a ferry
Spots it turning in the slight breeze
That breeze hits a cathedral,
As Liverpool continues, all over again,
Never stopping.
Like a turning wheel.

Colours of Liverpool

Liverpool - a city full of colours
The art gallery has them all
The superlambanana and the submarine are both yellow
Brightening up the surroundings wherever they go
The Albert Dock - a mixture of blue, black and grey
As seen at day
But at night the colours change to midnight silver and black
The Liver Birds bring a touch of green to the sky
More shades of green are found in the many parks,
Calderstones surrounded by emerald, jade and lime.
Flowers there blossom to become pink, purple and lilac
Brightest of all are the festivals which are home to music, arts and fun
Liverpool is a combination of colours
Its many shades are loved by everyone
Ryta Kamarova
Year 9 (finalist)

Teachers' Section

First Prize

Wavertree Park: The Mystery's Gifts

A snowstorm of pink blossom cas
cades to the ground where
pigeons peck their presence.

Capricious bluebells nod their delicate heads
as students, accompanied by yelps, claps and cheers,
perform their annual cross-country run.

Light daubed leaves flicker
as a cacophony of football players
loud their presence across cropped grass blades.

Furled leaves of caramel and bornite whisper
as a spaniel escorts its owner
in the crisp snowshine.

Mrs B D G Ludlow

Congratulations to the Year 13 Economics Target 2.0 Team

Blue Coat Year 13 students who won the North West England heat of the Target 2.0 Competition run, and judged by, members of the Bank of England Monetary Policy Commission came third in the North UK Final on Tuesday 24th February, placing them very high up in national rankings. Sam McCauley, Steven Wenham, Katie Dean and Anthony Scully worked hard to plan, review and present a case based on rapidly changing, complex and contradictory economic data, assisted by Mr Jamieson.

In November the team had argued the case for setting interest rates at 2.5% in order to work most effectively at meeting the Bank of

England's inflation target of 2%, but it is a measure of the recent economic turmoil that just three months later their presentation was putting the case for interest rates of just .75%, with an increase in the money supply to free up credit for hard-pressed businesses.

The Blue Coat School presentation was judged to be the best, but two other schools' subsequent answers to questions were seen as more in line with Bank of England thinking. The team won £350 for the School.

S P Jamieson

The Athenaeum Writer in Residence Award

Three of our 6th form students entered this annual prestigious award: Portia Harris, James Liu and Helen Skinner.

They were selected from hundreds of entries to be amongst the 7 finalists. Having produced three pieces of written work, the judges' decision was announced at a formal gathering at The Athenaeum on 11th February: Portia came second and won £100 worth of book tokens and the opportunity to record her last piece of writing to be played on Radio Merseyside. James and Helen each won book tokens valued at £50. This is a tremendous achievement for these enthusiastic students and their rewards are well deserved. Watch out for more of their creative talents at the Blue Coat School and beyond!

Mrs B D G Ludlow



Stevie

Small and round
My friend is sound
A fluffy ball
He is not tall
He likes to bounce up and down
When he's asleep he's a little fluff mound.
A chocoholic just like me
My friend Stevie is imaginary
He snowboards down the mountainside
He travels the fastest theme park ride

Adventures are his favourite thing
But beware when he starts to sing
Together we play lots of games
To climb the ladder of best friend fame
Stevie's hair is naturally spiked
He dreads going on his yearly hike.
Best friends we are and always will be
The fluff ball Stevie and his best friend ME!

By Lucy Green 7 Graham



Lucy Quinn



Sarah Hodgkiss



Rebecca Leddy



Diane Crawford

British Physics Olympiad 2009 & AS Competition 2008

An impressive result in the British Physics Olympiad 2009 (for Year 13 students) demonstrated that Blue Coat Physics is as strong as ever! The ten students who sat the awesome three hour Paper 2 all achieved a medal award with none in the Commendation Awards. This fine outcome was due to pure endeavour of trying numerous past paper questions, workshop sessions and sheer good Physics thinking on the day!

Congratulations to the following students, especially to Robert Whitehead, who receives a book prize:-

Robert Whitehead	Silver	Christopher Plent	Bronze I	Francesca Boughey	Bronze II
Katherine Hughes	Bronze I	Peter Thompson	Bronze II	Mathew Carmichael	Bronze II
Vlad Paraoan	Bronze I	Nicholas Farandos	Bronze II		
Sean Batterton	Bronze I	David McGowan	Bronze II		

Twenty Year 12 students entered the AS Competition, which consisted of a one hour Paper with novel questions in which they had to apply their Physics knowledge and understanding with great ingenuity to reach the correct solutions. A good set of results was achieved as indicated here:-

Silver Medals Bronze Medals

Katherine Hughes

Bronze Medals

Christopher Plent, Joshua Batterton, Mathew Carmichael, Alexander Pask, Robert Whitehead, Vlad Paraoan, Sean Batterton, James Killick, Zong Yan, Nick Farandos, Amy Hawken

Participation Medals

Oladapo Ogunbiyi, David Henderson, David McGowan, Colin Poole, Magnus Rannala, Francesca Boughey, Ayoub Behbahani, Halima Ali.

Mr K G Caulkin

The Squirrel Complaint

A squirrel blue, a squirrel gold, or a squirrel monochrome -
Would surely be a squirrel great - and a squirrel with a home.
This squirrel is, alas, not blue, or gold, or even red,
So this squirrel thinks, well, perhaps I might better off be dead.

But grey I am! Grey and dull and living with a leaf,
On a soil-heaped mound (I dread to think what's hiding underneath).
My friends in brazen coats of scarlet avoid me when they can,
And the beaver even quite exclaimed when I stood upon his dam.

I'm rather odd for a squirrel me, quite large in my size,
Though I do admit I have the most wondrous frost-blue eyes.
My nose is not of average size, though my tail is rather quaint;
But what is that? My life is saved! A can of reddish paint!

I roll and rustle the best I can until the job is done,
Then step outside, and I, for one, am starting to have fun,
My friends are all quite happy with my stylish colour switch;
Until I feel an oddity - my tail starts to itch

By Olivia Sung

The Duke of Gloucester's visit to the Blue Coat

In order to celebrate Blue Coat's 300th Birthday, and to mark an occasion as a tribute for the remarkable accomplishments that we have enjoyed these past years, the senior management team decided that the school deserved a special guest who was worthy to witness the splendour and glory of Blue Coat. The honour fell upon HRH The Duke of Gloucester. The fact that a member of the Royal family accepted our invitation is a reflection of the school's standing as an educational institution.

A huge amount of time and effort was sacrificed by both staff and students to ensure that the school was set for the arrival of the Royal Party (I personally believed that Blue Coat is always ready for a visit by any important dignitary, but nevertheless extra preparations went ahead) and the immensity of the task ahead soon dawned on me. A route of two tours of the building had to be synchronised, security issues addressed, bags cleared, Prefects stationed around the school, teachers briefed, a musical item rehearsed in Shirley Hall, lessons organised and, of course, an haute-cuisine lunch prepared to top it all off.

When the big day finally came, the final checks were made and we all braced ourselves for the Duke's arrival; I still remember standing next to the head body guard and him whispering "10 seconds" to me. On introduction to the Duke, I found that he was a kind, modest, humble man who took a real interest in what those around him had to say. And so the procession was led around the school, visiting various departments and teachers until we came to the Shirley Hall. After a lovely uplifting musical piece, the Duke delivered his note of thanks and revealed the plaque that was to immortalise the day. He was then asked to sign the visitor's book, followed by an invitation to lunch. At this point we were glad to receive some well-earned nourishment, and so we sat down to enjoy the meal with our distinguished guests.

My thanks must go to the Prefects who were asked to help, the senior members of staff that gave up their time to ensure the day ran smoothly, and the teachers who put on a real demonstration of what we at Blue Coat are capable of (not to mention the catering staff for an exquisite lunch).

*by Vlad Paraoan
Head of School*



Enrichment Day

On Friday 12th September this year, the new year twelve took part in an enrichment day as part of their Enrichment programme in the Sixth Form. The day consisted of many activities which were designed to help build teamwork, and co-operation skills, as well as helping the students get to know new people. In order to do this, the year group was split into different groups for the morning and afternoon activities and, after a brief introduction from the company who were organising the event, we got to work.

The first activity was a scavenger hunt throughout the 9 rounds of the School and the surrounding area. There were three different parts to this task, which included using a camera and a hand held GPS system to help you search for clues, collect different items and take pictures of specific situations. As the students split into groups and all headed off to do their part, the technology and different questions became very important. This was because the aim of the morning's activities was to win as many points from the challenges completed as possible. These points then went towards receiving clues for the

second part of the challenge, which, when completed, gave you a code. Each team had to race against the others to get the code correct and then three teams had the chance to use their code to unlock a chest, which contained boxes of sweets as a prize for the morning's work.

After lunch it was time for the great marble run. The afternoon's groups were divided into countries, and out on The Mystery each team had an assortment of pipes, bamboo canes and tape to try and make a marble run, which could withstand earthquakes and also look good. The countries then joined together in fours and connected their marble runs to create the great marble runs. Testing of the marble runs came after, to see who had created the best, most sturdy pipeline, and these results were given out to all the students in the hall with the winners receiving sweets as prizes.

Overall, the Enrichment day was a great success for many different reasons. Not only did everyone enjoy themselves, but it also gave people the chance to work together to achieve their targets and it was a great opportunity for us to get to know new people!

Classical Greek at Liverpool University

ΟΥΚ ΙΟΤΗΕΥ ΟΥΔΕΥ... this was our thought at the commencement of the first Greek lesson of the year. The prospect of a GCSE seemed far away after a 5 month lacuna between lessons had drained most, if not all, of our knowledge.

We three, we brave three who made the bold decision to continue the Greek course into the second year found our trepidatory way to Liverpool University's Sir Alastair Pilkington building and were greeted by Dr. Fernandez, Mr. Flett and the absence of anyone from non-Blue Coated Schools...

Our qualms were diminished when after only three months we rediscovered all we had learnt in the first year. We have continued to

proceed with great speed through the realms of Greek grammar, now armed with such weapons as middle voices and weak aorists. In addition, we have looked at passages from the New Testament and plays by Aristophanes, and the course looks set to continue into the great works of Homer.

When all of the hard work is done, relaxation ensues with great fervour in the event of the Greek party, a fest filled with baklava, olives and panettone and the traditional round of Greek hangman and classical pictionary. We look forward eagerly to the new term and the great wealth of knowledge that awaits.

Harley Jones L6A

Michael Higham L6A

Santa Dash

Dressed in their red Santa suits, complete with beards, both Blue Coat students and staff took part this year in Liverpool's 4th annual 5K Santa Dash.

Becoming one in a sea of hundreds of Santas was no easy feat, but we took up the challenge and completed the charity run, which took participants around the city centre of Liverpool on a chilly Sunday

morning. The course was picturesque, beginning near the Liver Building and allowing Santa-dashers to view much of the city centre. We were cheered on by many spectators, and finished to a triumphant 'snowfall' of bubbles.

Miss Hodson

Medlink 2008

So, here I am, sitting in a huge lecture theatre, with about another 800 people my age, each and every one of us sharing the same goal: to practise medicine. It's Sunday 14th of December and I have just arrived at Nottingham University to experience MEDLINK, and what an experience it is.

For those who don't already know, Medlink is a 3 day course intended to give year 12 students interested in medicine, a head start and some insight into what being a medical student is like.

So what was my Medlink experience like? As well as having a great time and getting to know many new people from all over the country, I was able to understand what being a med-student is like. Tiring, for a start, but also interesting and enjoyable!

The lectures that I attended were fantastic, but not for the faint hearted: you know it's going to be good if a rule is in place that the slide show has to be stopped if 10 people faint during it.

The clinical sessions were something to talk about too, learning to use a stethoscope was particularly interesting as I was the one chosen to be the example. One minute I'm sitting comfortably in my seat, the

next I'm standing at the front of a lecture theatre with my shirt off and a man marking the positions of the heart valves onto my chest!

However, if I had to pick one part of Medlink that I enjoyed the most, it would have to be watching live surgery, being able to talk to all members of the surgery team about the procedure that they are performing, as well as about how they reached the positions that they are in now. That was the pinnacle of my time at Medlink

If you are interested in pursuing a career in medicine, I would highly recommend attending the Medlink conference. The course lasts 4 days in December and the standard course is £203. Travel to Nottingham is easy enough to sort out; I recommend getting a train, a coach or sharing a lift with friends.

To sum it all up, Medlink is a great experience that offers invaluable knowledge for those hoping to get into a good Medical School, it gives you the chance to make friends with future doctors who are hopefully going to be your colleagues one day, and most of all it gives an insight into student life, the types of people you will meet and the great time that you will have at medical school.

Mark Platt L6H

Year 7 Social

Approaching Shirley Hall all I could hear was a rumble that grew to a roar as I drew closer. I turned to the boy next to me, "Sounds like it's going to be a good night," I said. He just looked up at me, his eyes filled with anticipation and fear. Neither of us knew what to expect from the night ahead. We jumped up the steps three at a time. At the top we were greeted by the sight of a group of goddesses, warriors and a suspicious looking pyramid, surrounded by a huge circle of year sevens.

The games were played with incredible enthusiasm, chants were shouted and feet were stomped. A particularly interesting game of pass the parcel led to an excellent impression of a Blue Coat teacher and

even a kiss on the cheek for one prefect! The senior prefects did an amazing job. The students were bouncing all night, they couldn't wait for the next game and everyone seemed to feel welcomed to the school. In fact, the year 13s seemed just as excited as the year 7s, and had at least as much fun! You could always see at least one of them as they ran, screaming their battle cry, cloak swirling around them. I don't think the hall was still for one second, and it certainly wasn't quiet. The evening was enjoyed by all and it will certainly be a tough act to follow for next year's senior prefects.

Simon Walker L6D

Ellie Lewis U6G



Winged Words Poetry Evening, April 2008

Thursday 24th April saw another fine evening of poetry and drama take place in the Shirley Hall. Born in 1998 under Head of English of the time Alan Gleave, the event went annual in the spring of 2003, and is still going strong, as this year's event so ably displayed.

Mrs Athis and Mrs Roberts led us through more than 30 varied works, ranging from the light-hearted –Dahl, Ahlberg, Milligan – to the serious – Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, Houseman's Last Poems, Tennyson's The Kraken – and even featuring an original work by our very own Mrs Ludlow, who gave a wonderful rendition of her 'St. George's Caged Lions'. Other particularly notable performances were Freya Balchin with Alan Gleave's 'Photo of a Child by the Sea with an Ice Cream', Alex Leece with Jabberwocky by Lewis Carroll, and a whole team of year 7 who showed us the unusual feat that is Choral Speaking, adding a whole new dimension to Auden's Classic, 'The Night Mail'.

All in all it was a great evening, and a great time was had by all. The Blue Coat's poets and performers once again did themselves proud, and especially exciting was the response from our incoming generation of Year 7s, for many of whom this was a first glimpse of what life at the BCS would be like. Everyone I spoke to was impressed by both the range of poetry performed and the quality of the performers, and excited to be able to join such an exciting, inspiring group of people when September comes around.

Nick Miller, U6E



Richard Pan, Dileep Karthikappallil and Kyran Crute

The snow fell like a whirlwind of white. It mesmerised all who saw it, dancing in the air. Richard walked past the crowds, who were determined to get to their cars. Richard had never seen snow before, but it heightened his sense. Blasts of mist appeared with every breath.

From above, no one could be seen, all was white- like an arctic wasteland. The Christmas lights helped each individual flake to glisten and shine. Richard would never forget the beauty of his first experience of snow, but he could never really remember it.

The sound of children chucking snowballs at each other and screaming in delight, dominated the street. But, inevitably, paired with this, was the sound of parents, scolding the children drenched in melting slush. A lone snowflake landed on Richard's neck and, due to his surprise, jolted with a strange burning sensation. The cold wind blew against him, making him shudder.

The aromas of hot chocolate, donuts, hot dogs and other steaming foods wafted into the air. Temptation got the better of him, and he bought a thick, dark coffee and a crunchy cookie. He took a deep gulp of the coffee, and a bite of the cookie. It was delicious!

As he left the warmth of the coffee house, he walked on, snow crunching beneath his boots. He walked onwards, streetlights illuminating his way. He eventually lost interest, and made his way back to his car. He tried to open the door, but it was jammed with the frost. Again he tried, and the door opened. He sat inside. He turned the key, and the engine roared into life. He gripped the steering wheel, and drove home, through the snowy landscape of wintry Liverpool.

Teen Idol 2008

For those unfamiliar with the format of Teen Idol it is very much based around the talent show the X Factor, with contestants singing a verse and chorus and being judged on their vocal performance. However, as the name suggests, Teen Idol is solely for teenagers. This was the 5th year of the competition that was introduced to motivate and inspire Liverpool's young people through culture and activity, Teen Idol has unquestionably fulfilled its brief by uncovering a previously hidden well of young talent.

Blue Coat's Paul Hughes was last year's winner of Teen Idol and his progression into the boot camp stage of the X Factor is representative of this well of talent within Liverpool's schools and colleges. The stage was set for another Blue Coat triumph this year, with two promising hopefuls stepping up to the plate: Stuart Campbell and Steph Denny. The first two rounds took place at Parklands secondary school in

Speke; the first set of auditions whittled the candidates down to over 100 less than their original number until only 48 remained to face the quarter-finals.

The final of Teen Idol saw a metric shed load of talent descend upon Liverpool's Philharmonic Hall for all out aural warfare. The venue provided a suitably ritzy setting for the culmination of weeks of arduous vocal training. It seems that this training paid off for Stuart Campbell who claimed the runner-up spot with his version of Home by Michael Bublé, Blue Coat's other representative progressed through to the finals but didn't make the top 3. The overall winner of Teen Idol was Danielle Mutch, 15, of St. Julie's Catholic school.

Unfortunately this was the very last Teen Idol ever to be held in the city and all one can do now is take one's hat off to those who braved the judges for a shot at the big prize.

The Glories of English Church Music

I must admit that, although I am not a great lover of the modern works of 50 Cent et al, I had my own prejudices about church music before attending this event. The few times that I had been exposed to church music didn't fill me with the desire to pursue this genre any further. However, I'm always willing to try something new and eventually curiosity caused me to attend my first voluntary taste of English church music.

It was in the chapel that the audience assembled, the pews were filled and the air was thick with whispered conversation. The stained glass windows and high domed ceiling of the beautifully refurbished chapel provided an excellently fitting backdrop to the forthcoming performance. The audience was hushed with the merest gesture from Mr Cook, who was to conduct the evening's entertainment; provided by the Blue Coat Sixth Form Choir and Sotto Voce (an amateur choir from Manchester).

The evening was to consist of several separate eras of English

church music: Renaissance and Baroque, the 19th Century and the 20th century. The first piece to be performed was *If Ye Love Me* by Thomas Tallis, the evening continued in the same vein with my personal favourite piece being the energetically performed *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* in Bb.

These masterfully executed renditions of classic English church music were interspersed with solo performances by members of the school. Peter Athans delivered two stupendous trumpet solos which my Nan described as: "Absolutely superb." My Nan also enjoyed Elgar's *Chanson de Matin* performed on violin by Louise Goodwin and Hai Lin Leung's flute solo was perceived as "thoroughly enchanting."

Thus the evening moved into its final stage where the guests and the performers were treated to a selection of drinks in the Blundell suite. Much hobnobbing ensued and it was established that the evening was a great success. Bravo!

Daniel Inwood L6F

Easter Sunday in Ramsgate

No anthems in the suburbs - only the pained roar
as a mower is started in peevish duty
against tangles of new, lambent growth... a bore,
but here, kemptness is the standard of beauty...
Still seasons change. Spring sunshine fills the mind.
The pampered Ford reverts to sexless metal,
motorways to nullity ahead, fear behind.
The muteness of one fallen tulip petal

like the scream of an angel can tear apart
Winter shelters that reason and drabness made,
and leave us unearthed and free to depart
strolling downhill (our whistling a slow fade)
to study the sea, the pattern of Spring:
for surge by surge we shall know the new thing.

Mr Alan Gleave



Tiffany Wong



Ali Amin Nejad

Liverpool Performing Arts Festival 2008

Musical instruments ready, poetry rehearsed until throats were hoarse, school ties neat, taxis called, and several parents and grandparents employed to ferry students to and from the city centre, the 3rd – 13th March marked the duration of the annual Liverpool Performing Arts Festival, and Blue Coat students were prepared to, as per usual, do us all proud.

The three different venues hosting this prestigious event were the Town Hall, St. George's Hall, and The Liner Hotel. Set against this exquisite backdrop of some of the city's finest tourist attractions, over twenty students from The Blue Coat School competed in different classes of the Festival, spanning over both the Music and the Speech and Drama sectors.

In Speech & Drama, eight people achieved acclaim: Eleonora Bianchi, 10 Bingham, achieved a Moderate in her class of solo verse for her performance of *The Diver*; Fiona Millar, 10 Graham, also secured a Moderate with a rendition of *Please, Mrs Butler*; Samantha Dolan of 10 Graham was awarded Merit with her performance of *Dear Mr Examiner*; Annie Mosley and Sarah Hamed, both of Year 7, both achieved Merit with performances of *Wonder* and *Cider With Rosie*; Niamh Lawton, 8 Graham, was awarded Moderate for her duologue and Katie Bradley of 7 Graham achieved a Commended with a reading of *Henry King*. Two silver medals were also awarded to Blue Coat students: one to Olivia Sung, 8 Blundell, who competed in the Own Composition category and achieved Commended and Silver with her performance of her poem, *The Candlelit Dinner*, and another to Hayley Rabet, who competed in several categories, but was awarded Commended and Silver for her rendition of *Cider With Rosie* in the 11-14 years Prose Reading class.

Blue Coat students were also immensely triumphant in the Music category. Ben Neo, 8 Bingham, was awarded two Merits in his piano solos, and also both he and Emma Raynor, also of 8 Bingham, won Gold with their Commended piano duet. Emma also participated in the Brass Ensemble, with other members of the school, which won a Silver Medal and Commended. Other people who competed in musical categories include Chantelle Wu, 8 Graham, Kai-Wei Yin, Upper Sixth, Fiona Millar, 10 Graham, and Shaun Rigby, 10 Graham, who competed in both the Liverpool Youth Orchestra, which came first in Class, and also the SMMC Senior Brass Ensemble, which was awarded Distinction, first in Class, and also the Maurice Shifrin Trophy for a group with the most marks from six separate classes.

This is to name but a few students who participated. All tried their best, and achieved some of the highest awards possible, showcasing the talent of the Blue Coat School pupils to the rest of the city. Many thanks must be given to those students who entered the various classes in the Festival, and also to the parents and grandparents who were willing to support the students and to transfer them to and from school to the venues. Finally, a big thanks must go to those teachers, without whom these fantastic achievements would not have been possible: Miss Horton, Mr Cook, and Mr Millar, for the Music Department, and also Mrs Athis for the Speech & Drama.

This collection of varied awards is probably one of the best that the Performing Arts Festival has ever seen, and I'm sure we're all hoping for a repeat performance next year. Encore.....

By Olivia Sung, 9BI

Dance Show 08-09

April 2008 saw the first Blue Coat Dance Show take place. A team of year 11 students along with Jenny Morris worked tirelessly planning and co-ordinating this event.

Fern Montgomery, Tori Jones, Rebecca Warriner, Emma Hennigan and Holly Hughes dedicated themselves to choreographing dances and running regular practices for lower school girls, as well as their own year group, to produce a highly successful event that spectacularly showed off the array of talent and passion our students have for dance.
S. Cornwall

Dance Workshop

As a result of our links with Parklands CLC our school was selected and 50 girls were invited to attend a Dance workshop with the Hammond School of Dance students and the college director.

Following the workshop the Hammond School invited our students to watch the first performance of their European tour show.

S. Cornwall

'Traces' - Live Art Project:

A collaboration between Blue Coat School and Bluecoat Arts Centre

Since September a number of year 8 pupils had been working with Artist Geraldine Pilgrim to create a 'Live Art' installation to be shown in the Bluecoat Art Centre, School Lane, on the weekend of the 8th and 9th November.

This 'event' was commissioned to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Blue Coat School. Pilgrim's work explores and reveals 'traces' of the school's history at the original school site now a contemporary arts centre.

During the performance weekend the evocative sounds of the playground and dining hall were played into the former school rooms. The foyer echoed to the sound of the 6th form choir singing. Year 8 pupils wearing original uniforms were ghostly presences appearing and disappearing around the building. A museum installation of velvet-lined desks displayed artefacts from the Blue Coat Heritage Centre

Using this combination of sound recordings, performance and installation, the artist created a haunting museum which narrated and animated the building's history.

Geraldine Pilgrim is Artistic Director of performance company Corridor, which creates site-specific events, often involving young people, older people and community groups. She creates installations, theatre based performance and large scale events in unusual buildings where the architecture provides the narrative.

Performances took place around the building between 12.00pm - 4.00pm on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 November, and the installation of the museum and other 'traces' of the old school was viewed between 10.00am - 6.00pm from Friday 7th - Sunday 9th November.



Art Club

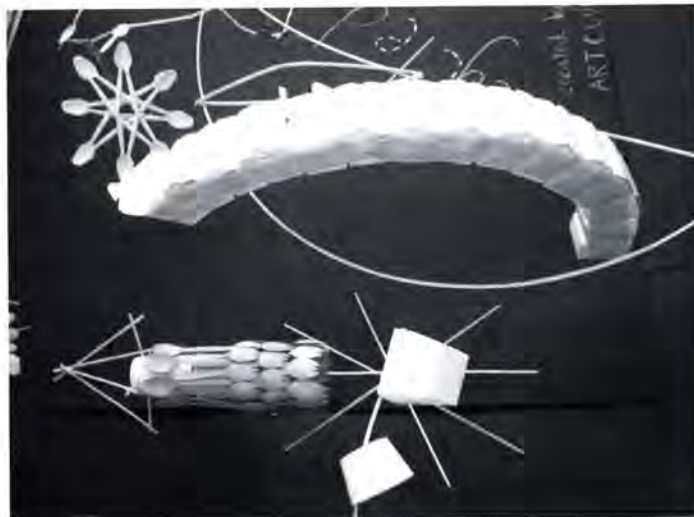
Art Club is a fun lunchtime activity run by Ms Vipond. It is held every Monday in C24 from 12:50 to 1:30. At Art Club we do various projects, we have recently finished a project to do with art and the environment. Art Club is open to all years - so come along and you'll have loads of fun!

Our latest project was called 'Tree-cycle'. We decided to enter a competition run by the Bluecoat Arts Centre. We were asked to come up with ideas for creating a Christmas Tree made from recycled materials. This proved an exciting challenge and we came up with all kinds of ideas - a tree made from lost gloves, a tyre tree, a bicycle wheel tree, a tree made up of light-bulbs.

As a result of this, two people from Art Club won the opportunity to spend part of the weekend at the Bluecoat Arts Centre building a full-size tree out of recycled items.

This fantastic and funky tree has been made from old desks and mirrors. It will be on display all over the Christmas Holidays.

Written by *Rishi Banerjee, Sam Elcock and Callum Smith*



Computer Club

Every Monday lunch time three sixth formers, Andrew O'Connor, Christopher Plent and Jade Slocombe, reluctantly drag themselves away from the thrills of A-Level work to take on the task of teaching the lower school how to use various computer programs. Most students use Game Maker, a basic and relatively easy to use piece of software to create a variety of games.

When we first began the club last year some of the students' pieces of work were entered into the It's Your Future Competition. Kyle Wray, Joseph McQuaid, Toby Underwood-Hughes and Dyllon Constanzo (with a music compilation software as opposed to a game) all travelled to take part in the It's Your Future Competition in the Wirral involving schools from the Wirral and Liverpool. This was judged by students over different schools including Christopher Plent and Robert Whitehead in the current Upper Sixth, both of whom also helped with organisation of the event. Dylan won a top prize for his composition work of a PDA for himself and £700 worth of a new teaching resource for the school which is now used in most Y7 ICT lessons.

A number of the current Year 7 pupils have become very accomplished with the Game Maker software. As well as Game Maker students can use the Serif Software on the school computers to create edited pictures and animations. Any students with an interest in programming or in the processes behind creating software, games or animations would be well suited to computer club. For anyone who just wants to try it out and has never used these sort of programs before, there is always help available from the Prefects in charge, as well as other pupils who are there.

For those students who enjoy LAN gaming, or just flash games in a group environment, we hold a Games Club after school session from 15:50 to 16:50 on Tuesdays. On occasion we have been known to bring in consoles to play over the projector (the Wii for example) and we are always looking for young gamers to play against.

Jade Slocombe

Law Society

The Sixth Form Law Society was established in January 2008 with the hope of enticing students to discuss and debate topical issues surrounding the Law.

The Society meets every Monday from 4pm until 5pm in the common room. The Society has had many guest speakers, including a local district judge, a university professor from John Moores, a solicitor and trainee from Liverpool law firm Hill Dickinson and the Dean of Liverpool Anglican Cathedral. Run by two year 13 prospective Law students, the meetings are relaxed and informal.

Members of the Society have enjoyed discussing the laws surrounding abortion, euthanasia, religion, human rights and sport, to mention but a few. Learning to formulate arguments and views contrary to your own is a key skill and challenge encouraged by the Law Society.

The Law Society welcomes everyone, regardless of your interest in the Law as a career, and most importantly - biscuits and lemonade are on the house!

Zoe Glacken

Sixth Form Health and Fitness Club

A healthy body leads to a healthy mind (or at least that is what we are led to believe!). Many of our sixth form students have been putting this philosophy into practice twice a week this year through morning fitness training sessions.

The sessions, which are based on circuit training exercises, are open to all regardless of prior experience or ability and take place on Wednesday and Thursday mornings in the Sports Hall.

Craft Club

The Craft Club meets in a Design and Technology room every Tuesday lunchtime at 1pm and is run by our textiles teacher, Miss Tabern. We make a lot of different craft items and get to learn a wide variety of crafting skills. For example, we make jewellery, gift cards, small wooden games, finger puppets, fridge magnets, and Easter and Christmas decorations.

The items produced during craft club meetings are later sold at the summer and Christmas school fairs. The CC members are allowed to take home a sample of the items they manufacture and are encouraged to put forward ideas and methods for new product lines.

We especially enjoy making bracelets because there are so many different patterns you can design. The bracelets we make are unique in their style and design.

Another aspect of Craft Club we find interesting is the making of gift cards using paper folding and pin pricking techniques. These give superb results and are surprisingly easy to master. The results look professional and they give the impression of fine lace when they are finished.

In my opinion the finger puppets are best. We made farm animal finger puppets through gluing the appropriate detailing on to the main bodies which we sewed together. Everybody's finger puppets turned out really well.

Craft Club is most enjoyable and it feels incredibly satisfying to see one's own creation being sold in order to raise funds for the school. In addition to this, I believe that the practical skills gained from this club will prove to be invaluable in later life.

Daisy Zhai 10Gr

Social Services Committee Report 2007-08

Again the Social Services Committee has a successful year. A total of over £4200 was raised during the year for a variety of charities. These charities vary from local ones, for example, Claire House, to both national and international ones, examples of the former being British Heart Foundation and of the latter Tear Fund.

The final total raised amounted to £4243.66. This money is raised largely by the students giving on a weekly basis: whatever change they have in their pockets. As well as giving, the students gain a valuable insight into the workings of the various charities from the Tuesday guest speakers, realising as well how fortunate they are compared to many members of society both in this country and overseas.

The Committee continues to meet twice a term to select each half term's speakers and I would like to thank them for their help over the years. Also thanks to those students who have given generously throughout the year.

A full list of this list of this year's collections follows.

P R Edwards

Junior Philosophy Club

The school's philosophical societies have long been a notable characteristic of the school, brought into being by the great diversity of opinions and views in the school.

Upon the departure of Lewis Hou, last year's "Chief Philosopher", it behoved us to take up the post and inspire the lower school to enlightenment, tolerance and discussion. Our first gathering was met with a surfeit of enthusiastic fresh faces and yet more went to the second.

Contrary to popular belief, there was an actual plan for each session. We decided that a good structure to the year might be to alternate discussions with tutorials on historical philosophers and schools of thought, in the first term covering from Thales all the way up to the Epicureans. We have discussed such issues as crime and punishment, morality and vegetarianism and the existence, or lack thereof, of God, and the year so far has brimmed with new ideas, opinions and viewpoints on these issues.

In the new term we plan to continue with more modern philosophy, such as Descartes, Sartre, and Wittgenstein.

Harley Jones L6A

Michael Higham L6A

CHARITY COLLECTIONS 2007-08

2007	Charity	Amount
11 Sept	Cystic Fibrosis	£258.56
18 Sept	Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation	£180.02
25 Sept	Leukaemia Research	£172.82
2 Oct	Action Aid	£201.92
9 Oct	Zoe's Place	£188.26
17 Oct	Ronald McDonald House	£151.58
30 Oct	Weston Spirit	£170.73
6 Nov	Poppies	
13 Nov	Claire House	£181.28
20 Nov	Help the Aged	£152.23
27 Nov	LEPRE	£181.54
4 Dec	Children's Advocacy	£142.14
11 Dec	Pain Relief Foundation	£141.65
2008	Charity	Amount
8 Jan	Guide Dogs for the Blind	£132.91
15 Jan	Marie Curie	£164.90
22 Jan	British Diabetic Association	£195.79
29 Jan	Woodlands Hospice	£176.86
19 Feb	Child Line	£176.48
26 Feb	KIND	£143.68
4 Mar	R N I B	£178.18
11 Mar	Newborn Appeal	£205.47
8 Apr	Camp Kenya	£165.61
15 Apr	British Red Cross	£111.48
22 Apr	Tear Fund	£101.11
29 Apr	British Heart Foundation	£153.62
6 May	Alder Hey Kidney Fund	£73.04
13 May	Royal School for the Blind	£89.65
20 May	Multiple Sclerosis Society	£52.15

Creative Writing Club

Creative Writing Club meets each Wednesday lunchtime in W04, at one o'clock. It's the perfect place to make new friends, explore your imagination amongst like-minded people, and enter competitions, both within the school and nation-wide. Everyone is welcome to attend and prizes are frequently awarded to Blue Coat creative writers, with lots of success for our students in terms of publication.

Our pupils have entered many competitions this year and shared a lot of success, just going to show that Blue Coat students really have got that creative drive. Award ceremonies, glossy published anthologies and in-school triumph have rained over us. Notable mentions have to include those listed here.

Of course, it's always great to get together and help one another to achieve the best we can with our writing.

With Mrs Ludlow at its helm as the head of the club, exercising her ability to both teach and have fun too, there are lots of opportunities within school.

Every year, there is the annual Peter Arnold-Craft Creative Writing Competition, which centres around a theme, with prizes being awarded to the best entry selected from each year group at the annual School Prizegiving Ceremony.

So come along- you'll have a chance to showcase your writing ability and represent the school, as well as an interesting time. Who knows, you might even have the chance of being published in this magazine.

Olivia Sung

29 students have had their poems published in an anthology **Away with Words** and one of these, Mohammad Ali, won first prize, out of 37,000 entries.

40 students entered the **Poetry of Place** competition and two, Rytta Kamarova and Lara Rimmer, were among the 18 finalists, Lara coming in 2nd place, out of nearly 1,000 entries.

Mrs Ludlow won First prize in the Teacher Section.

4 Year 7 students have had their poems published in an anthology about environmental issues.

32 students had their poems published in an anthology **The Big Green Poetry Machine**.

61 students entered the **Foyle Young Poets Competition**.

25 students had their mini sagas published in a collection of short stories.

3 students were finalists in the **Athanaeum Writer in Residence Award**: Portia Harris (2nd prize), James Liu and Helen Skinner.

Table Tennis Club

Credited for the huge success that the school has experienced in recent tournaments, Gary and I help run the lunchtime table tennis club. Born out of our mutual love of the sport, we came up with the idea last year while in the back seat of our car during the morning commute.

To get the idea off the floor, we had to run circles to get permission off everyone. First we asked Mr Barends, then there was Mr. Rees, Head of P.E. and then Mr. Phelan who then told us to see Mr. Rees again until by sheer coincidence both were in the P.E. department to iron out the concerns they had.

I just didn't understand what was wrong! Come on two excellent students like Gary and me, could take charge of the economy if Gordon Brown asked us.

I had my dream and it had finally become reality, we had our Enrichment project well and truly going.

After being given a very clear debrief, we started the club in October time. We practised our strokes in the Dance studio, every Tuesday lunchtime, for the 6th formers, and on Thursday lunchtimes for the lower school. We welcome all players from the abject beginners to the advancing professionals, with the likes of moi included. All we ask is that you bring some trainers along and preferably some deodorant.

Being quite an Asian sport, it was difficult to get others to play, but, with the help of my brother, William, and good friends, we now have quite the multi-cultural club. From the likes of the Indian Kiron Koshy to a very English Matthew Shore. Hopefully, Ofsted will notice this and mention it to the school.

But I don't expect any thanks soon.

I think Table Tennis fever has taken over all those who come to the club. With Amir Ali and Phil Murphy, there every Tuesday at the sound of the lunch bell, and on Thursdays, small year 8 children running around my feet for the key, waiting to grab bats and balls to start their games.

If you're ever stuck in the corridors wandering around on Tuesday/Thursday Lunch, pop by and see the best alternative sport known to man.....

However Sir, I think it's about time that we all avoid clichés like the plague. Don't you?

"All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them." ~ *Walt Disney*

Victor Truong L6I



Bridge Club

The fearful room of N10, home of "that guy who blows up stuff" isn't just a place for chemistry, but a place for bridge, and using various contraband goods. Cough.

At first glance this crypt may seem a bit...geeky. Yes. Yes it is. But the majority of the people inside this room each lunchtime wouldn't be angry with you for saying that. They'd welcome it. Then again, the people in there are all longhaired and odd looking. They'd lynch you if you said 'nerd' though.

Banter, and Kyle's ridiculous pirate hair aside, Bridge Club has been a successful organisation in the past year. In April, the school took part in the North West Schools Teams Championships, in which the top 3 teams from Manchester, Cheshire and Merseyside took on each other in a triangular tournament. The Blue Coat A Team came out on top in the end, with Matthew Herdman, Andrew Marchant, Peter

Stoddart and Paul Spence receiving the Helen Lewis Trophy.

In November last year the school took part in the EBU Schools Simultaneous Pairs Tournament, which is a biennial event attracting over 100 pairs nationally. Harley Jones and Tony Ren came 3rd, Michael Higham and Daniel McMahon coming 5th, and Rebecca Croft and Kieran Woods coming 12th.

Early on in 2009 the school was chosen to represent Merseyside against Grange High School in which our Year 7 team of Luke Kershaw, Paul Roskell, David Eves and Darren Eves won, and the team of Jonathan Woodward and Kyle Wray came out as the school's best team there, which is amazing considering that Kyle's mind is operated by roulette. Woody's the brains of the organisation. Even if he's only 3'9".

Matthew Allen

The Library

The library collection has expanded considerably this year with many editions to all areas of the curriculum. Staff and pupil consultation has meant that the library continues to purchase pertinent stock that is utilised for both the educational and recreational needs of the school. The pupils at Blue Coat are good readers and this has only been improved by promotions such as Boys into Books and Reading Champions. The library is working in partnership with instigators of best practice to ensure that the pupils of the school receive the best possible service from their facility.

New initiatives this academic year that have achieved increased library usage included medical interview workshops, after school homework club, Warhammer gaming club, the library assistant training scheme and seasonal promotions for Halloween and Valentine's Day.

The library will continue to work closely with staff and pupils to improve standards of facilities and service for the next academic year.

D. Newton

School Librarian

Christian Union

As a Christian Union, we believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who died to give us eternal life. We welcome those from all denominations as well as those who are just curious and want to find out more. We meet together every lunchtime, as well as before school for those "early birds" who arrive around 8:30. We view these meetings as a way to spend time enjoying friendly banter as well as learning more about our Creator.

On Tuesdays, Mr Pearson, Mrs Athis and Mrs Coltart run "Youth Alpha" – especially aimed at years 7-10. This fun-filled gathering happens in C21 and consists of games, competitions and other random activities, followed by a short talk, usually from Mr Pearson but occasionally by a guest speaker.

On Wednesdays, Mr Singer invites a variety of guest speakers to speak to us on a whole range of relevant and topical issues in S04. At the beginning of each term there is usually one week where students

can have their input on what topics they'd like to be covered in the following weeks.

Thursday meetings are currently led by some of our 6th formers. We discuss questions raised by any who attend. This is very much led by the pupils for the pupils – a chance for you to have your say!

Mondays and Fridays are a mixture of Bible studies, films, quizzes and worship meetings where several of our very talented students lead on keyboard or guitar. If you're not as skilled a musician as Mr Cowan (!) don't worry: the Bible says "make a joyful noise to the Lord" – no mention of beautiful melodies and harmonies! All meetings are in W10 (Psychology room, behind the Shirley Hall), apart from those on Tuesday s and Wednesdays.

If you still aren't convinced about whether to come and see what goes on, let me ask you one question – where else do you get to see the Bishop of Lancaster's son cover himself in piccalilli?

Katherine Hughes

Badminton Club

Want to develop a whole new skill without even needing to break into a sweat? Then badminton club is the place for you! The sessions take place every Monday after school from 4-6pm in the school sports hall. With just a pair of trainers and casual sports-wear you too can actively join in and reap the raging benefits of badminton club. (Sixth Formers only)

Many people may perceive badminton to be a "pansy" sport, or even an "ethnic" sport, and commonly associate it with negative stereotypes such as it being a game for 'nerds' and for those who can't participate in 'real' sports. However, most of these assumptions are fallacious as badminton is actually a mildly competitive, multicultural sport that provides a relaxing and enjoyable way to keep fit; it can also be just as exhilarating and challenging as Maths, or any other sport.

And with regard to it being a 'pansy' sport, those people should research the history of badminton, which was invented by the venerable Chinese master 'Chow Mein Bad Man Tang', to keep up the Chinese soldier's morale during the Opium War. At first, players would use the eyes of British soldiers as shuttlecocks, and their severed hands as rackets. This was replaced later on with Ox livers as they were found to be more efficient than eyeballs.

There is also a false perception that badminton is basically 'fat man's tennis' and is constantly referred to as a 'girls' sport, this is another untrue statement. We may lack the bulging muscles and masculine prowess of other sports, such as rugby and football, but that

doesn't mean that us "badmintoners" (as we humorously call ourselves) can't still indulge in a little rough and tumble.

At the start badminton may seem like an awkward sport to play and requires an indefinite amount of time in order to improve. You may be thinking, "What is the secret to your success?" My gear. Every top badminton player must have his/her own unique gear. To maximise my performance, I wear tight white training shorts and an electric pink spandex top, my badminton racket is an extension of my arm, and I can reap destruction with my enormous rod of carbon fibre.

Sadly, despite badminton's superiority to other sports, it is unheeded by many due to their lack of understanding of the sport and the falsely projected image of it being 'un-cool'. I myself being Chinese and a recipient of the vast benefits of this sport can assure you that badminton is indeed an excellent choice of sport; it is a demanding activity that requires a mixture of power, speed, grace and elegance from the player. It is a sport that requires long-term commitment and a determination of steel.

In badminton club there is a strong sense of community, we're bound together by a dedication to the sport, and we're always willing to take on board new fanatics of this sport, whether you're socially inept or a 'cool kid' it's fine since this is just another way of broadening your social circle. So, hurry up and join, as spaces are still available!

By Leslie Tang & Alex Hacillo



Music Report 2008-09

"2008 promises its own new and exciting challenges, being both the School's Tricentenary and Liverpool's Capital of Culture year, with March 17th's Spring Concert in the Philharmonic Hall bearing down on us, and the Summer Recital to be held in St. Georges Hall, but without doubt The Blue Coat Musical Society will, true to form, rise to the challenges and make our Tricentenary year truly to be remembered."

These are the words of Nick Miller, a former student of the Blue Coat School. This was his conclusion to the 2007-08 music report. Would Mr Cook be able to survive another hectic year in the Musical Societies' calendar? Would Rafe Wan actually decide that now would be a good time to go to a Choir rehearsal? On this 'upbeat' note, the Music Society now had to prepare for its biggest year yet.

The Philharmonic Hall Concert was fast approaching and rehearsals became more frequent and intense as the day closed in. Ex-pupils were being invited to support the current students. Instrumental teachers of the school even got a chance to perform. Pupils only realised how big this concert was going to be when the after school and weekend rehearsals started!

The day finally arrived and the predicted audience consisted of over 1000 people. This was unheard of in the Blue Coat as the Shirley Hall is lucky to fit in one quarter of that. Further rehearsals took place in the Phil during the daytime and final preparations were made, including where the huge percussion section was going to be situated on the stage. The night started with a traditional trumpet fanfare, Clarke's "Prince of Denmark's March". It was quickly followed by probably one of the most powerful pieces of music ever written: Sibelius' Finlandia. This piece really 'struck a chord'. Many professional orchestras can find this piece challenging and yet the School Orchestra was showing how strong and dedicated they are. The first half closed with the return of James Boughey playing the first movement of Mozart's Piano Concerto in D minor. The second half started with an accent; the Concert Band played classics from Grease

and Abba. One of the highlights of the whole evening was the Misa Criolla Mass sung by the Choir with Tenor Solo Michael Davies, percussion by Louise Goodwin, Alasdair Chatterton and myself, and guitar led by Neil Storey. The applause that followed was longer than I expected, but well deserved. The evening concluded with the Orchestra playing Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1 and everyone, including the audience, singing Land of Hope and Glory, while hundreds of blue and yellow balloons fell from the ceiling.

But, we couldn't stop there. As soon as we returned from our well-earned Easter holiday, we had to follow the 'repeat sign', return to the beginning and start our preparations for Founders' Day and our second big concert of the year.

The Founders' Day Service was suitably enhanced by Choir and Orchestra - Kyrie from Ramirez's Misa Criolla and Von Suppé's Poet and Peasant Overture, respectively.

Next our sights were set on the 26th June: St. Georges Hall. We were performing in the newly renovated Concert Room upstairs. It's a beautiful venue with sweet acoustics, fitting for a light Summer Recital. Although preparations nearly ceased as all Year 10 students were on work experience that week and all Year 13 students had their Leaver's Prom that evening too: Mr Cook, dilemma, help! However, in line with school tradition, the show went on.

The evening opened with the Orchestra playing Schubert's Rosamunde Overture and Ippolitov-Ivanov's Procession of the Sadar. The night was then dominated by solo and duet performances. Nick Miller (remember him?) played Chopin's Nocturne in E Minor and Paul Hughes and Stuart Campbell (the Teen Idol 2007 winner and 2008 runner up) 'swung' their hearts out singing Me and My Shadow. I named the second half the Leaver's Party, as it was time for some of our most senior members to strut their stuff before their prom. Shirley Cao's 1st Movement from Haydn's Sonata in Eb Major was spectacular. However, one person stole the show with his rendition of Gilbert & Sullivan's Mikado. Joe Maryanji sauntered around the Concert Hall amazing the audience with his brilliant acting and singing



Orchestra at the Philharmonic Concert

(Photographer: Mr Crighton)

dexterity. "A more humane Mikado never did in Blue Coat exist".

Our Tricentenary year saw more opportunities open for the Musical Society. The Concert and Jazz Bands played separate gigs (if you will) at the Town Hall for Mr Fee's Newly Qualified Teacher's service and at the Royal School for the Blind for the children there. Two truly appreciative audiences, who really took a liking to the Jazz Band's new super-piece, "What Is Hip?" (I still need an answer to that question).

Once again, the music department had an active role in this year's Prizegiving ceremony. The Choir and Orchestra were on show, performing O Thou the Central Orb and Procession of the Sadar.

We had just reached the 'Coda', but the year was not up. The Annual Christmas Carol Service took place on the 16th December in front of such a huge audience that some parents were standing. The Choir, with their traditional roots, sang Christmas carols in the churchly surroundings of the School Chapel. The Festive Concert followed in Shirley Hall. Peter Athans played his arrangement of the brilliant Mexican (Santa) Hat Dance. The Concert and Jazz Bands presented classics like Jingle Bells, We Wish You A Merry Christmas and White Christmas, sung by Stuart Campbell. The School Orchestra performed a variety of pieces, including Santa at the Symphony (don't ask) and Leroy Anderson's Syncopated Clock. The soloist for this "woodblock concerto" was ...well...me!

However, just as all things seemed calm again, the department decided to be part of the Festive Assemblies on the last day of our Tricentenary Year. There were two separate performances, one to Lower School and one to Upper School. Items included The Pogues' Fairytale of New York, the annual thrashing of 12 Days of Christmas, Mr Cook leading the singing of 'White Christmas'... and the conducting debut of... well... me!

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all the pupils, to thank the hard work, determination (and the occasional justified strop) of Director of Music, Mr Cook and his staff Miss Horton and Mr Miller. Without their inspiration, assistance and tolerance, the school's Music Society would not be of such a high standard at every performance. I would also like to thank everyone who has been part of the Music Society over the past 12 months for their commitment and patience.

With 2009 upon us, the Music Department begins another year of challenges. With the school production of Thoroughly Modern Millie staging soon, the music rooms never have a lunch time free. Will the Millie Band be able to cope with the 'presto tempo' of 1920's American jazz? Will I ever find out "what is hip"? I think we will have to wait and see.

By Shaun Rigby, 11Gr

Descriptive Piece

As the ground collapsed under my feet with the faint sound of the snow creaking like arthritic joints as it sank, and the wind and snowflakes biting at the uncovered parts of my face, it would have been easy to turn back. But the sheer expanse of the white landscape, which melted like candyfloss, oozing into the blindingly blue sky, stopped me. Trudging slowly, the wind whirling through my hair and kamikaze snowflakes melting into sad nothingness on contact with the swirling plumes of my breath, my surroundings seemed ethereal. I sat down on the rickety-looking bench to watch.

So far, I had been alone to soak up the beauty of where I was. It was easy, with the blank canvas of the snowy landscape, to notice the gracefully loping silhouette moving, with a menacing determination, towards me. It was hardly a surprise (how could I fool myself into thinking this was all for me?) until he came closer enough for me to really notice him. The broad, firm set of his shoulders had told me from a distance that he was obviously a boy, his build well developed from the soft clumsiness of a child to the harsh reality of adulthood, easily seventeen or more. It was only as he walked closer that I noticed the boyish sadness to his features, the loveless fascination in his features. His russet hair fell just short of fierce, stern eyes the colour of smoke, headphones snaking from under his tousled, damp hair into the pocket of his heavy wool coat. He sat down next to me, and a soft whisper of the winter wind brought with it his scent of orange peel, ink, paper and candle smoke. He was beautiful, but with no real presence, like a great work of art or a statue. And then, with a sigh that was like broken glass dragged through silk, he was gone.

When the snow began to fall thick and fast in clusters, which blurred the landscape to a fuzzy, indistinguishable clump of grey, the wind began to shriek and moan. When the wind began to whip at the branches of the trees, the thick, bitter cold gnawed at the exposed skin of my face. Winter, I realised, is simultaneous. One moment, the world is calm and at peace. Soon enough, though, the melancholy wind is moaning, the snowflakes are coming thick and fast with a deadly silence and the bleak expanse of the sky is more beautiful and more terrifying than you've ever seen.

When the snow calmed down later, the park began to fill slowly with children. Throwing stout snowballs at each other with their shrill laughter piercing the cold silence, the peace was disturbed. This was a whole different kind of beauty, pink and safe, favoured by parents and children, as apposed to the raw reality I was accustomed to. I would be back tomorrow, probably. Until then...

Fern Stocks 10Gr

Thoroughly Modern Millie

Having put on the production of *Oliver* during the previous year, the school decided that this year we head towards a more thoroughly modern era...

After months of secrecy and rumours as to what the new school production would be, the suspense was lifted from us and the name was revealed: *Thoroughly Modern Millie* – a production which promised to be eccentric, thrilling and quirky in equal measure. Along with the intrigue of this not so well known production came the intrigue of who would be the eccentric, thrilling and quirky in equal measure director. The following week the renowned Mr James Lacey paid a visit to the school to audition a cast.

Auditions began promptly under the practised eyes of Mr Kershaw and James Lacey and soon a fitting cast began to emerge. Not one to dawdle, James threw us straight into rehearsals and before no time we were bevelling like flappers and speaking like Americans. The cast consisted of Ashley Davies as our leading lady (Millie), Stuart Campbell as our leading man (Jimmy), Libby Morris as the cunning Mrs Meers, Tom Maloney as the charming Trevor Graydon, Siobhan Wilson as the naive Miss Dorothy Brown, Lucy Quinn as the glamorous Muzzy Van Hossmere and Daniel Smith and Jack as Charlie and Benny, the unwilling co-conspirators.

Over 10 Sunday rehearsals later and much too soon, it was show week and, despite the glittering costumes and magnificent set it soon became apparent that we were not as polished as the stage was looking. The costumes, thanks to endless hours of sewing by Lacey and his mum, resulted in our best wardrobe yet, including 8 stunning outfits for Millie alone and the set filled with sky scrapers of the bustling New York, courtesy of the talents of our art department, forced us to up-our-game in order to match the high standards they had set. The technical rehearsal allowed us to fit the jigsaw together and gave the technical team a chance to iron out any glitches, including microphone interference from taxi ranks and silencing unforeseen obscenities from the wings, which to their credit they did brilliantly and our thanks go to Mark who each night managed to soothe our

nerves as well as making sure we sounded fantastic!

Of course, any musical needs music and for this the talents of Blue Coat's students and staff were called upon. The band were dragged to every rehearsal that the cast attended, and their patience with the cast's poor knowledge of lines and their perseverance with some cruel key signatures made for a fantastic band which (apart from the odd fortissimo) were a real highlight of the show. This would not have been possible without the hard work, commitment and talents of Miss Horton, who gave up every free minute to conduct the band and get them sounding as fantastic as they did and every other spare second accompanying singers. A mention should also go to Matthew Caine who similarly put up with a huge amount of pestering and spent the time when he wasn't playing piano in the band, accompanying singers in rehearsals.

Having prepared as much as we could it was now opening night and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* was on the stage. Two full houses were followed by a sold out performance on the Friday night and what a night it was. There were songs that moved, that entertained and that were just plain fun and the result was a show that was the perfect combination of a serious storyline with just the right amount of fun and eccentricity. The show was met with endless amounts of compliments and even some wonderful news for the leading couple. It is fair to say that the show was a huge success and has been said by some to be the best show yet, and none of this praise would be deserved if it wasn't for the talents and efforts of Mr James Lacey, who kept the balance of getting the job done and not making us hate him. His choreography and direction made the show the success it was and he truly is a gift to whoever hires him next, and we can only hope that next year will be equally successful and equally eccentric.

Siobhan Wilson



Photographs by James Killick



Alice McRoe



Max Thomas McGenity



Michelle Ariss



Andrew Benfield

Blood Wedding – Bodas de Sangre

The Liverpool Playhouse Theatre, Liverpool

Tuesday 25th November, 2008

The modest Playhouse Theatre seems to be the ideal setting for this production of *Blood Wedding* – the proximity of the audience to the stage echoes a feeling of familiarity, allowing the audience to feel they are part of the play and not merely spectators. As soon as the curtain rises, the audience is immediately catapulted into early 20th century Spain; the perfect sounds played by Juan Martín, unarguably the world's most famous Spanish guitarist, hauntingly resonate throughout the theatre whilst the central characters perform the typically dramatic Spanish gypsy dance to great effect.

It appears unfathomable that Martín, whose *El Arte Flamenco de la Guitarra* is an international best-seller, would agree to perform in this small production of the fiercely Hispanic drama, yet it is equally unfathomable to imagine the play without his delicate melodies. The music is far from an incidental interlude; in fact, it is a major dramatic technique used in this tragedy, which helps to intensify the dramatic tension and the passion of the characters. Although at times, Martín appears somewhat bored and out of place sitting at the rear of the stage, his fervour and vehemence cannot be denied; effortlessly shifting from the gentle, lucid rhythms as the lovers share an embrace, to the staccato, urgent beat of charging horses, he enhances each scene with a sense of foreshadowing of the inevitable tragedy.

Several of the scenes, most notably the wedding party and the scene where we are introduced to the Bridegroom and his Mother, feature a long wooden table, often laden with bread and wine. This is strikingly symbolic of the famous image of the Last Supper, fuelling the audience with further foreshadowing of the tragedy that is yet to unfold. Throughout the play, the scenery is remarkably simplistic, adapting only slightly yet efficiently to present the different circumstances. Furthermore, props are brought on by the protagonists in character, easily seen by the audience, rather than by stagehands during a blackout. This, along with the minimalism of the set, proves hugely effective; the basic structure of the play and its setting help to heighten the tragedy and allows the play to remain reminiscent of how Lorca would have originally intended it to be performed.

Lorca uses foreshadowing throughout the play to intensify the tragedy and to emphasise the simplicity of the story. 'Blood Wedding' is by no means an original tale, but the techniques Lorca uses to present the narrative to the audience add an entirely new aspect to an otherwise predictable tale. The audience is sorrowfully aware from the very beginning of the play that the Bridegroom will play the part of the tragic hero; the Bridegroom's Mother continuously refers to pistols and knives, reminding her only remaining son that her other offspring

and her husband were killed by such violent weapons. This foreshadowing, as well as the title of the play which screams of violent connotations, alerts the audience that the Bridegroom will suffer a similar fate to his brother and father.

It is significant that all but one of the characters remain nameless throughout the play; Leonardo, who guides the Bride into temptation and away from her faithful Bridegroom, is portrayed as the villain of the drama, launching the tragic aspect of the play into motion. The Bride resigns herself to her fate, somehow aware of the events that will occur. At one intense moment in the play between her and Leonardo, the Bride cries: 'I can't bear to hear your voice... And it's tugging me forward; I know that I'm suffocating, but I still go on.' In this production, the actress recites this vivid monologue with such precision, enhanced with dramatic caesuras, that the audience is desperate to find out what will happen next, despite the seemingly obvious plot structure.

The Bridegroom's hamartia, or personality flaw that leads to the tragic downfall, is revealed quite early on; in complete contrast to Shakespeare's famous tragic hero of Othello, the Bridegroom's flaw is that he loves and trusts his wife to the extreme, and cannot conceive that she would be unfaithful. His devotion to his wife comes across to the audience as naivety and eventually leads to the foreseeable tragedy. In this production, the Bridegroom is portrayed as an innocent and vulnerable yet instantly likeable character, thus making this downfall all the more poignant.

The personification of the figures of Death and the Moon may at first appear absurd, and unfortunately, the audience on this occasion misinterpreted this dramatic technique as a comedic intermission, but this intensely dramatic moment is, to an extent, convincing and effective. Although, at times, this climax deserved a more muted retelling, overall the acting oozed credibility and enthusiasm, which is admirable of such a small-scale production.

This production of Lorca's *Blood Wedding* may not be perfect; there are moments where the acting could be considered excessive and extreme, and the best attempts of Ted Hughes to translate Lorca's beautifully poetic language sometimes restricts the fluidity of the narrative, but the cast's passion and determination to present such a simple story in the way that Lorca would have intended is extremely commendable. What the cast lacks in experience and natural professionalism, they make up in fervour and determination, resulting in a well-told tragedy and an audience with a satiated desire for excitement.

By Jack Kenny

Ballet Trip

On the evening of Monday the 10th of February, a dozen privileged members of the 6th form General Studies community witnessed, many for their first time, the wonders of Pyotr Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*.

Although the skilled choreography was wasted on many of its ballet-virgin patrons, myself and Mr Cox included, our first performance was a spectacle to remember. The eloquent movements of the dancers intrigued and bedazzled the onlookers, even though the narrative was unknown to them. At times it was strangely reminiscent of Coleridge's *Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, with the protagonist chasing a swan (albatross?) wielding a crossbow with the intention of killing the bird, which was guiding him to salvation.

The tale begins in a magnificent park before a castle. Prince Siegfried, heir to the kingdom, must choose a bride but he does not take to any of them and at night, flees to the forest. At night, he comes upon a beautiful swan-like creature with which he is instantly enamoured. The two dance, and the swan tells the prince that her name is Odette and the evil Baron von Rothbart has cursed her to remain a swan forever at night. Amongst some generically dramatic confusion, the two lovers declare their love at the end of the dance in classically tragic form. They die. Along with the bad guy. As simple as the story is, the purpose of the evening was not to decipher any social realism that has survived the centuries but to absorb the incredible skill by which the Russian dance troupe put their bodies to the test for the purpose of our cultural enlightenment.

The Blue Coat crew were thoroughly entertained and would recommend an evening at the ballet for any who stumble upon the opportunity, especially if it is your first time. The tutus were pretty too.

Jonathan Reid

Camelot Trip

Everyone was happy on the one day of the year that everyone goes to a fun place together on a few loud, hot coaches.

As soon as we arrived a few dozen lads bombed through the whole theme park to get to the good rides, leaving Mr Crighton telling his utterly HILARIOUS jokes about "spamalot" behind them. The queues were fairly long for most of the good rides but no one complained that much because there was a FANTASTIC voice- over every two minutes repeating the story beginning "legend has it there is a land...".

There were a few people too many feeling sick after being on 'Excalibur 2' and 'whirlwind' but 'knightmare' was less sickly and just as fun.

There were many antics on the coach on the way home including a toy monkey, a giant teddy cat and a noddy mask as people looked back on a very funny day!

Luke Chandler

Empire Theatre

We arrived at the theatre at around 10 o'clock and were met by the tour guide. She took us through the Empire Theatre's actual theatre; up to the stalls to the best seats and even on the stage!

She told us a story about a ghost who apparently still haunts the theatre and people have heard her cries. They showed us how they created an ice skating rink for select scenes in certain plays: they would have a swimming pool full of water, frozen, and would move all 1.5 tonnes of solid ice onto the stage during the play. Afterwards they would not be able to throw it away as one piece, so they cut it up and put it in the lift and dump it on the road to melt.

After we saw the theatre we were taken up the stairs to the very top into an acting room. When we were there we met an acting teacher who worked on Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, by explaining more about it.

We worked on the language and the Nurse's attitude and how she always drifted off the subject. We also did role plays such as a replay of a scene with the nurse and when Juliet is asked how she feels about marriage.

After that we made our own improvisation of the marriage scene but in the style of a TV show or film that we watch, such as *Star Wars* or *High School Musical*. In the end we all had fun and we would recommend it to students for years to come.

Matthew Boyle 8Bi

Alton Towers 2008

On Tuesday 15th July, while Year 7 was enjoying the elephants and lions at Chester Zoo and Years 8 and 9 were having a laugh at Camelot, Year 10 students set off for our end of year treat: Alton Towers.

The journey there was long and arduous, but the gruelling trip was soon forgotten when we arrived. We were set free in the amusement park with our day ticket and our queue jumping pass.

There were many screams and much laughter as the students endured the lightning speed of Rita, the height defying Oblivion and the topsy-turvy Nemesis. However, like all good theme parks, The Flume managed to get everyone smiling.

Once all of the pictures of the day were collected, we were summoned back to the coaches and began our exhausting drive back to school. Then, the chants started, some more harsh than others. "Oh, Happy Al. He drives a coach. Oh, Happy Al he drives a coach..." began ringing around the coach as we got closer and closer to home. The chants will never be forgotten.

I would like to thank Mr Ainsworth, Mr Barends, the Year 10 form tutors and of course, Happy Al for making the trip possible.

Shaun Rigby, 11Gr

GCSE Berlin Trip

On the 20th October, a large group of Years 10 and 11 went on a three-night historical visit to Berlin. Once there, we settled into our hotel which was surprisingly comfortable although looking like a prison, albeit one decorated with brightly-coloured abstract artwork. We then visited the Kaiser Wilhelm memorial and sampled the vibrant Berlin nightlife.

This in itself was interesting enough but the icing on the cake (indeed on the whole holiday) was our resident tour guide John Watson – his brutal, no-nonsense style of lecturing us added to the frightfully posh accent made what would have been rather dull in a textbook come to life before our eyes – that man was just amazing.

On the Tuesday, we went to the palace in Potsdam where Germany's fate was decided after the Second World War. From there we visited Checkpoint Charlie, the Soviet and the Holocaust memorials, the 1936 Olympic stadium, the Reichstag and the Brandenburg gate. It was fantastically organized, and although busy, a lot was learned and gained by all.

Wednesday was home to the most memorable experience of the trip – a visit to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. This outing was tactfully dealt with, and I don't think that anyone will forget what they saw that day. That night we paid a visit to the phenomenal TV tower in the centre of Germany's capital. The view was awe-inspiring, and an



enjoyable time was had by everyone. All in all, as well as being an invaluable educational experience for everybody who attended, the school holiday to Berlin was a hugely entertaining opportunity that shouldn't have been missed. I know I have found it invaluable to the understanding of our current GCSE course, so if it does become an annual trip, make sure you sign up to see the amazing and conflicting "layers" (layers) of Berlin!

Max Thomas-McGenity 11Gr

Oxford Dinner 2009

On Wednesday 8th April, 54 Year 12 students, 6 staff and 5 former students travelled to the beautiful city of Oxford for the annual Oxford Dinner. This year, we were privileged to be the guests of Pembroke College, one of the most historic and beautiful colleges of Oxford.

After checking into our accommodation, Mr Cox and Mr Jamieson led two tours around Oxford, taking in many of the 38 colleges as well as the picturesque surroundings. As part of the tour, we were able to look around the grounds of Lincoln College and received a fascinating talk about the history of Lincoln and its historic Chapel by one of the Fellows.

Later in the afternoon, one of the Access Officers from University College met with us and delivered a lively and informative presentation to the students about the life and opportunities of Oxford and more importantly what the students have to do if they wish to apply.

The focal point of the trip was the formal Black Tie Dinner in the evening at Pembroke and we were joined for this by Mr Tittershill and Mr Caulfield and their wives. To sit and eat in the Grand Dining Hall was a truly memorable experience and the Dinner culminated with speeches by Mrs Silcock, Mr Cox and Claire Thomas, a former Blue Coat student, now in her second year at Pembroke. Mrs Silcock and Mr Cox outlined the exciting opportunities that lie ahead for the students whilst Claire sought to dispel some of the myths about applying to Oxford and gave students a real insight into life at her college. All the students revelled in this wonderful environment which hopefully inspired them all to think about applying to either Oxford or

Cambridge in October. The Dining Hall was full of lively conversation and this gave the students a chance to see the possibilities that lie ahead.

To round off a thoroughly enjoyable evening our former students then accompanied the current cohort around Oxford to sample some of the Oxford nightlife.

Many thanks to Mrs Silcock, Mr Cox, Mr Jamieson, Miss Hodson, Miss Horton, Miss Murphy and Mr McBride for their help in ensuring this event was a resounding success.

Mr S Cox & Mr S Jamieson



Kenya Trip 12th July to 9th August 2008

Mrs Ludlow writes:

If you have turned to this page first, then please return to the Editorial, which includes a full report on what we actually did. The trip was such a huge success that another is planned for 2010. We (14 students, Mr McBride and I), owe huge thanks to many people for helping to make the trip possible: the many people in Kenya who made the trip worthwhile; Camps International; Financial donations from: Ms Caroline Tod of Tod Travel scholarships; Mr M Cook, for Gifted and Talented; The Blue Coat Old Blues Brotherly Society.

At the end of the trip, the students wrote their own feelings about it and it is my pleasure to include them here:

Charly Benbow

The experience that I think will stick out most.. is meeting the children. Every child we met was affected by poverty but still seemed to be so happy. It was the most amazing feeling knowing I was helping them.... I've had the best month of my life and become so close to everyone else in the group.



Kerrie Richardson

This month has undoubtedly been one of the best in my life. The experiences that I have had here will remain with me forever. The single experience that has had the biggest effect on me is meeting the children. They have taught us what it takes to be truly happy: each of them is so grateful for a single word from us and never forgets to say hello and ask how you are.



Portia Harris

Coming to Kenya has been the experience of a lifetime. ...I have learnt that it is not truly possible to appreciate what you have until you see people who have not. The children in Sasenyi Primary School savoured every grain of rice and had no cutlery to eat it with. I am so glad to have made a small difference to their lives and so thankful to them for the big difference to mine.



Caitlin Higgott

I feel I have truly learnt that I don't have to have money to be happy. I am so proud of our group because we worked so hard on our project, and we had such a laugh with the scuba diving. What I will miss most about this trip is our group: we have all bonded and I will never forget anyone. I am very grateful to all the staff at Camps who made this trip possible, and especially Stacey, Mrs Ludlow and Mr McBride.



Melissa Longworth

This past month's experiences will send me home a changed person, as I hope I will value the smaller, more important things, pushing luxuries aside. I have learnt I can help change people's lives by making any contributions, such as giving essentials they need. I hope I get an opportunity like this again.

Nathalie Connell

This has been the most amazing experience of my life and has changed me as a person in so many ways. The children we have met have made me realise how lucky I am: many of them have no shoes, food nor water, yet they have enthusiasm and smiles on their faces. Our attitude to the project work was incredible. A huge 'thank you' to everyone involved in this trip – you have made it amazing and I don't want to go home! I'm going home a better person – thanks Mrs Ludlow, Mr McBride and Stacey.



Paul Spencer

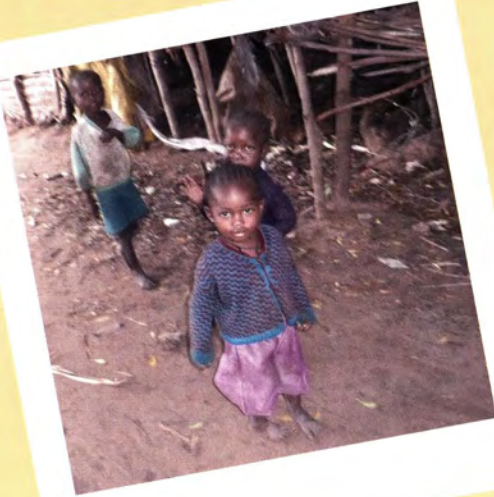
This month has been packed with amazing experiences shared with friends. I think everyone is leaving a better and more mature person. All the things we have been through, I feel, personally, have better equipped me for life and I am confident that I have found skills to help me cope at university. I couldn't imagine the trip being as good with any other combination of people.



Kenya Trip

Richard Leng

The trip has been more than worth it and I'll take back some unforgettable memories. This has been the best month of my life so far. The people we've met and the places we've been to have just been amazing! Getting to know everyone in a different light has been fantastic. A truly eye-opening experience.



Colin Poole

The tone of the whole trip has been hard work coupled with a lot of good laughs. The first school we visited, Kinondo, brought the first tears to my eyes. We worked so hard in Makongeni, but it was worth every bead of sweat to get so many projects done in a week. At Tsavo, seeing so many wild animals was amazing. Thanks to all the staff, this has been the best month I could have hoped for; we have been very lucky. PS I will never wear a nappy again!



James Hodgkiss

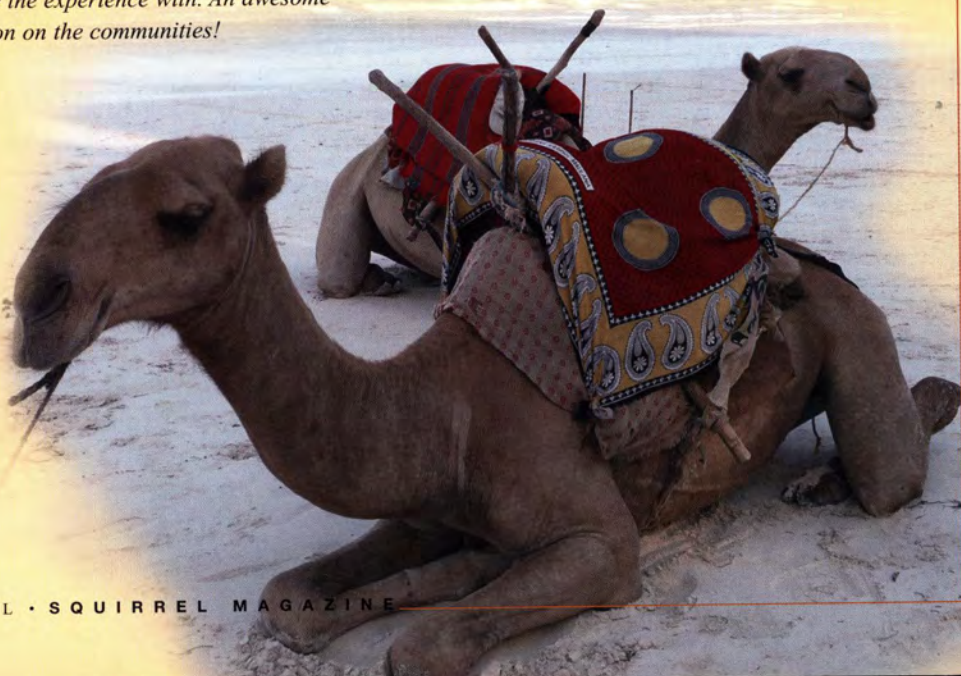
This has been a phenomenal month and I feel I have matured and am ready for the future. The sense of achievement and knowing that we've made a difference to so many people is a feeling that will stay with me forever. Doing this has inspired me to continue doing work like this.

David Boulton

Several things stood out about this trip and these varied from the kindness of strangers to the extreme poverty that was evident. So much was happening that the time to comprehend what we were seeing was not available until the journey to Tsavo camp. The work we did was interesting, challenging and fun and I couldn't have asked for a better group of people to share the experience with. An awesome trip and I just hope we made a lasting impression on the communities!

James Richmond

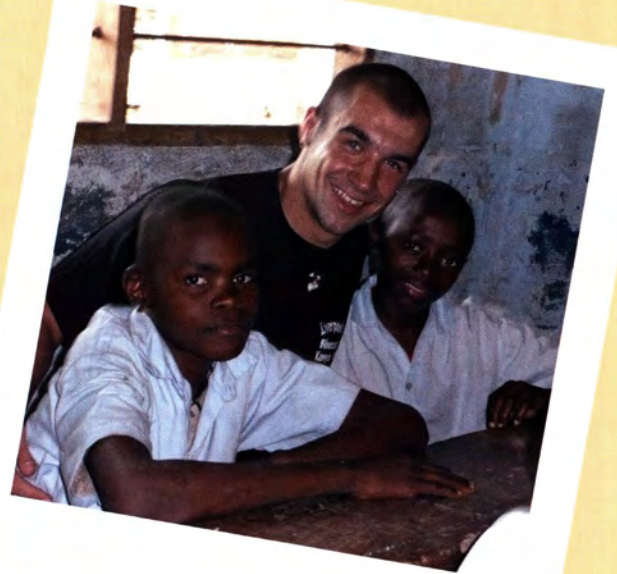
It's extremely difficult to summarise a month spent in Kenya with such a kind, funny, hard-working group. Together we have made a difference to communities in great need and I honestly believe that the experience wouldn't have been the same if any one person were missing. I've gained valuable life skills that will certainly help my transition to higher education.





Alex Hooley

Wow! I don't know what to say or where to begin! The past month has been the best time of my life - thank you (Mrs Ludlow) for making this whole thing possible, and for giving me the opportunity to participate in such a unique expedition.



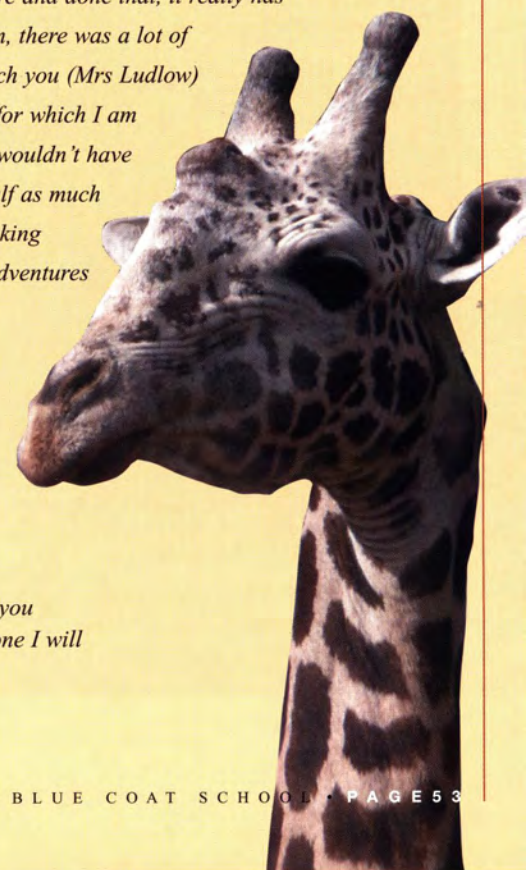
David Preston

OMG! Where do I start? Trip of a lifetime: loved every second of it and I wouldn't have missed it for the world. The poverty I witnessed, although bad at first, seemed a small factor in the lives of the people we met, who were, happy, smiley, helpful and grateful. The trip as a whole has given me the boost I needed to now somehow incorporate this lifestyle into my career and I can't wait to get started. Love everyone and live life to its fullest! Cheers loads, guys!



Mr McBride

Not a bad way to finish the year, and we certainly landed on our feet with such an excellent group of people. Putting our names up in the staff room 18 months' ago didn't really seem that big a deal and now to have been there and done that, it really has been awesome. In between, there was a lot of organising and work, which you (Mrs Ludlow) put in behind the scenes, for which I am very grateful. I definitely wouldn't have enjoyed the experience half as much without the company. Looking forward to retelling our adventures to the masses....!



Stacey Sargisson: Team Leader, Camps International

It has been a rollercoaster of a ride. I feel honoured to have shared this experience with you (Mrs Ludlow) and the rest of the team. Thank you for everything; this journey has been one I will remember for the rest of my life. We did it!



Philip Kelly



Max Thomas McGenity



Lewis Coenen Rowe



Alice McRoe

Tod Travel Scholarship - Czech Republic

During August 2008, a group of prospective engineers and medics comprising James Killick, Jing Ouyang, Nick Farandos, David McGowan, Zong Yan and Peter Thompson, secured funding to visit universities and a hydroelectric dam in the Czech Republic.

We stayed at 'Hotel Kafka' for 4 nights, a budget B&B in the Zizkov district of eastern Prague. Arriving late on Sunday night, we immediately dumped our bags in the hotel and explored the local area. A visit to the Czech Republic would not be complete without sampling the famous local cuisine, so naturally that was the first thing we chose to do, settling on a small tourist bar round the corner to satisfy our appetites and quench our thirst.

Next morning, we discovered the hotel's "Continental" breakfast consisted mainly of 3 different types of ham, cold toast and coffee that was far from brown. The rest of the day was spent wandering around Prague in partial awe of the magnificent architecture steeped in history and culture. We visited St Wenseclas Square, the national museum and the castle, as well as stopping regularly for drinks and goulash.

On the second day we planned to visit Charles University, the oldest university in the world. Following our maps to the supposed entrance, we found nothing but a peripheral research site in need of much renovation. Asking locals for directions was not an option as we

spoke barely a word of Czech between us, apart from the key phrases 'pivo' and 'prosim' ('beer' and 'please' of course). What we did find though was an Internet cafe, and we promptly located the main site of the university on the ever reliable Google maps. Although we couldn't arrange a formal tour, we were allowed onto the campus and into some of the lecture buildings.

On our final full day, James, Dave and Zong travelled to Brno, the country's second city, to visit the hydroelectric dam. We learned the hard way that the Czech Republic has deplorable motorways and uncomfortable coaches. Getting to the dam itself was a bit of a task, as we had to decipher Brno's complex tram network to get out to the reservoir on the edge of the city. Unfortunately, due to low water levels in the reservoir, the dam was not fully operational, but it did provide a first hand example of a large scale engineering project and the infrastructure surrounding it.

The next morning was spent trawling through the many tourist shops buying tacky gifts and souvenirs. Armed with giant Czech flags, Soviet hip flasks, and 'Czech Me Out' T-shirts, we boarded our afternoon flight back home to familiar Liverpool. Only by returning home did we begin to appreciate the different surroundings and culture we had experienced, made possible only by the Tod Travel Scholarship funding, which allowed us this incredible adventure.



Spain Trip 2008

On the last week of the summer term, this year's Spanish trip left the not-so-sunny England for the not-as-sunny-as-we-thought Spain. Years 7,8 and 9 saw a change in the usual 'too cool for school teacher crew'. The leader being the one and only 'Obe' followed by his very own shadow ... 'Ado'.

The Hotel Calypso well, let's just say, never judge a book by its cover. We were pleased with the results when we checked in and it turned out to have all of the facilities an excited scouser could want. Including a Jacuzzi on the roof. Isn't that right Cornwall, Gettel and Ado? Once settled in, the students headed for the pool, the teachers for the bar.

Until... to our horror ... unexpected ... A STORM! The entire ground floor was flooded and the electricity went off. This would be the start of an interesting 6 days.

Sunday morning, we paid a visit to Torres. Well, sort of. Torres Wine Caves that was founded in 1870. We took a trip round the cellars where we were educated about... wine. To finish it off we got to taste the wine. Well, the grape juice. After that, we headed to the coach and 'hit Barcelona Baby' and took in the views of Barcelona from Montjuic. Afterwards, we took a trip to the Olympic Stadium where the Olympics were held in 1992.

Monday morning was an early start. We were on the coach by 8.30am, ready to leave for the Nou Camp, sunglasses and shorts, prepared for the heat wave. After a long coach journey filled with many songs, we arrived at the Nou Camp for a tour of the stadium, and all its glory, including a look in the changing rooms, trophy room, chapel and press box.



Following the tour, we visited the huge gift shop where we had the chance to buy souvenirs such as football kits, key rings and woolly socks for Miss Henderson. We spent the rest of the day going around Barcelona, visiting various landmarks such as the Sagrada Familia, the Gaudi houses and wandered down Las Ramblas in the boiling heat. To finish off our tour of Barcelona, we went to the port for a quick cool down in the sea. We were reunited with our tour guide, Eva, and headed back to the hotel. That night, we boogied on down to Salou for some free time to shop and explore the nightlife.

Tuesday we had the opportunity to fill out our workbooks and ended up having time to spend on one of the beaches in Salou. After an hour of failed sandcastles and waterfights, we went back to the hotel and got ready for our much anticipated outing to Port Aventura.

Port Aventura proved to be a massive hit – especially with Mr O'Brien, with Furious Baco being the most exhilarating, reaching speeds of 135km/h in 3 seconds.



That night we arrived back to the hotel to be greeted by our new friend Yohan, a 15 year old wannabe gangster from Guadeloupe, however he didn't become too friendly with Ado and Gettel after a series of harsh words and chases onto the hotel roof. The entertainment of the night came in the form of a cheesy show in the hotel bar.

On Wednesday emotions ran high and turned into the best day of the holiday. Starting off in the Costa Caribe Water Park, we took to the water slides and wave machine, with great excitement and closely followed by our new Guadeloupen friend. After lunch we walked through to the theme park for our second day of thrill seeking on Hurricane Condor, Stampida, Furious Baco, Dragon Khan and many others. We explored each themed sections of the park such as Polynesia, the Wild West and China, also having the chance to ride on our favourite roller coaster in the dark before meeting back at the main lake at midnight for a magnificent firework display and a spectacular float and lantern show on the lake. After a series of dramas, a missing student, emotional Year 9 girls not wanting to leave and a group photo by the fountains, we headed back to the coach singing our adopted holiday song 'Summer Sunshine' and unknown to the teachers, the back of the bus were planning a fully clothed pool invasion. 0100 hours. Main pool.

The last day arrived too quickly and brought with it a day of relaxation, a chance to buy last minute presents and an award ceremony hosted by Ashley and Callum who awarded prizes for best swimwear, holiday romance, biggest cob on and smelliest teachers which was without a doubt awarded to Miss Henderson and Miss Cornwall who between them managed to bring a grand total of ZERO cans of deodorant. Rachel, Holly and us two took it upon ourselves to buy Obe a thank you present – a 10kg burger from XL burger café, but he didn't eat it and it was left to mould on our balcony. It was an eventful last night, especially for us and our other Year 9 girls which ended in being sent to bed earlier than expected.

In the morning we were out of our rooms and checked out by 12 and on our way to Barcelona airport which was the end of one of our best school holidays. We would definitely recommend going on this trip for the hot weather, great day trips, brilliant theme park and waterpark and unforgettable memories!

By Ashley Davies and Sara Edwards 10 Blundell

Model United Nations General Assembly

The United Nations – a beacon of hope to all worldwide and a symbol of the prevalence of democracy and freedom over the tyranny and evils that still exist to this very day. The United Nations is a rare example of international collaboration for good, as was the Model United Nations General Assembly; a rare example of a prestigious opportunity for the school's year 12 Politics department to get involved in a serious and enriching event. Set in the Georgian grandeur of Liverpool's council chamber, politics students represented several countries of the UN and campaigned on the various issues debated. The countries represented were the USA, Australia, Russia, and Burma, which all provided sufficient challenge for the students representing those countries.

After an introduction to the event, the day began with a debate on asylum, in which students defended and justified the political stance of the country that they were representing on the issue, and as ever the suggestions made in the debate were thoughtful, provocative and powerful, hence the extremely high quality of debate.

Following a short break, the students split up into smaller groups to represent their country in several debates taking place simultaneously,

with subject matters of education, the right of citizens to take part in government and the right to liberty, protection and security, on which the students formed resolutions to be voted upon at the end. Once again, the students stood up to the fierce, competitive atmosphere of the debates, and represented their country and their school with passion, vigour and intellect and sheer interest in the matters of discussion.

Having endured the barrages of the debates, the students prepared for the final verdict of the General Secretary on the resolutions as the event closed with a speech from Lord David Alton, followed by the final outcome of the resolutions which was that no action was to be taken since the votes were tied, thanks to the rather dubious system of counting the cards raised on which the names of the countries were printed.

Regardless of the overall outcome of the event, the day was a unique experience for politics students to exercise their political knowledge and mettle as orators, and will be fondly remembered as an enjoyable and educating event for all of those who took part.

Michael Higham L6A

Alton Towers Trip

There's something slightly magical about Alton Towers. I remember my first trip there in year seven after convincing myself that the rides would be of a similar nature to Camelot (I had been there only a few months earlier). Suffice to say, I was wrong, but in a good way: I'd developed this weird, almost shameful addiction to roller coasters as a result: something I haven't quite gotten over to this day.

So we were given the opportunity last year to attend yet again. By this point my friends and I were approaching veteran status, knowing almost immediately the entire layout of the park and the best order to go on the rides. For those who are intending to go, buy your tickets on the internet and use the £8 you save buying a fast track ticket: the luxury status you receive for the same price and the under-the-breath swearing from the ordinary plebs in other queue is easily worth sacrificing the discount.

That being said, we managed to get onto all of the main attractions: Oblivion, Rita, Air, Nemesis *et al.* The weather was like something from a storybook the entire day, so there was even room for the log flume with adequate drying time afterwards. Does anyone seriously ever fork out the £3 for those cheap plastic ponchos? Seriously? And are we the only ones who end up singing that song from Willy Wonka when they're on the chocolate river?

The trip was rather eventful too: an impromptu science experiment was performed to see if an iPhone could survive an accidental fall from Air (Or if someone could survive getting hit by it...), which resulted in a surprising success. There was also a power cut, which at first caused us all to groan as we were thrown out of Hex, but it all ended well: since all the heaters in the fast food restaurants were offline, Burger King and KFC opened their doors to allow a parade of beautiful staff workers, laden with delicious fried bounty, handing out free burgers and fries in order to jettison stock (Note: beautiful is not the word I'd use if they weren't offering freebies).

There was something slightly sad when going into the Caveman-themed place only to find the Corkscrew closed. Apparently something new is going to replace our favourite death trap. Supposedly, it's going to be one of those 'world firsts' like Air was when it came out. First without safety bars? First to guarantee whiplash? The possibilities are endless!

Kudos go to Miss Millar who went on her first roller coaster (Runaway Mine train, but still) and Mr. Cox who apparently braved Oblivion. I wish someone had recorded it, actually: having teachers swear bloody murder whilst free-falling at 80 miles per hour would probably get a far few hits on youtube. Ah well: I can dream.

Alex Leece

Chester Zoo

It would probably be advisable that, before you read this article, you catch up on my previous report on the English trip to Howarth. If you have, by all means pass go and collect two hundred pounds. And by that, I mean read on.

Conforming to my theory that every subject has an obvious 'trip location', I assumed that the standard A2 Biology affair would be a trip to a natural history museum of some kind (Perhaps our department in town?). Alas, I was wrong, and it was the more (bleedingly) obvious: Chester Zoo (Not obvious enough, however: Miss Henderson, as we sat in the dining hall in our scarves and mittens, stood up and told us all, plainly 'Today, everyone, we are going to the zoo!').

So as to ensure the future of A2 school trips, I shall reiterate, as with my previous report that it was, despite all jokes, rather useful. Much praise goes to our exceedingly well made presentation on Darwin's theory of natural selection, as factually it exceeded the recent BBC documentary headed by David Attenborough. The reason for this is obvious, of course: the average adult BBC2 evening viewer on a Friday is neither working for an A-Level Biology qualification, nor in a state of complete sobriety; so I'm fairly grateful for the educational team for tailoring our talk to our syllabus.

The weather favoured no-one other than the penguins, yet the cold did hold one advantage: we were practically the only people there. As a result, the animals appeared to be in a state of relaxation one doesn't

often get to see. This provided a far better insight into their behaviour, with many animals acting in surprising ways: the elephants, seemingly taking advantage of the lack of human beings were wandering around in the frost-bitten enclosure, implying their willingness to sacrifice heat for privacy.

I know, however, that most will not be reading this for factual information, so I shall move without delay to our time wandering around the actual zoo. Now, one would think that, since there is a certain 'circle of life' theme with this trip (We go to Chester Zoo in year 7, I think) that we would have some kind of maturity when viewing the animals majestically waltz through their habitats. One is very much mistaken. Wandering around the zoo was exactly the same experience as if we were ten or twelve years younger: we made crude comments about animal dung, gave them nicknames (Rasta-Man the Orangutan will forever be a legend in my eyes) and re-enacted scenes from the Dark Knight in the Bat-cave.

As tempted as I am to now ramble on about extortionate prices in the gift shop, I shan't. Miss Henderson did splash out on new animals for her ever growing menagerie in N16, however. £4 for a plastic Hippo? The credit crunch evidently doesn't apply when aquatic mammals are involved...

Alex Leece

Blencathra

The happiest day of my life was the day I found out I was going on a geography field trip. My hairs (that are in great abundance) stood on end with excitement about the news. I would be following in the footsteps of geographers such as Mother Teresa, Michael Jordan, Simon Armitage and Kurt Angle.

Mr Lamb, ('Lamby'), had informed us that we would be spending a total of 3 days studying the river variations along the course of the Glenderaterra Beck and that we would be in a area moulded by the action of Glacial erosion. The whole class erupted in a cheer as we had all become extremely passionate of the topic of glaciation. Soon the day came when we began our epic journey into the unknowns of the Blencathra Field Centre in the Lake District.

The weather in Blencathra was quite naughty when we arrived. It was a shame as we all then had to suffer the wrath of our supervisor, the Grinch, who Lamby clearly wasn't fond of. The staff in general were all quite good I thought, they all knew their stuff. The accommodation was strategically placed so that the boys could be separated from the girls, which was a shame. However, it was not too difficult to sneak around to the girls dormitories late in the evening, once Katherine Gilroy had sent the text to inform us that it was all clear.

Every day we were sent on commando treks through the rain and wind, in order to collect data and view landscapes. I could not think of a better way to spend my time. Hot and sweaty on the top of a mountain is every geographer's paradise and you become fond of sketching geographical features onto soggy paper with blunt pencils.



Rodders seemed almost too at home up at the top of a mountain where he was telling me of his escapades when he was a young "Gallah" in his native land. What an absolute rebel. Peter Miller and I enjoyed supervising Alex Waters and James Killick while they braved the river to collect our particular group's data, quite nice of them to offer really, and we all enjoyed Joe Noon trying to walk on water-an absolute classic. Emma Longworth seemed to change from a girl to a seasoned SAS veteran as we trekked around the mountains. By a seasoned SAS veteran, I mean a middle-aged man that is a little past it.

Every evening we would sit around a campfire while Alex Waters strummed out some tunes on his acoustic, with lyrics that he had

written inspired by the surrounding glacial troughs. Inspirational. The evening classes were quite educational, with the focus on the theory about the work that we had been doing in the day which I found to be a great use. Rodders spent the time getting snide shots of us all for his wall display that has yet to appear. I also, for the first time, discovered that Katherine Bellis imitates a great trumpet.

We would be able to spend time in the games room, while the "Teachers" went elsewhere before coming down to challenge us to a game of football before we were sent to bed. Joe Noon decided one

afternoon to use one of the pool cues as a weapon because OH JAY had munched on some of his crisps.

On a serious note, I found the practical aspect to be a great way to teach about the numerous ways to collect data in the field. The way in which it was enforced by a solid theoretical basis provided by the staff at the Centre along with Mr Lamb and Mr McGreevy was excellent and I honestly thought that it was a great experience which added to my interest in geography. The only shame was the fat exam that we had to take the following January.

Berlin Trip

For four days last October, the bears of Berlin welcomed a ramshackle group of teens into their city to run wild. After check-in, a stress over the quantity of liquids allowed on the plane and a bite to eat whilst sitting on the conveniently placed gym equipment in the airport, the Blue Coat team headed off under the watchful eye of our chaperones, and oddly enough, Mr Singer who happened to be there that day travelling to Dublin. We arrived at our hotel to find it already overrun with students from all over the world; during our stay we encountered Romanians – who enjoyed chasing us in masks, and Italians – at a safe distance, as we know how charming they can be.

Under the care and tutelage of three knowledgeable tour guides, Peter, Dave and John, we set out that first night for a wander around Germany's capital city. We strolled under the Brandenburg gate, ran up the steps of the Reichstag and stood on either side of the infamous Berlin Wall divide. All in all the first night was a whirlwind of culture and fun, which culminated in holing up at a mall in Berlin where the best crêpes in all of Europe were on sale - nutella crêpes lovingly crafted by a master; they will always hold a special place in my heart.

The second day was packed full of German history – quite appropriate really; our winding adventure around Berlin took us to Schloss Cecilienhof, where the leaders of the victorious Allied Nations met to discuss the outcomes of World War 2. The building was a beautiful palace, based on an English country manor; specific rooms in the home were tailored to their inhabitants, for example, the dining room had a feel of a ship, designed for the Princess Cecile. After the palace, we set off to the Olympic stadium, and then onto Checkpoint Charlie – an important checkpoint on the Berlin Wall. Here we had our pictures taken with two 'guards' one of whom had a penchant for English accents; bad English accents too. As we all know, an important aspect of being in a foreign country is foreign currency and its uses, i.e. shopping. At Checkpoint Charlie, there were various souvenir stands and bargains to be had – the majority of us walked away with bartered German Army hats. The night finished in a competitive bowling session so exciting it caused Mr. Pearson to break out into dance and declare his love (however sarcastically) for an unhelpful German lane attendant.

The final full day before our little family headed off to good old British soil had a sombre beginning. We visited a concentration camp – Sachsenhausen, where an estimated 30 to 35 000 victims lost their lives. Walking around the camp is a moving, heart-breaking occurrence, to stand where families were torn asunder and look upon

the pit where mass murders took place as a free person is humbling and an experience we will not readily forget. After we left through the imposing gates inscribed with the famed slogan 'Arbeit Macht Frei' (Work Will Set You Free), it was a reflective ride onto the Russian War Memorial – an impressive marble column set behind statues of huge guns. We rounded up our last night in Berlin at a height of 669 ft, in the T.V. tower in the centre of the city. Following an ear-popping ride upwards, we were able to look out on the whole of Berlin and beyond and appreciate where we were and how things had changed.

The next day we were packed up and ready to leave. The trip provided us with a multitude of memories: of the sprawling holocaust memorial, thousands of stone cuboids in varying sizes set in the heart of Berlin; of the interesting, inebriated man we met on a tram who tried and failed to coax us into singing 'You'll Never Walk Alone'; and of the interesting words the German language offers, a particular favourite of one of my Shirley companions being 'Weinerfeinbacker'. Berlin was a wonderful, exciting, unforgettable four days and comes well recommended from all those who took part, whether they be from Team MOORE! or one of the other lesser teams – it really was incredible.

Marina Ransome 10Bi



Croxteth Hall Creative Writing Course

On Friday 24th October, students of English were invited to attend a creative writing course. The course was held in the Edwardian country house at Croxteth Country Park, Croxteth Hall. Previously owned by the Molyneux family, the Earls of Sefton, until 1972, the hall is now a public attraction. The backdrop of opulence and grandeur was fascinating and helped us to imagine original scenarios for our creative writing.

Sixth formers from various schools around Liverpool were invited to attend, including those from De La Salle and St. Edwards, although registration in the dining hall confirmed that most students were in fact from the Blue Coat. We were welcomed into the Grand Entrance by a representative from Liverpool City Council, who organised the event, and offered a selection of refreshments such as tea, coffee and orange juice, as well as some tasty biscuits.

After an informal registration we were split up into two groups of around 20 students and taken into separate rooms. The teachers were two University Lecturers, who specialised in creative writing, and their friendliness helped to create a relaxed atmosphere in which we were all confident in sharing our ideas. In the morning session, one group were involved in poetry whilst the other did creative writing, and then the groups switched in the afternoon. The poetry session was interesting as the tutor helped us to create an idea for a poem for ourselves, with relatively little help. She asked us all to imagine an inanimate object which was lying in our house, but which we didn't take much notice of. We then had to answer a series of questions, imagining ourselves as that object. We jotted down ideas and answers on small sheets of paper and ended up with a series of notes which we then used to write, or start, a poem. From disused light bulbs to panes of glass in a bedroom window, different poems were read out, all coming from different and original perspectives. These poems were all entertaining in their own way and I found it extremely useful to listen

to other people's ideas as well as write one of my own. The poetry session was a success and we all felt slightly more confident in our poetic skills afterwards as we looked forward to the promise of a break and some more free biscuits.

Lunchtime lasted for an hour and we enjoyed walking around Croxteth Park and even playing on the swings, after filling our stomachs with the food laid out for us. The creative writing session was equally useful and amusing when everybody shared their ideas at the end. The tutor was experienced in creative writing and had even written a book on the rules of creative writing. She said that, as a general rule, a good story needed a strong character, or protagonist. We were given a worksheet with some questions about our character and this gave us a chance to develop our character. It was interesting that many people chose to draw from features of people they knew well, such as friends and family. We then had to create an antagonist who would create problems for the main character, which then gave our protagonist an obstacle to overcome, and therefore gave us an idea for a story. We had around ten minutes to write a scene from our story and then had an opportunity to read them aloud at the end. The tutor gave us all useful and constructive tips and encouraged us to finish the story at home.

At the end of the afternoon, a representative from the Athenium society in the city centre spoke to us and encouraged us to enter its Writer in Residence Competition, which gives the winner the chance to write for the Athenium and gives them free membership for a year, along with an impressive £1,000 prize.

All in all, the creative writing course was a success which gave us a renewed enthusiasm for poetry and some confidence in our own creative writing skills. The tutors and staff were extremely friendly and welcoming and we appreciated their time immensely.

Amir Ali

It was a bright sunny day, as I took a stroll in the park. The grass was green and I could smell that heavenly oak scent. The trees were towering above us, high and mighty, leading enormous shadows, shading us and protecting us from the scorching hot sun. I could hear the faint chatter and laughter of children, having a wonderful time, playing in the park. Then my eyes caught the beautiful, gleaming turquoise pond, in which ducks were happily splashing, enjoying the wonderful day.

Rubab Abdi 7Bi

Howarth Trip

Let it never be said that A2 subjects are all work and no play (Unless, of course, you take Physics. HO HO). In a year that increasingly demands more and more hard work, and with deadlines to meet from every quarter of my timetable, one tends to find themselves without free time. Let alone time to set off gallivanting around Yorkshire for the day.

The more cynical of readers are probably narrowing their eyes at this particular moment and asking 'Why?' and I had to stop and remember the justification myself for a moment or two as I write this article. The reason is, of course, an educational visit. The English department have the unenviable charge of creatively adapting the parameters of 'Educational English Trip' - a task that is far easier for other subjects. Chemistry? The catalyst museum. History? Imperial War Museum, obviously. English literature is, however, plagued with the plain and simple fact that the subject's equivalent is the Liverpool Central Library. Which is precisely why our trip was to Howarth.

Alright, so I'm deliberately misleading you into believing the choice is random: it isn't. Howarth is, of course, a serene country village in West Yorkshire, and is the traditional home of the Brontë sisters. This ties directly into our coursework, focused in part on Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë.

The trip was a success of course: filmed like some bizarre version of the Blair Witch Project with Mr. Kershaw's video camera, the entire trip was recorded for posterity. And we learned a fair bit to boot: that Emily Brontë had disturbingly slim hands, and that Rebecca Kuruville's Converse are well bigger than Charlotte Brontë's poxy little slippers.

The weather was frightful, mind: the gale blowing at the Brontë's parsonage (The locals referred to it as a mild breeze) was enough to physically jerk us all around; my hair acting like some kind of ludicrous sail. This of course provided useful Gothic Atmosphere



which we all made careful notes on when we were inside scoffing our Yorkshire Puddings.

So what's my point, exactly? Good question. On one hand, the trip was certainly useful, despite my jocular comments. And on the other, it seems almost to highlight mixed messages our school sometimes gives us. 15-25 hours extra work a week, hmm? Is this because of the amount of fun we're having in school trips that we have to make up for it? It's the dichotomy of 'Work constantly outside of school' and 'Fun school trips for all!' that both worries and confuses me. It's strange that, if I were to - Heaven forbid - stick to the 'plan', I'd be doing most of my socialising whilst wandering through exhibitions filling in questionnaires. Enough of this, anyway: it's beginning to sound like a Guardian think-piece, and I have to grab a Tudor Fancy-dress set for my History excursion to Chessington's World of Adventures.

Alex Leece

English Trip to Parklands CLC

On Wednesday 4 February 2009, all Year 11 pupils got the chance to go to the Chameleon Theatre at Parklands CLC in Speke.

The whole idea behind this trip was to help all of us in our English Literature GCSE; this was because we study a collection of poems by contemporary English poets Simon Armitage and Carol Ann Duffy and by going to Parklands we got to see a dramatic adaptation of their poem.

Three actors were there to show us their interpretations of the different poems, using props, their fellow actors or just reading the poems in a very dramatic way. As we were the audience, we got to judge the actors on how well we understood the poem and how good their adaptation of the poem was to us.

Four of us got to be judges who sat at the front and tell the actors what we thought. They took the criticism very well, as at the beginning we were nice, but one comment made the girl actress seem a bit unhappy and I don't think she ended up liking us, the judges. From seeing how

angry the actress got from our comments we decided it would be best to stick to the positives from then on. At first we thought this trip would be just going to Parklands and hearing a few people reading the poems and telling us about them, but in fact we got to be involved which made it more interesting and more appealing to us. Going to Parklands and seeing this really helped all of us to get a better understanding of the different poems and, to consider them in a different light and even helped us to arrive at alternative interpretations.

Also we were given a power point presentation on tips to help us in our GCSE English; this gave us some really good hints as to what to do to achieve the best we can.

Overall I would say that this English trip was successful and useful and was also quite interesting to see the different views of people towards the different poems. It should also help us all in our GCSE for English Literature.

Gabby Sherry

Prize Quiz!

The first person to hand all of the correct answers to these questions will receive a book of their choice, purchased by the Librarian Mr Newton.

- Q1. In which country would you expect to find the temple of Angkor Wat?
- Q2. What does MOBO stand for in the music awards that bear the acronym?
- Q3. Which French president did Nicholas Sarkozy succeed?
- Q4. Which volcano located in the Pacific Northwest region of the United States is most famous for its catastrophic eruption in 1980?
- Q5. In which ocean would you find Easter Island?
- Q6. What was the name of the feature length Wallace and Gromit film released in 1989?
- Q7. In which dynasty was the Great Wall of China built?
- Q8. Who wrote the 19th century novel 'A Tale of Two Cities'?
- Q9. Which iconic video game character would you associate with Wumpa Fruit?
- Q10. What was the name of the 2006 album that all but ended Robbie Williams's career?

Out of the Blue

Simon Gibbons

Although I had only come in to say hello, it seems I'm here to write about me now I've left Blue Coat School.

Well, for starters I'm now at Liverpool University, studying Spanish and Portuguese. Having come back, the school seems the same as ever, but that may be because I only left in May. It's a lot different at University, but it's definitely worthwhile. Of course, I wouldn't be there if it wasn't for Blue Coat. Yes, I'm a propaganda mule now. Some of the times in University are great, but being back here, the memories are flooding back. Of course, I think it's best that I didn't go into much detail, for the sake of embarrassing anyone.

I am currently sitting in Mrs Ludlow's class, at a desk with a full class of English students. I feel very young again. Envy me! Anyway, I'm going to cut this short, as the memories are everywhere.

Teacher News

A hearty congratulations to both Mrs Bennett and Mrs Irvine on the birth of their new children

Pupil Quotes

"So, err. Is a cataract what you use to go to the toilet in a hospital?"

"Pastoral- that to do with colour?"

"So do harlequins play Rugby?"

"Miss! Can I come in as a lesbian?!"

[Regarding the stuffed animals in Russia] "So how did they kill them in those poses?"

Parents Association Gifts to the School 1969 - 2008

The Parents' Association has donated approximately £310,000 to the school via fundraising during the above period. The largest 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

From January 2005 the Parents' Association pledged to raise £2,000 per term towards the School's Tricentenary Celebrations in 2008. This is included above.

"Muppet Hamlet is such a good idea. Kermit could be Hamlet!

"Die Polonius YAAAAAY!"*stab stab**

"Is an onion an animal?"

"... and she had a flashing light on her head ..."

Teacher Quotes

"Everyone in this room is here thanks to the power of love!"

"Pete-bog-MAN everybody. That's his real hair! Strong genes, that hair. Pete Bog Man. PETE BOG MAN! HIS REAL HAIR!"

"What do you mean you can't do University level at AS? YOU'LL ALL BE ON THE DOLE NEXT YEAR."

"There's five pounds for your services. And bring your own horse whip next time!"

"Gender is mental, sex is biological... And really fun."

"YOU GO ANYWHERE NEAR THAT BAR AND YOU'LL BE EXCLUDED... for two days."

"You can't breed a two and a ten! You don't ever see a Chihuahua hanging off the back of a Great Dane."

"I like Celine Dion."

"I don't know, I haven't got any balls."

"Conan Doyle likes his 'ejaculations', doesn't he?"

"For those of you who wonder what I do in my office all day... I sell ties!"

"Adolf Hitler isn't really my kind of poster boy... woman.... Person. Not really. We all know I'm a Barbie man. [Deadly silence]... someone? Please? Say something?"

"Oh my god, these drugs are fantastic."

"Sir, you've spelt bollocks wrong - there's a c"

"Sorry, it's not something I'm used to writing"

"And when, on November 5th, you see someone else's firework display you can shout out: 'That's a positive externality', and you're parents will think 'What a clever chap'."

"I've been playing kiss with Miss Lunney."

An Unforgettable Day Out by David Thompson

Around the time when I was five my parents took my two sisters, my brother and I on holiday. We used to travel in our old mini-van, which had moss growing in the windows and holes in the seats. My sisters were always embarrassed about travelling in the van, especially to school where they demanded to be dropped off around the corner, but it was the only vehicle we had that could carry all six of us around the country.

On one of our holidays we had planned to go to Whitby Abbey. I was only five at the time so I was not very interested in the big old building. Despite this I had an enjoyable day there with my family. Having seen all of the sights, we were set to leave.

On the way to the van my brother, having previously gorged himself on sweets and fizzy drinks, projected them down the stairs leading to the car park. The vomit seemed to hit every stair and bounce to the next, on its journey to the floor. There was just one way out and a crowd of tourists started to form around the top of the sick covered stairs. Many of these people were foreign tourists who were bewildered about what was happening.

I had already gone down the stairs with my dad and, watching the events unfold, I found it hard not to be amused.

While my mum was trying to get some water to clean the steps, I pronounced to my dad that I needed the toilet. Without hesitation he took me, glad of an excuse to get away from the scene and leave my mum to argue with the gift shop keeper about water and buckets.

Then sometime later my family and I were sitting in the old van with my brother in the front, just in case he threw up again. We thought he was empty but clearly we were wrong. A mixture of sweets and drinks once again projected itself out of my brother, and, instead of landing safely in the bag between his knees as planned; he turned his head right and threw up very near to my father. The vomit was all over the front of the car and in my dad's drink. So yet again my mum and dad had to clean up sick and due to the lack of disinfectant the van was left smelling of sick for the rest of our holiday.

Sports Day Results

Year 7

<i>Girls</i>	
1st	Bingham – 103 pts
2nd	Graham – 84 pts
3rd	Blundell – 83 pts
4th	Shirley – 70 pts

<i>Boys</i>	
1st	Bingham – 132 pts
2nd	Blundell – 116 pts
3rd	Shirley – 104 pts
4th	Graham – 86 pts

Year 9

<i>Girls</i>	
1st	Blundell – 96 pts
2nd	Graham – 94 pts
3rd	Shirley – 85 pts
4th	Bingham – 80 pts

<i>Boys</i>	
1st	Shirley – 124 pts
2nd	Graham – 121 pts
3rd	Blundell – 70 pts
4th	Bingham – 59 pts

Year 8

<i>Girls</i>	
1st	Bingham – 122 pts
2nd	Graham – 95 pts
3rd	Blundell – 88 pts
4th	Shirley – 54 pts

<i>Boys</i>	
1st	Bingham – 116 pts
2nd	Graham – 113 pts
3rd	Shirley – 104 pts
4th	Blundell – 102 pts

Year 10

<i>Girls</i>	
1st	Graham – 91 pts
2nd	Blundell – 89 pts
3rd	Shirley – 42 pts
4th	Bingham – 40 pts

<i>Boys</i>	
1st	Shirley – 119 pts
2nd	Bingham – 85 pts
3rd	Graham – 66 pts
4th	Blundell – 43 pts

Individual Year Champions

Girls

Champions

Year 7:	Annie Mosley
Year 8:	Sorcha Twoney-Harris & Katie Blackmore
Year 9:	Jessie Dickinson
Year 10:	Ellie Darby & Helen Thompson

2nd Place

Year 7:	Erin Lee
Year 8:	Florence Binks
Year 9:	Amy Lewin
Year 10:	Danielle McDonald

3rd Place

Year 7:	Alice Blanchard & Alanna Borkwood
Year 8:	Katie Ashworth
Year 9:	Robin Tisdale & Sara Edwards
Year 10:	Zoe Pulford

4th Place

Year 7:	Katie Sharratts & Abbie Hoyte
Year 8:	Ellie Boyce
Year 9:	Charlotte Holmes & Ashley O'Mera

Boys

Year 7:	Tom Taylor
Year 8:	Callum Hancock
Year 9:	Aiden Riley & Grant Helm
Year 10:	James Platt & Ben Kelly & Louis Marshall

Year 7:	Yin Kong
Year 8:	Joe Hunt
Year 9:	Peter Robinson & Jake Cockburn
Year 10:	Joe Verdin

Year 7:	Jasper Johns
Year 8:	Adam Gaffney & Jason Yu
Year 9:	Jack Luscomb & Peter Athens
Year 10:	Jack Stanton

Year 7:	Joel Best & Matthew Worrall
Year 8:	Lee Smith & Matthew Hodgkinson
Year 9:	Stuart Cambell & Danny McGuinness
Year 10:	William Qi & Danny Roberts

Cross Country

Girls

Champions

Year 7:	Erin Lee
Year 8:	Sorcha Twoney-Harris
Year 9:	Jessie Dickinson & Ashley O'Mera
Year 10:	Ellie Darby

2nd Place

Year 7:	Alice Blanchard
Year 8:	Katie Blackmore
Year 9:	Emma Findley & Sara
Year 10:	Zoe Pulford

3rd Place

Year 7:	Timah Julliene
Year 8:	Lara Marshall
Year 9:	Amy Lewin
Year 10:	Jenny Head

4th Place

Year 7:	Katie Sharratts
Year 8:	Molly Howarth Maddison
Year 9:	Charlotte Holmes
Year 10:	Pippa O'Connor & Alanna Mok

Boys

Champions

Year 7:	Tom Taylor
Year 8:	Adam Gaffney
Year 9:	Nelson Idama
Year 10:	Danny Roberts

2nd Place

Year 7:	Luke Findley
Year 8:	Callum Hancock
Year 9:	Jake Cockburn
Year 10:	Alex Edwards

3rd Place

Year 7:	Daniel Harvey
Year 8:	Matthew Hodgkinson
Year 9:	Andrew Beggs
Year 10:	William Qi

4th Place

Year 7:	Conal Findley
Year 8:	Lee Smith
Year 9:	Danny McGuinness
Year 10:	Ben Kelly



Dance Competition Girls' Athletics

The following girls represented the school and performed a solo piece in the first round of the Liverpool Schools South Partnership Competition

Year 7: Georgia Mason
Year 8: Timah Julienne
Year 9: Coryn Bligh
Year 10: Amy Lewin

Timah Julienne, Amy Lewin and the group dance all qualified and went on to perform at City finals night.

Following the workshop our students were invited to watch the first showing of their performance of their European tour.

S. Cornwall

The following Girls competed in the English Schools Athletics Competition:

Junior Squad:

Annie Mossley	Sorcha Twomey-Harris
Sarah Stanford	Alice Blanchard
Grace Crighton	Lara Marshall
Abbie Hoyte	Erin Lee
Sarah Hammed	Grace Zdesenko
Katie Blackmore	Ellie Boyce

Inter Squad:

Jessie Dickinson	Emma Findlay
Helen Thompson	Ellie Darby
Ashley Davies	Ashley O'Meara
Robyn Tisdale	Alice Haughan
Charlotte Holmes	Sara Edwards
Alison McNulty	Joanna Baker
	Rachel Holgate

Liverpool City Champions

Girls:

Annie Mossley, Year 7 - 100M
Jessie Dickinson, Year 9 - Hurdles and Discus
Ellie Darby, Year 10 - Javelin

Boys:

Thomas Taylor, Year 7 - 200M
Gavin Spruin, Year 7 - 400M
Jason Yu, Year 8 - Hurdles
Daniel McGuinness, Year 9 - 400M
Luke Findley, Gavin Spruin, Daniel Harvey, Thomas Taylor,
Year 7 - Relay Team

Emma Kelly and Niamh Lawton

Today I went to the beach for the first time ever. As we got there dad gave me these hard round things and placed them over my eyes. It went dark. It couldn't be night already!! Mum saw me looking worried and told me that they were called sunglasses, which would protect me from the sun. I took them off to see what they looked like and that's when I saw the most magical place ever.

It seemed like a huge sandpit accompanied by a lot of moving water coming towards me. I ducked as I heard birds squawking as they swooped across my head. I called to Mum; the sand was burning my feet. I followed Patrick, my big brother's advice and nervously edged towards the edge of the water. It seemed like we were playing a game, it would run away from me and then come crashing back and trickle over my toes.

As I stood gazing at the playful water and breathing in the cool breeze, Mum appeared behind me, clutching a fluffy, white ice-cream embedded in a brown case. Overcome with excitement, I snatched the ice-cream off mum and, to my regret, the case crushed in my hand and the ice-cream flowed down my hand like a mini river. Regardless of this, I carried on indulging in this luxury, until I felt a sharp pinch on my little toe. I looked down and, to my surprise, saw a shell. I was confused. Even more so when legs like scissors popped out and it scuttled beneath the wave in an unusual sideways motion. Apparently this was a crab. I don't like crabs!

Admiring Patrick's fish-like actions in the water, I grew in confidence and decided to join him. I paced forward and the sand grabbed my feet, pushing me into the water. It wasn't like drinking water. It tasted like the salt on my chips. It caused a burning sensation when it entered my nose intensely.

Ski Trip – Mera 2009

During February half term, sixty students and nine staff enjoyed six days of skiing in the Italian Alps. The party enjoyed unlimited sunshine every day and glorious snow conditions and were given 5*

treatment by the Hotel Camparient which is situated on the slopes. A fantastic time was had by all...with no injuries!



Gala Day and Gala Dinner

On Saturday 7th June 2008, up to twenty football teams conversed on the Blue Coat playing fields and new Astroturf facility. The teams comprised of past year groups, going as far back as the early 1970's. There were five football pitches and the teams played a minimum of five games in pools of six with play-off games for all teams, culminating in a final. The games started at 9.30am and the final began at 5pm. Families and friends supported during the day and the Parents Association kindly ran a refreshments kiosk that was in high demand due to the glorious weather.

After the tournament, in the evening, just under two hundred people attended the Dinner in the Sports Hall with outside caterers serving a delicious three course meal. Whilst everyone was enjoying the cuisine, a variety of artists provided an eclectic mix of music. After dinner, Willie Miller, a well known local comedian and Steve Daley, an ex professional footballer, entertained the audience with some funny jokes and stories before the night drew to a close with further musical items.



Golf

Captain: Gregg Stuart

Hockey

Captains:

1st XI Captain – E. Beggs

U16 Captain – E. Darby

U15 Captain – C. Holmes

U14 Captains – S. Stanford /

U13 Captain – E. Lee

M. Howarth-Maddison

The Year 8 boys are taking advantage of the coaching that takes place at the University of Liverpool Ground.

Their enthusiasm and improvement has warranted them being entered into the U13 National Mini Tournament. There was a move afoot to form a mixed league with the year 9 and 10s but with the lack of opposition and the opportunity to play matches interest has waned. Monday and Tuesday after school practices are hugely popular, especially now the light is returning with increasing numbers of boys attending as well as girls. The girls' teams have been doing well in matches and leagues and always play at an increasingly high level. Match opportunities are probably better this year than any other with teams travelling away to Merchants and Kings School Chester. The school has a history of producing county talent and this year is better than ever before. County players are:

Year 7 – Elena Lindsey

Year 8 – Bridget Griffith, Abbie Wood, Erin Lee, Sarah Hamed, Annie Mosley

Year 9 – Sorchia Tworney-Harris, Molly Howarth-Maddison, Niamh Lawton

Year 10 – Charlie Holmes, Jessie Dickinson

Year 7:

Hannah Shore
Lucy Green
Lilly Zhong
Bethan Price
Li Wen Huang
Elena Lindsey
Ellie Lewis
Rebecca Flynn
Rachael Chung
Harriet Power

Martha Kauffman Harding
Jessica Hyde
Matilda Loates
Eleanor Roberts
Kelsey Walsh
Elin Webster
Emily Baldwin
Drew Hardley
Tanith Reece-Roberto

Year 8:

Bridget Griffin
Abbie Wood
Jenny Morris
Erin Lee
Sarah Hamed
Annie Mosley
Nicole Jackson
Alana Borword
Erin Burns

Grace Zdesenko
Timah Julienne Tabit
Hayley Rabet
Katie Sharrats
Asmaa Essa
Jo Tong
Charlotte Ho
Pheobe Hunter
Alicia Rice

Year 11 – Ellie Derby

Year 12 – Charlie Dickinson

Year 13 – Jenny Ratcliffe

None, as of yet, have been asked to attend regional level trials.

The 1st XI also toured back to Amsterdam with the U15 basketball team in October for a few days, winning one and losing one match. The trip was enjoyed by all (despite the weather) and thanks go to Mrs Beggs and Mr Rees for organising it and to Mr Wellings for coming with us.

Training will continue into the Summer Term as normal on a Monday and Tuesday after school as long as light will permit and to around 5.30 as the days get longer. There is also an opportunity out of school on a Friday night and Saturday morning if anyone wants some extra coaching. Massive thanks go to Miss Arnold for putting all the training on and organising the junior teams with endless enthusiasm and die-hard commitment. The 1st XI would also like to thank Mrs Beggs for constant support and fixtures.

Students who have represented the school in leagues and matches are:

Year 9:

Katie Ashworth
Molly Howarth-Maddison
Niamh Lawton
Emma Kelly
Emma Jones

Lauren Smith
Lara Marshall
Sorchia Tworney-Harris
Reme Wood
Chantelle Wu

Year 10:

Mel Atherton
Amy Lewin
Nikki Winstanley
Marina Ransom

Robyn Tinsdale
Rachael Holgate
Alice Haughan
Eleanor Marsh

1st XI:

Jenny Ratcliffe
Charlotte Holmes*
Ashley O'Meara*
Becca McWaters
Siobhan Wilson
Sarah Hodgkiss
Jessie Dickinson*
Charlie Dickinson
Ellie Beggs

Sharon Koshy
Sophie Batterton
Gabi Thompson
Sarah Edwards*
Emma Findley*
Ellie Derby
Lizi Whitehouse

*Play up, also part of Y10 team.

JDA and Jenny Ratcliffe U6E

Netball 08-09

Captains:

U19 – G. Thompson

U16 – E. Darby

U15 – C. Holmes

U14 – S. Stanford

Current 2008-09 Squad

Year 7

Rotating squads

Year 8

Abbie Hoyte
Sarah Hammed
Grace Zdensko
Erin Lee
Timah Julienne

Hoilam Ng
Hayley Rabet
Nicole Jackson
Lauren Whittaker

Year 9

Sarah Stanford
Ellie Boyce
Florence Binks
Olivia Brown
Emma Kelly

Niamh Lawton
Sorcha TwomeyHarris
Lauren Smith
Alice Rudkin
Katie Blackmore

Year 10

Alice Haughan
Charlotte Holmes
Ashley O'mera
Robyn Tisdale

Amy Lewin
Rachel Holgate
Jessie Dickinson
Sarah Edwards

Seniors

Wini Garr
Katie Dean
Holly Railes
Kahra Wayland- Larty
Natalie Johnston
Gabi Thompson
Ellie Beggs
Sophie Batterton
Sharon Koshy

Charlie Dickinson
Bronica Gumbhir
Emma Wakefield
Katrina Murphy
Diane Lyons
Ellie Darby
Alex Mallon
Zoe Pulford
Helen Thompson

Year 7 A and B, 8, 9 and 10 teams have been competing in the Liverpool Schoolgirls' League. It has been a difficult season with poor weather affecting and severely limiting training. However, great success has still been attained by the Year 10 team who have won all their league matches to date and will therefore qualify for the league finals shortly.

The Year 8 team have won all but 1 of their league games and should also qualify for the finals. All other squads have impressed with their commitment and determination throughout.

City tournaments for all teams will commence after February half term.

Thank you to Mrs Wilkinson for her help this season in coaching

the year 7 teams during training and matches.

The senior squad played one round of their league tournament before the system folded and have since had a few friendly matches and wins.

They also played in the preliminary round of the National Schools Tournament, and finished 3rd, narrowly missing out on points to qualify for the next round.

The 16th December saw 20 year 10 students successfully complete a Netball Leaders' award.

Thanks to Mrs Hornby for organising and co-ordinating this day.
S. Cornwall

Table Tennis

Blue Coat's inauguration into the Merseyside Table Tennis Competition has yielded some outstanding results.

A phenomenal season has seen sweeping success across the board with Blue Coat entering the final match of the season in a commanding position in both age groups. For the Year 10/11 team 'Spin King' Michael Mui has led the team with purpose and he has been aided by the peerless Danny Roberts.

Sarah Zhao and Sean Studley have improved steadily and should form the bedrock of the senior side next year.

In the younger age category Blue Coat have been similarly impressive with captain William Truong experiencing little difficulty against talented opponents. Liam McRoe continues to impress and Matthew Hodgkinson is rarely ruffled in high pressure situations.

The youngest member of the side, Conal Jager, is equally promising and as Blue Coat prepare to be city champions across both age groups they can look back on their season with real pride.

Cheerleading

Cheerleading has recently been introduced as an extra curricular activity. This complex yet fun discipline involving arm routines, stunts, tumblers and cheers and has taken off in a big way.

Our first competitive squad was established in Sept 2008 and practised regularly in preparation for performing their routine at the South Liverpool Schools' Competition. The squad outperformed 6 other schools to win and become South Liverpool Champions.

A new squad is currently working hard on an impressive routine and are due to compete at the Liverpool Schools City Competition on the 5th March - good luck girls!!!

Further appearances from our cheerleaders will be taking place at the Summer Fair, Open Day, the Dance Show and maybe even the odd home basket ball game?

A big thank you to Jenny Morris and Miss Hodson for all the time and effort they have given in helping to develop such great cheerleading squads.

Thank you also to the PA for their donation towards costumes for our newest squad.

S. Cornwall



2008 South Liverpool Cheerleading Champions

'Say Cheese' by Bradley Wilson

Parents! Always taking photographs at the wrong times. As the hot sun burned, and our excitement of riding the roller coasters was very high, we decided to cool off. Our Californian holiday was well under way and I was enjoying spending time with my cousin whom I had never seen before and who lived there.

I was ten, my brother and my cousin both seven (I think). She had lived there all her life along with my uncle, her dad. This was our second trip to the famous Disneyland and we still hadn't been on everything. The sun was burning our necks and so we decided to visit the small water based play area to cool down and relieve ourselves from the intense heat.

What a relief... We ran around getting as wet as we could. Water rained down from sprinklers above and shot up from the floor below. That's when we heard it. Those terrible words everyone hates hearing (or so I thought), when having a good time. "Come on get together for a photo". We moaned and expressed our desire to carry on running round but would she listen? No!

"Oh come on, it will only take a second," said my mum. Reluctantly, we agreed. "Just sit there on the edge of that water fountain." She was pointing to a large fountain with 3 layers. Water rained down from the top layer, into the bottom, which in turn spun round like a whirlpool, going round and round. We made our way over and sat on the bottom layer of the fountain. We smiled a fake smile hoping she would hurry up and take the photo, but would she? Oh No!

"A bit to the left... no a bit more... yes now Craig move right a tiny bit..." I think you get the picture. Then, the attendant who was supervising the area noticed us sitting on the fountain. We had obviously not seen the big red sign saying 'DO NOT SIT ON FOUNTAIN' "Oi, you!" he shouted, in an American accent. "Smile!" she shouted. "Get off that fountain," he shouted. "Say cheese!" she shouted, and with that came a splash! My cousin had fallen in, her head and legs sticking out of the water as she went round and round and round. Did we help her? No, we laughed! It was very amusing and we couldn't help ourselves. My uncle quickly pulled her out, and my dad told us off. 'Cheese'.

Cricket

U13 Team

The U13 Cricket Team (now Year 9) had an eventful season last summer.

Even though we didn't win a lot, we had the game at heart and enjoyed every moment, especially the free food. Our highest score of last season was a respectable 97 for 8 against Liverpool College.

This was mainly due to the amazing half-century partnership between Matthew Hodgkinson and William Truong.

Manchester was our greatest adventure. In this game Manchester Grammar School beat us by a mere 218 runs. This was probably due to the retirement of their star player, Hinds, who managed to hit 133 and the outrageous bowling of Michael Boyes, who hit 45 off 3 overs.

At the start of the season we were at odds and ends and didn't have much to go on. Now with the guidance of Mr Phelan and our Captain Matthew Hodgkinson we see a bright future, one with plenty of cricket and plenty of victories.

U13 Team (in batting order) Michael Boyes, Matthew Hodgkinson, Matthew Shore, Joe Hunt, William Truong, Sam Batterton, Edward Lynch, Liam McRoe, Luke Chandler, Robert Fiske, and Eric Diep.

Highest score hit in a single game: Michael Boyes with 45.

Hopefully we will see more than a solitary victory this year. Fingers crossed.

William Truong and Matthew Hodgkinson 9Gr

U14 Team

CAPTAIN – THEO JACKSON

Played 12 Won 5 Lost 5 Drawn 2

Rain, cricket's eternal enemy, caused the two draws, just when the side was poised on winning both games.

The standard of the bowling, batting and fielding improved as the season progressed. There are many fine cricketers in the team, who are keen to learn and develop.

The team consisted of: Theo Jackson (Capt.), James Rhodes, Peter Robinson, Andrew Beggs, Peter Athans, Daniel Little, Callum Watling, Robert Boyle, Matthew Gunson, Jake Cockburn, Jonathan Riley, Nelson Idama.

There were many fine performances as the following averages will illustrate:

A BATTING AVERAGES

	INNINGS	NOT OUTS	RUNS	AVERAGE
RHODES	12	3	303	33.6
ROBINSON	9	2	211	30.1
COCKBURN	10	5	103	20.6
JACKSON	11	2	159	17.6
ATHANS	10	1	74	8.2
WATLING	5	2	18	6.0
BOYLE	6	0	26	4.3
BEGGS	8	0	33	4.1
GUNSON	7	2	19	3.8
RILEY	4	0	10	2.5
LITTLE	6	2	8	2.0

B BOWLING AVERAGES

	OVERS	MAIDENS	RUNS	WICKETS RATE	ECONOMY RUNS/WKS	AVERAGE
JACKSON	44.2	0	263	25	5.95	9.44
LITTLE	50	2	273	23	5.46	11.87
RHODES	21	0	141	8	6.71	17.62
BEGGS	50	4	252	13	5.04	19.38
ATHANS	38	1	244	5	6.42	48.18
WATLING	47	2	255	4	4.79	56.25

C FIELDING

CATCHES/RUN OUTS/STUMPINGS

Cockburn 2/0/9, Beggs 7/3, Athans 8/1, Rhodes 6/1, Robinson 5/2, Jackson 4/0, Watling 3/0, Gunson 2/0, Little 2/0, Riley 2/0, Boyle 1/0



U15 Team

Squad: Liam Loftus (Captain), Edward Parr (Captain), Shaun Rigby, Andrew Brearton, Harry Catharell-Hargreaves, Alex Edwards, Jack Silverstone, Daniel Roberts, Matthew Wilson, Joe Verdin, Andrew Beggs, James Rhodes, Peter Robinson, Peter Athans, Jake Cockburn.

The U15 Cricket team was hoping that 2009 would be our best year. This was the season where we had to give it our all as it may be the last time we get to represent the School in cricket. Some may be lucky enough to play in the 1st XI but regardless, we put in our all for every game. After a "successful" tour of Barbados in 2007 we were hoping for good things this season.

We used the friendly games to prepare ourselves for the Liverpool

Cup. After reaching the final in 2007, we had high hopes to do better this year. After a good victory against a very strong-sided Calderstones at Mossley Hill Cricket Club in very difficult conditions, we narrowly lost to St. Edwards in the semi-finals. I think another winter cricket tour may be required to sharpen up our game, Mr Jamieson (hint, hint)!

Overall, we have thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie and team spirit that has developed over the past four years representing the School Cricket team. We all have become much better cricketers and thank parents, all the P.E. staff and in particular Mr Jamieson for giving up their spare time to help us.

Basketball

Captains:

U19 Captain – D. Idama
Vice Captain – M. Rannala

U16 Captain – D. Roberts
U14 Captain – D. Karthakappallil

U15 Captain – N. Idama
U13 Captain – J. Edwards

Year 7 Squad:

Callum Smith, Adam Carvs-McDonald, Luke Sullivan, Patrick Hanlon, Jon Chu, David Murphy, Ian Vidamour, Jacky Hou, Dominic

Evans, Jo Small, Jack Kauffman-Harding, Jack Seasman, Ben Hounslea, Elliot Edwards, Alastair Macaulay, Thomas Blackburn, Dominic Evans, Daniel Ryan, Dominic Lees, Joseph Boyland.

U14 Basketball

CAPTAIN – DILEEP KARTHIKAPPALLIL

Played 11 Won 6 Lost 5

After an eventful season, it is pleasing to report that the team is still in the Liverpool Cup at the Semi-Final stage (to be played after Easter).

The team has developed as a unit and the basic skills have improved steadily.

Squad: Dileep Karthikappallil (Capt.), Callum Hancock, Adam Gaffney, Lee Smith, Matthew Shore, James Russell, William Truong, Robert Fiske, Alistair Rutherford, Amanvir Sangha, Luke Chandler, Mark Sung, Sam Batterton, Joseph Hunt, Harry Bleasdale, Joe Moorcroft-Moran, John Ogundele.



U15 Basketball

CAPTAIN – NELSON IDAMA

Played 31 Won 16 Lost 15

Despite the results, a highly successful season. The team reached the National Finals for the second year running and finished 9th in the

Country. The side is still in the Liverpool Cup, the final to be played in April.



The Under Fifteens played three matches in October in Amsterdam, winning them all. The side also played in the National Club League as a school team gaining experience every match. The individual skills improved, especially the defensive qualities.

It is planned to play National League at the U16 level next season, gaining further experience, which will hopefully lead to further success.

Squad: Nelson Idama (Capt.), James Rhodes, Andrew Beggs, Peter Robinson, Michael McNulty, Theo Jackson, Aidan Riley, Matthew Gunson, Jamie Walsh, Grant Helm.



U16 Basketball

Squad: (Captain) Danny Roberts, (Vice Captain) Ben Kelly, Luke Williams, Jack Stanton, James Platt, Alex Edwards, Silviu Paraoan, Joe Verdin, Nelson Idama, James Rhodes, Matthew Gunson.

Congratulations to the U16 Basketball team who also proved their talent by achieving the title 2008 Liverpool Champions. The boys have yet again performed to a high standard and finished as NW2, losing narrowly in the last 16 of the National Finals to Chadwell Heath from London.

The outstanding Daniel Roberts was unlucky to be on the losing side in a high quality encounter between 2 teams who last year finished 5th and 6th Nationally.

Mr Phelan

U19 Basketball

Squad: (Captain) Daniel Idama, Michael Roberts, Matthew Saxton, Jack Bedford, Danny Roberts, Luke Williams, Ben Kelly, Vlad Paraoan, Jonathan Edosomwan.

Congratulations to the U19 Basketball team who reached the title of 2008 Liverpool Champions. An excellent season to date, the boys are awaiting to play Dartford G.S in the last 16 of the National Finals and have reached the Liverpool Finals.

Daniel Idama has been inspirational as team captain, Matthew Saxton a towering presence as an inside player, and Jack Bedford, Daniel Roberts and Michael Roberts have added the creativity and preparation along with the new addition from London, Jonathan Edosomwan.

Mr Phelan

Football

Captains:

1st XI Captain – G. Stuart

U16 Captain – J. Platt

U15 Captain – M. Gunson

U14 Captain – L. Smith

U13 Captain – G. Spruin

U12 Team

Mr Pearson's fearless warriors have taken to battle each week with an enthusiasm and commitment that has belied some unfortunate results over the course of the season.

Our opening day victory over a beleaguered Ruffwood (6-2) gave us great hope that we would be challenging for honours come May but a heavy home defeat to St Margaret's soon after set the tone for the rest of the season and the boys have, at times, struggled to compete at the top table.

Throughout a difficult run, that saw two early cup exits, the boys have not lost their spirit and have emerged from every game with real credit. Blue Coat's finest have improved throughout the year and from back to front there is great promise for the future. In goal, Ian 'the cat' Vidamour has acquitted himself well but has been grateful for the protection granted by Blue Coat's very own fab four. Although the defence has seen much rotation, Jack 'the rock' Seasman has been a permanent fixture, whilst the emergence of the towering David Murphy alongside him augurs well for the future. In midfield Dominic Evans has shown silky skills and we have had much cause to be thankful for our very own Captain Marvel, Callum Smith, who has been consistently excellent.

Luke Sullivan's double salvo in a man of the match display at Range High was a highlight of the season and the pundits are unanimous in their praise for the tireless Edward Taft. All in all, this season has been an important learning curve and all the boys who have pulled on the shirt have never given less than their best, making their manager extremely proud.

U14 Team

Squad: (Captain) Lee Smith, Matthew Hodgkinson, Matthew Shore, Jo Moorcroft-Moran, Callum Taylor, Joe Hunt, Jamie Mackreth, Robert Fiske, Jon Ogundele, Adam Gaffney, Sam Batterton, Mark Sung, Michael Boyes, Antony Carney and James Russell.

The boys have continued to develop not only as a team but as individuals. Building on last year, Antony Carney and James Russell made the leap from 'B' squad, adding much needed height and a physical presence to the defence.

Led by the inspirational captain, Lee Smith, the silky skills of Adam Gaffney and the prolific scoring of Matthew Hodgkinson, the boys have entertained all those who have followed their progress.

Jo Hunt has been the outstanding player throughout the season, a driving force in midfield. At the time of going to press the boys lost narrowly 4-2 to SMA in the quarter final of the Liverpool Cup.

Once again a big thank you to all of the parents for their continued support and especially Winstone Landscape who have provided a kit for the boys.

Mr Phelan

U16 Team

Squad of 08-09

Alex Edwards (GK)

Luke Williams

Craig Morrow

James Platt (Capt.)

Liam Loftus

Joe Verdin

James McGowan

Daniel Roberts

Harry Cathrell-Hargreaves

Andrew Breaton

William Qi

Matthew Benton

Shaun Furlong

Jack Stanton

James Power

Peter Gleeson

John Hoyte

Last year was the first time we played in the national cup, reaching the 5th round of the competition, beating various teams around the Northwest of the country. The highlight of the dramatic cup run was the victory against Birkdale School. The team came back from behind, equalising with a late Joe Verdin strike and then winning the tie late on into extra time. In the Liverpool Cup, we reached the quarter final only to be beaten by a very strong Cardinal Heenan squad.

Big congratulations to new additions to the squad. Particularly, Harry Cathrell-Hargreaves, after making his heroic debut performance this year. In the upcoming year, there are limited fixtures but we are hoping that some players can, deservedly, break into the First and Second XI squads.

James Platt

I would like to congratulate all the players on making the team a success over the past four years. They have made considerable progress and are very attractive to watch when 'going forward'! When they get into the swing of a game they work well as a team and it has been a pleasure to spend my Saturday mornings with them. I would like to wish them all the best for their futures and wish them every bit of sporting success. Well-done and good luck with our GCSE examinations this year.

Ainsy

The Peter Arnold Craft Annual Creative Writing Competition Winners

In The Hall of the Mountain King

Footsteps echo through the chambers,
Eerie notes ring thorough the halls.
Musical bars adorn the ceiling,
Cover the pillars, engulf the walls.

As I enter ever deeper,
Ghostly melodies float around.
Wailing banshees trapped forever,
Creating a terrible, ghostly sound.

A final chamber beckons closer,
I was drawn by a beautiful voice.
The sound was like a choir of angels,
I entered, alas, I had no choice.

A high backed chair, with golden seat,
Was there, but I could not see,
The source of any heavenly voice,
But wait, what could that be?

I crept in closer, out of mind,
To hear the creature sing.
Alas I then could never leave,
The hall of the mountain king.

Taylor Spruce, 8 Blundell, Key Stage 3 winner

The Food of Love?

Anticipating, extravagant, tension building,
triumphant,
There is something for each and every event.
Theatrical, thought provoking, inspiring,
jubilant,
We've all got a passion for it to a certain
extent.

Relaxing, stress relieving, contemplative,
soothing,
During a hard time, it helps you discreetly,
Mood altering, radical, optimistic, rejuvenating,
Can lull you to sleep, softly and sweetly,

Romantic, provocative, innovative, quixotic,
Sometimes makes a good time great.
Traditional, festive, story telling, patriotic,
An uplifting atmosphere it can create.

Jovial, merry, momentous, rocking
It's all good if you give it a chance.
Intense, booming, heavy beats, shocking,
The tunes will make you want to dance.

Modern, ecstatic, soundtracks, melodic,
Can listen to it using headphones,
Rejoicing, euphoric, blissful, rhapsodic,
Or loudest through speakers or ring tones.

Catchy, reminiscent, cheesy, echoing,
But, could also be played inconspicuously,
Cheerful, celebratory, optimistic, bellowing,
Or in parties the enthusiastic, rave deliriously

When you're down it helps you see the light,
It can set the mood, bring you to tears,
And when you're happy it adds to your delight,
It is all beautiful music to my ears.

Zoe Bond, Key Stage 4 winner

The Peter Arnold Craft Annual Creative Writing Competition Winners - continued

Musical Eye

The musical eye is a strange eye.
It never forgets, it never lies.
It always tells of things it despises,
Unless hope arises
Under musical guises.

The musical eye is a strange eye.
It never forgets, it never lies.
It always criticises with a heart of stone
The horn; the trombone,
The timbre and tone.

The musical eye is a strange eye.
It never forgets, it never lies.
It always displays the worst in a piece,
The skill that's decreased,
The passion that's ceased.

The musical eye is a strange eye.
It never forgets, it never lies.
It always explains the wrongs of a writing,
The gongs that need brightening,
The mood that needs lightening.

The musical eye is a strange eye.
It never forgets, it never lies.
It slows in tiredness,
It rests in bleakness,
It closes in darkness,
It dies in weakness.

Ben Southam, Key Stage 5 winner

Walking in the Park

As I strode towards the park, I noticed the ornate design of the gate for the first time. The intricate, flowing swirl of the handle turned as I pushed open the gate. The hinges creaked, as I stepped into the park, as if the whole gate would break away in my grasp.

I felt excited, a feeling buried deep down, in what seemed like my soul. I tried to clear my thoughts, and grew boisterous, jumping in the great mounds of multicoloured leaves. I felt I was locked in a violent, brown snowstorm. The leaves, what were once in neat piles, were scattered everywhere; some still tumbled and fluttered in the silent breeze around me. I wanted to savour the sweet, juicy smell.

I moved on to the grass. Dewdrops were still clinging to each separate blade, shining as brightly as the moon. I tried to count each one, but stopped soon after, realizing that I was treading most of them into the earth. At least I was watering the plants!

Although I was cold, I carried on through the early morning, until I reached the lake. Its glassy black surface shone, even though there was no sun. I glared at my reflection, wishing I was taller, with longer, glossier hair, but felt angry with myself for being so vain.

I made my way to the playground, a vast stretch of grey paving, dotted with swings, slides and a scarlet roundabout. It was deserted, so I buried myself in loneliness, perching myself on a swing, pushing myself gently, backwards and forwards, backwards and forwards, until I lulled myself into a deep, deep sleep...

I jolted myself awake, blinking in the sudden darkness. Then realised how worried my mum would be, then made a start for home, rushing out of the playground, past the still, calm lake, across the wet grass, and through the leaves. I wrenched open the rusty, creaky, black gate, and vanished, disappeared, into the night.

By Rachael Chung 7BL

'Darling, It's Rude to Whisper'

A Childhood Memory by Rebecca Borthwick

My Grandparents are rather religious; they go to Church every week - The Anglican Cathedral. It's the biggest Cathedral in the country, and when you walk inside you feel like a tiny mouse that is lost - especially when you are about three feet tall! The sandstone walls are so beautiful, with their orange-brown colour. It glitters in the sun and looks just like a fairy tale castle.

One Sunday morning my Grandmother and Grandfather took me with them, which was slightly unusual as my Mother usually comes. This particular Sunday was going to be dreadfully embarrassing one for me, my Grandmother and that lady.

My Grandfather helps out at the Cathedral and has been given the privilege of being a Steward. He stands at the door, handing out the hymn books and orders of service for that particular Sunday morning. Therefore, my Grandmother and I were saving a seat on the end of the row, next to us.

Before the organ music began, a lady with a very flamboyant dress sense swivelled around in her seat and greeted my Grandmother with a very cheesy grin which made me feel terribly uncomfortable. I assumed that they knew each other as they started to chat. Wow, didn't that lady's breathe stink?! Also, she had the most ridiculous hat on: bright pink with a gigantic red rose stuck on the front. Actually, I was quite worried that my head was in 'line of fire' if it fell off. Goodness knows how my Grandmother carried on talking to her for so long - every time she said the letter 'P', a shower of spit seemed to land on her nose. Yuk! I tried to stop thinking unkind things, as I was in Church, but it was just so hard. Then the major embarrassment kicked in...

I have no idea why I said it, I just did. There was a small pause in the conversation, and I took it as my chance to pull my Grandmother's head down to my mouth to whisper something in her ear - I just got the first word out, 'I', and to my shock and embarrassment my Grandmother said 'Darling, it's rude to whisper, whatever you want to say, you can say it out loud. 'Oh no... 'I don't like that woman,' 'I blurted out, in my babyish voice. Well, I was only two. You should have seen that lady's face! It was a picture! Her mouth dropped so far, you could have fit a train through it, her eyes looked at me like daggers and her double chin became three.

At least I learnt that some things are meant to stay in your head.

Losing Games

Under the veil of life, the ultimate obscurity,
We fight a losing battle,
Roll a weighted dice
We lose the game, every one of us.

You know the rules
And so do I
But is it too late to call "cheat"?
Everyone is winning but oneself.

Across vast boards we run alone
Kings with all but subjects,
Knives with all but pride;
Fallen armies, their legacy nought but unending
stalemate.

The pot of greed is empty,
The cloak of envy stained and muddy
We re-roll the dice.
It's always the same.

We have drank from the scarlet chalice of sacrifice
The snakes constrict, the ladders burn
Our lives worthless as monopoly money
We're no strangers to loss
We have all lost the game.

Matthew Davies, Joseph McQuaid and Fern Stocks

Disaster in the Kitchen by Molly H-M

It was very warm for a Saturday mid September. My dad and brother, Noah, had gone out to watch a football match, Liverpool and Wigan were playing and with having family from both sides there was a sense of competition in the atmosphere. My other brother, Alfie, and sister Amy, were watching the television in the living room, whilst my mum was busy in the attic, cleaning I presume.

I was rather bored that morning and didn't fancy watching the same old Saturday morning programmes. Also, at the time, I had been going through a phase where I really enjoyed cooking and baking and tried to pursue the activity whenever I had time. So I skipped through to the kitchen, rifled through the cupboards and grabbed all the ingredients needed for a cake. With everything laid out in a neat line on the workbench, I thought 'Great, let's start.' That was when I realised that to measure how much butter, sugar and flour were needed: I had to get the scales. So I clambered up on to the workbench and reached for the top cupboard.

'BANG'. It was only a few seconds later when my vision recovered, that I noticed I was on the floor; my arm had sudden pains running through it and a nauseating feeling came over me. I looked down at my arm, it was a funny shape, as if it was a spoon on its side. I screamed and tears rolled down my cheeks. It soon became obvious that I had slipped and my arm had hit every object possible, the fruit bowl, the work-top, the radiator, the shoe rack and finally the floor.

Everything went a bit mad after that. Amy rushed in and tried to comfort me whilst Alf raced upstairs to tell my mum. My dad and Noah soon arrived home. My dad made a makeshift sling out of his Wigan scarf, I had to lift my arm and the pain, oh the pain was unbearable. My mum rang 999 but there was no chance an ambulance could get there on time.

We drove to the hospital as fast as we could and when we arrived, although the atmosphere was hectic, the medical staff were great and it was only uncomfortable when I had to sleep with my arm in the air!

When I was finally allowed out of the hospital, I had to go to school and unfortunate for me was that it was my left wrist was broken so I was still able to write and had to participate in all lessons, all except for games which I found very annoying.

After 6 weeks my arm was set free from its cast, everything went back to normal, which was fantastic. Although, I didn't try cooking again for at least two years!!

The Beach

I closed my eyes and fell into a deep sleep. I felt relaxed and calm lying there, hearing the sea lapping the shores. Slow, continuous lapping. If I opened my eyes I would see the sun beaming down on me, like a warm, comforting, ray of light. I listened and I heard children playing in the sand, laughing and

messing around. I could almost taste the sand on the tip of my tongue. A salty, unusual taste. I leaned back into my deck chair and fell back to sleep...

By Immy Cooper 7 Graham

A Childhood Memory by Lauren Smith

If you have never been to Center Parcs, let me tell you about it. It's full of attractions and also wildlife. In such a peaceful place, all you should be able to hear is the birds singing, and children laughing, but not by our villa!

We were sitting down, after a long morning of cycling around the park, when suddenly two adult swans, followed by 9 cygnets, waddled up from the lake towards our villa. The French doors were shut, so we just peacefully watched them, as they settled down in the grass.

After about 5 minutes, one of the swans seemed very anxious and agitated. We guessed that this was the male one, as it had a larger tuft of feathers on its head, and was distinctively bigger than the others. He kept looking in our direction, and also the female swan was standing in front of the cygnets, as if to protect them from something. Suddenly, the male swan started towards us, honking and hissing, with his wings outstretched in a threatening manner. We started to laugh, and all of us jumped for the camera at once, but it was soon no laughing matter. The swan was attacking the glass door, and we thought it was because of us. After about 10 minutes, we decided that the only possibility was to stop it before it got hurt, or before it cracked the glass.

My mum opened the door, so it could do no more harm to it or itself, but instead of retreating back to his family, he moved onto the door next to it. The next idea that we had was to use the curtain, and try and stop it by waving the curtain in its direction, but instead of scaring it, the swan grabbed onto the curtain, started pulling on it, and was trying to rip it.

After another 10 minutes, the only reasonable thing to do was to call the park ranger, because at least he could get it away more humanly than we were trying to do! When the park ranger came, he had to somehow chase the swan back to the lake. This attracted a LOT of attention, and soon it became very embarrassing for us to have to stand there watching. When he returned, the park ranger said that it was not us that had agitated him, but he could see his reflection in the glass door!

After that incident, we have not returned to Center Parcs for quite a while!

Radio 3 Sonnet

Bleakly - at home, and all day to be there -
 I study, through rainstorms, the neighbour's wall
 Till brickwork blots its symmetries, seems to fall
 In Niagara-blinks of picturesque despair.
 I turn back to my room, its time-shadowed air
 Doubting possessions: book, chair, mirror, all
 Lose substance to guilt and cannot recall
 Their purpose: a form of being I might share.

Then sudden music: slow, like cavalry, to start:
 Antique, aloof, and fearless - themes which thud -
 Until, outflanked, the mind becomes receptive space -
 Say: autumn fields, quivering, with the grace
 Of music's large reprising of all that could
 (It seems) challenge, astound, appease the heart.

Mr A R Gleave

Aftershock

There have been many momentous changes to the world over the past year: the inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th president of the United States of America, the replacement of Sandy as Headmaster of Blue Coat (who will forget those impromptu lessons about 'the good old days'?) and the fact that Britain will host the 2012 Olympics.

The past year has also seen its fair share of grave events: the Russian-Georgian war, the beginning of a British recession, Terry Wogan stepping down as host of Eurovision and the fact that Boris Johnson is in charge of hosting the 2012 Olympics (and we have China's photo-shopped fireworks to live up to... you didn't hear it here).

But, perhaps the most momentous and grave occurrence in the past year is the appointment of a (all-but-one) new squirrel editorial team. The new guys, Daniel Inwood, Ashley Williams, David Jeffery, Laurette Lau and Sasha St. John Murphy can be described as highly incompetent, forgetful and generally useless students who had to pull their socks up in order to avoid the disapproval of Ms. Ludlow. Although Alex Leece looked on very smugly (and rightly so!) from having 'past experience' of the last-minute deadlines. The year consisted of Daniel sitting through many 'exciting' social events paid

for from his own pocket, Laurette interviewing teachers at the most incontinent times (not to mention the non-stop badgering of her good friend, Mr. McBride) and David who completely forgot about his duties and engaged in a mad dash around the school a week before print (this meant that his 'facebook poking' method of reminding fellow students may not have worked, sadly).

However, it was poor Ashley who was landed with the most unpleasant job of all – attempting to prize information from the P.E. department, which she now knows is harder than finding the Hide and Seek Champion of 2008 (David is her biggest fan). Luckily, all came together in time, and each of us hope you have enjoyed the magazine, because we've enjoyed the experience and you're going to have to try damn hard to stop us doing it next year.

David Jeffery and Laurette Lau

(P.S. Thanks, David, for your interesting emails, most notably the sponsorship form for the half marathon, strangely sent when I was expecting the computer club report. I'm sure there's a link there somewhere. A Freudian slip, perhaps (running)? Ed.)

Hunting for Angels

The swirling plaits of gold and brass take ride of place in front,
I push it open eagerly and handle with great care,
Before me lies a path supplied with amber, brown and soot,
And up ahead a silvery mist- will I find my angel there?

My search for angels, every kind, is quite an escapade;
And of a fashion, angels dance from every place to place,
Through all the people I have known, and all the friends I've made,
I really want to sit a while and look one in the face.

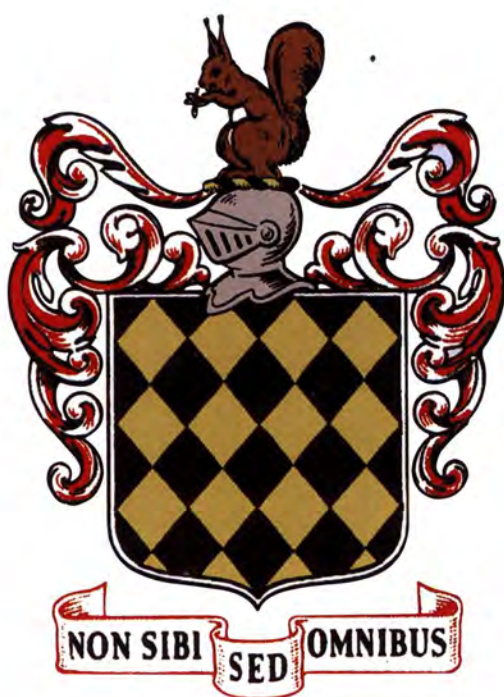
A tree observes my weary walk, the last place I might go
Is this, a park, where up above sleeps neither sun nor rain -
This unremarkable piece of land, clad in neither drought nor now,
A place where angels sure evade; I've nothing here to gain.

But hat is that? It's just an owl, but it's broken quite a spell.
The silent, open park sleeps here, and wakes a rustling breeze
That whispers to me, teases me, with secrets it could tell -
But can it tell if angels glide between all these barren trees?

I sit a while to contemplate, on a lonely wooden bench,
And feel the tender, careful touch of dew-frost on my face.
Will I find my angel in a palace, graveyard or a trench?
Or will this chilly autumn wind suffice as their embrace?

And suddenly, I hear a voice from a distance call my name,
And through the mist I see the group of friends that I hold dear.
They do not dance, or glide, or sing, or make a godly claim;
But one thing's for sure - I know that I have found some angels here.

by Olivia Sung



SQUIRREL 2008/09