

SQUIRREL

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL

2008



Blue Coat Parents' Association

Ged Jolliffe, Chairman

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 several events planned for this year which include:

Murder Mystery Night – Friday 9th May

Summer Fayre and Tri-Centenary Grand Finale – Sunday 13th July

Please support us in our effort to raise funds by attending as many functions as possible. We are always grateful for the many donations we receive, please be as generous as you can. If you would like to get involved please e-mail us at:

bluecoat.pa@googlemail.com

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.

LIVERPOOL BLUE COAT SCHOOL



SQUIRREL

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL

07/08

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within these pages.

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Contents

Editorial	3	School Trips	
Headmaster's Report	4	Cricket & Hockey Tour of Barbados	37
Avete	8	Iron Bridge 2007	38
Valete	9	Empire Theatre Trip	39
Obituary	10	Spanish Exchange 2007	39
Pupil Achievements		8 Bingham Knowsley Safari Park Trip 2007	39
Entry into Higher Education	11	Spanish Trip 2007	41
Form Prizes	13	Blue Coat Old & New	40
Academic Prizes	13	School Trips	
Special Prizes	14	Tod Travel Scholarship – Paris	42
Duke of Edinburgh Awards	14	Tod Travel Scholarship – Pakistan	42
Success in Music Examinations	15	Tod Travel Scholarship – Pakistan	43
School Colour Awards	16	Tod Travel Scholarships – Choir Trip to Spain	44
GCSE Results	17	Malham 2007 Report	44
A level Results	17	Oxbridge Conference 2007	45
6th Form Graduation Programme	18	Puzzle Page	47
Poetry of Place Competition	18	Out Of The Blue	
Target 2.0 Competition	19	Chris Dillon	48
Schools Bible Project Competition	19	Daniel Haggis	48
British Physics Olympiad, Physics Challenge & AS Competition	20	Alan Gleave	49
Tricentenary		Ron Richardson	50
Interview with the Headmaster	22	Keith Caulkin	50
School Events		Staff Pages	
Oxford Dinner	22	Teacher News	51
Teen Idol	23	Teacher Quotes	51
Blue Coat or White Coat	23	The Punishment Book	51
Santa Dash Report	24	Congratulations...	51
Year 9 Welcomes Julia Golding	24	School Sport	
Dave Ward Visit	25	Sports Day Results	52
Year 7 Social Evening	25	Track and Field News	52
Maths Challenge	25	Athletics	53
Xabi Alonso	25	Girls' P.E. – Hockey	53
MedLink	26	Netball	54
Astroturf Opening	26	Dance 2007	54
Good Citizens Award	26	Dance 2008	54
Clubs and Societies		Annual Cross Country Races	54
Debating Society	27	Visit of St Laurence's College, Brisbane, Australia	55
Craft Club	27	Rugby Report	56
Creative Writing Club	27	U12 Cricket	56
Art Club	28	U13 Cricket	56
Duke of Edinburgh Award	28	U12 Basketball	57
The Library	28	U14 Basketball	57
Christian Union	29	U15 Basketball	57
Computer Games Club	29	U19 Basketball	58
Chess Club	29	U14 Football	58
Social Services Committee Report	30	Year 11 Football	58
Music		U13 Football	58
Music Report 2007-08	31	Creative Writing	
Art	33-35	and throughout the magazine	
Drama		Aftershock	63
Oliver Twist	36		

By the time of the publication of this edition of The Squirrel Magazine, the revelries marking the Blue Coat School's three-hundredth birthday will be in full swing. The Astroturf and the Sixth Form Library are fitting and enduring birthday presents for students to enjoy. There are numerous celebratory events planned, such as musical concerts at both The Philharmonic and St George's Halls, as the momentous occasion of the School's 'Tricentenary' is being celebrated in manners commensurate with its prestigious standing in Liverpool, both in the year of the city's recognition as European Capital of Culture and throughout its long history.

Allow me to take you on a temporal-spatial journey to recount some of the significant events in the establishment of The Blue Coat School.

The Blue Coat Hospital was founded in 1708 by Bryan Blundell and The Reverend Robert Styth. It was partially built, then in the city centre, and open for use in 1718, and the first schoolmaster, William Trenow, was paid an annual salary of £10. The School's objective was to teach poor children to 'read, write and cast accounts'. A schoolmistress, Ellen Bibby, was also on the staff, and her duty was to teach sewing and knitting, and possibly reading.

From 1779 to 1799 Mr John Smith was Headmaster and his female assistant as Headmistress was Ellen Smith. It was during this period that the students ceased to be connected with manufacture – they had been employed to make stockings – when, in 1783, the Trustees stated that the foundation of the School had been solely for educational purposes. At this time, the students were fed a diet of beer, bread and cheese – I wonder what the present day students would make of that.

The Blue Coat Brotherly Society, which exists to this day, was formed in 1838 to promote friendship amongst those who had been educated at the School.

It was at the end of the 19th Century that Trustees Joseph Graham and W.H. Shirley and their friends made the decision that the School needed a new site, and thus it moved to Wavertree. W.H. Shirley died in 1901 and bequeathed his entire fortune to the School (£38,000), without which the new building would not have been created. The 16th Earl of Derby laid the foundation stone in 1903, the building was completed in 1906, and students moved into it in the same year.

During the Second World War, the School was evacuated to Beaumaris, Anglesey, and the building in Wavertree was for some time used as a war office. For six and a half years, the 270 students were initially billeted in private houses and the 30 staff were in boarding houses. Their morale was boosted by visits from staff in Liverpool, most notably the Treasurer and Chair of Governors, Mr John Bingham. Back in Liverpool, the School was hit by an incendiary bomb in May 1941, and notable damage was incurred in the laundry and to the furniture stored within it.

1949 marked a significant milestone in the life of the School, when it changed in status from an independent boarding school for boys and girls who were orphaned or disadvantaged, to a Voluntary Aided Day and Boarding Secondary School for Boys. It remained a boarding school until 1989.

The School owes a deep debt of gratitude to Mr T.I.F. Tod who, along with Headmaster Mr Peter Arnold-Craft, governors, parents and citizens of Liverpool and its environs, managed to suppress Liverpool Education Authority's 'Cease to Maintain Order', announced in 1984 and to take effect in 1986. The Director of Education was presented with an objection to the proposal which consisted of nearly 47,000 signatures. Without the financial backing of the LEA, the School faced closure. The campaign's success was emblematic of the dedication of parents, governors, staff and well-wishers to preserve The Blue Coat School.

In 1989, the School opened its doors to girls in the Sixth Form, including Mrs Coltart, who was one of the first contingency.

There are many headmasters, governors, treasurers and benefactors who have helped secure The Blue Coat School's prestige in Liverpool. What I have recorded here is a mere resumé, and I am conscious of my failure to mention some significant names and events in the School's history. Hopefully, however, this has served to enlighten, somewhat, the uninitiated.

I write at a time when the School is at the top of the Liverpool League Tables for GCSE, 100% of last year's students having attained 5 A-C passes, and it is ranked 6th of the National Co-Educational Grammar Schools. Plus Ofsted have affirmed that we are 'a good school with outstanding features'. As the School celebrates its 300th year of existence, we face the future with confidence and determination for continued success.

Mrs. B D G Ludlow

Editor

Further information on the history of The Blue Coat School can be found in the book 'The Liverpool Blue Coat School 1708 – 1995', edited by Mr Peter Healey, and which is in the process of being updated.

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 and The Blue Coat Old Boys' Association are due our thanks for the generous donation for the Quiz Prize. 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.

Prizegiving: Monday 10th December 2007

Distinguished guests, Governors, colleagues, parents, friends, students and former students, welcome to Prizegiving. And a particularly warm welcome to our prizewinners whose success we are celebrating this evening.

A friend of mine began teaching when I did. His surname was Owen, as in Michael Owen. On his first day in school he was eager to make an impression. Addressing his first class he said, "My name is Owen and you will call me such". So for the next forty years he was known as Mr Such. Now some have you have been sleeping so I shall start again.

A friend of mine began teaching when I did. His surname was Owen, as in Michael Owen. On his first day in school he was eager to make an impression. Addressing his first class he said, "My name is Own and you will call me such". So for the next forty years he was known as Mr Such. I have checked with my senior colleagues and I feel a little disappointed that I have never attracted a lasting nickname. However, as I come towards the end of my career I am pleased to report on an extraordinary and fantastic year at The Blue Coat School.

In any good organisation, the last year's results should always be the best. That means the workforce will have made the most of the raw material, the available opportunities and circumstances, and converted these into record figures. I am therefore really delighted and proud to report that the academic year 2006-2007 was one of the strongest in the history of The Blue Coat School, not just because the examination results were outstandingly good, but because the school did so well across a wide range of initiatives and successes. We have become a Specialist School, (more about this later), we celebrated a very good report from the Investor in People assessment team and we were awarded the Financial Management Standard, congratulations to the school Bursar. It is, however, the top priority of this school to deliver first class academic results and we have always aimed to prepare our students so that they pass their examinations with flying colours. Let us see how well they did.

In Key Stage Three National tests three quarters of all our students obtained the highest level possible in Mathematics and Science. Additionally, half of the students obtained the highest level in English. The school's work in Key Stage Three is remarkable and The Blue Coat School has been top of the Government's performance table for all schools in Greater Merseyside for three years in a row. In 2008 testing at fourteen will cease at The Blue Coat School and, instead, we shall test at thirteen. This will enable us to devote three years to an expanded GCSE programme, which we believe will be more appropriate and challenging. In the meantime, and yet again, I offer my congratulations to all colleagues in English, Maths and Science for pulling off another strong result at Key Stage Three.

In Key Stage Four our GCSE results were the best we have ever obtained with 72.4% of all grades A* or A. In real terms this means 869 A grades out of a total of one thousand two hundred. Furthermore, all our students achieved five passes A* - C including English and Maths and The Blue Coat School was one of the very few schools in the country to achieve this feat. Many congratulations to all the students and all my colleagues for this magnificent achievement.

At Advanced Level the results were again the best we have ever

obtained with 68.3% of all grades at A or B. Especially pleasing was the continued reduction in the number of lower grades and slowly but surely, grades D and E are being squeezed out. My Annual Report from Dr Kevin Conway who produces Value Added data for all Sixth Forms in the area tells me that in 2007 34% of all our A Level teaching was outstanding or very good and a further 63% was between good and satisfactory. No fewer than ten of our A Level subjects are now rated in the top 25% for Value Added and these are: Biology, Geography, Latin, Further Maths and Physical Education. According to the Sunday Times newspaper, if we combine our GCSE results with our A Level results, The Blue Coat School is the 60th most successful state school in the country out of more than three thousand schools. Counting just the GCSE results the school is the 29th best and counting just the coeducational schools The Blue Coat School is the 13th best in the country. In sporting terms, we are now playing in the premiership and our promotion has been clearly confirmed. I do thank and congratulate all my colleagues for the school's 2007 examination results. They are simply first class.

I am, of course, pleased to report so much academic success and so much participation in Higher Education and Oxbridge. This evening belongs to our prizewinners and others who have achieved their goals. I congratulate them all. It is good to celebrate with them and it is especially encouraging to see so many of our former students in the Cathedral today.

Those who attend our Annual Prizegiving regularly will know that I like to invite a distinguished Blue Coat student to give the address to the school. You may remember that we have previously enjoyed Dr Evan Harris MP, Dr Rodney Stables, David de Maestri, Lord Rennard, Dr David Halpin and Dr Tom Greggs and this year, the year of our 300th Birthday, I am delighted to welcome David Batterton as our special guest. David, of course, was a Blue Coat Boy for seven years between 1974 and 1981. He rose to become Captain of the 1st XI Football Team and he was also Deputy Head Boy. He was a fearless sportsman, strong and determined and one who always set a good example. He was a fine Blue Coat Student, one who mixed easily and confidently with others, and I know he is a proud parent of his three children who have all followed in his footsteps and become students at this school. As David is also a school Foundation Governor, and a successful Company Managing Director, I cannot think of anyone better to address the school in this our special third centenary. David, it's no surprise to us that you have personally done so well and I extend to you the warmest of welcomes.

This time last year I was able to report that our Special Appeal had raised £440,000 to support two Tricentenary Projects, which would benefit the school and help celebrate our 300th Birthday. I am really pleased to announce that the Appeal Fund has now risen to £605,000 and the two projects have almost been completed. Indeed, the new sports pitch has been available since September and the new Sixth Form area will be occupied by our students very soon. I do thank all my colleagues who have assisted with, and supported, the Tricentenary developments and we look forward to a number of special events in 2008. Many thanks, too, to all Governors, Parents, students and friends who have contributed to our Appeal Fund, which will remain open until July 2008. There is one other group of people, which I wish to thank in this section and that is all my friends who sit on the Parents'

Association Committee under the leadership of Linda Crawley and Ged Jolliffe. This group continues to go from strength to strength and we regularly have twenty willing members at our meetings. Furthermore, £2,000 is paid into our Special Appeal every term. Special congratulations go to Mr Jolliffe who has recently been appointed Chairman of the School's Trustees, a rare distinction indeed.

I shall now turn to School Trips, Residentials and other special events, which have occurred during the past year. These experiences are so important to the personal development of our students and it is really encouraging for me to see an expansion of these educational journeys, most of which take place in holiday time.

In October eight Sixth Form students visited Krakow in Poland for a cultural and historical tour of the city. In December twenty two students enjoyed their Basketball Tour in the United States whilst in January thirty-five History and French students embarked on a four day visit to the splendid palace of Versailles. In February fifty more students enjoyed their skiing trip in the Italian Alps and just a few weeks later twenty-three students visited our partner school in St Sebastian. At the same time twenty more students visited New York for a politics convention and then in July three more major trips took place. Sixty-four members of the school choir travelled to Spain where they gave special concerts in Bilbao, St Sebastian and Santander, forty-seven Spanish students spent a week in Barcelona and a further twenty-four students visited Paris with the Art department.

These journeys across the world are incredibly worthwhile and beneficial, as are the educational trips to destinations in the United Kingdom and I am pleased that our Upper Sixth Biologists continue to visit Malham in North Yorkshire and our Geographers spend time in the Lake District. Year 7 students enjoyed their residential PGL weekend as well as their technology visit to Helmshore Mill and their History trip to Chester. Year 8 students travelled to Iron Bridge in Shropshire, to Knowsley Safari Park, the Empire Theatre in Liverpool and the Jaguar Car Factory in Halewood whilst Year 9 students enjoyed their History trip to The Royal Armoury in Leeds and Year 11 students made the most of their modern World History Conference. Finally, thirty-five Sixth Form students enjoyed our Annual Oxford Dinner, this time at Lincoln College. To share a black tie dinner with so many Blue Coat students, on a Saturday evening in Oxford, is for me one of the highlights of the academic year.

All these Trips and Residentials require expert leadership and management and I do thank and congratulate the group leaders as follows: Ms Holland, Mr Rees, Mrs Athis, Mr Crighton, Mr O'Brien, Mr Cook, Mrs Ludlow, Mrs Watson, Mr Kenny, Mrs Bennett, Mr Lamb and Mr Cox. And before I leave the world of travel, I am pleased that forty three students will soon be flying off to Barbados for a Cricket and Hockey tour, next April we shall welcome a sports team from Brisbane Australia and in 2009 a Blue Coat party will make the return journey to Australia.

Last November's musical production was 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. Taking its audience back to the days of Ancient Egypt, our production featured a cast drawn from across the year groups and drew upon the support of many of my colleagues. The Shirley Hall was transformed into several biblical locations including Canaan and Pharaoh's palace and an exceptionally high standard of singing and inventive

choreography made this a show to remember. Equally, and in the same category of entertainment, the Annual celebratory Evening of Poetry, Winged Words, again attracted over two hundred parents and pupils and they were able to enjoy masterpieces from Shakespeare, Tennyson and our own Roger McGough. Indeed, three of our prizewinners this evening have been honoured as a result of their outstanding individual contributions. Many thanks to all my colleagues in the field of drama and entertainment.

I come now to the performance of our students in the British Physics Olympiad. This was a record year for the school, our students winning four silver and nine bronze awards, and together with eleven more successes in the Year 12 Physics Competition, and forty-six Gold, Silver and Bronze awards in the Year 11 Physics Challenge, you can see how well our students are doing in these prestigious competitions. In the Chemistry Olympiad the school also won two silver medals and all these details are included in your programme. Furthermore, during the summer of 2007, several of our Sixth Form scientists entered the Nuffield Bursary Science Competition and in the North West region there was a total of fifty entries. Of these fifty, seven came from The Blue Coat School and remarkably two of the seven were chosen to go forward to the National Final. Many congratulations to our students Felix Millne and Mohammad Ali, and many thanks to all my colleagues in Science for setting up these special opportunities. Talking of Science, we are hugely pleased to have been designated a Specialist School in Science and Mathematics. As all our students study these subjects in the curriculum our specialism will impact on everyone, and we feel very fortunate that we are sponsored by Rathbones as well as the Blue Coat Foundation. In a few days time we will have our first Rathbone Christmas Lecture and next March we look forward to a visit from Mission Control in Russia. We are pleased that Elaine Grierson, our Rathbone representative, is so interested in our school.

In School Sport I am delighted to report that we still participate in a full programme of fixtures in Association Football, Athletics, Basketball, Cricket, Hockey, Netball, Rounders and Tennis. Last year's most notable team successes occurred in boys' Basketball, our U15, U16 and U19 teams becoming Champions of Liverpool. In the girls' competition our U15 Netball team and U15 Hockey team were both winners of their Liverpool League. Individually, there were many outstanding performances, all of them listed in your programme, but we do especially admire Craig Gundersen in Athletics who came in 3rd place in the National 3,000 meters Final. Congratulations to all our sporting representatives and all my colleagues who assist in their progress and development. Some years ago, when I was more directly involved in the running of the school sport, I used to wonder when, if ever, the school's sporting facilities would be upgraded. We had only a small gym, a tiny pool and a field which resembled a meadow. It is during the last five years that our sports hall, dance studio and new Astroturf pitch have been developed and I am particularly pleased about that because they were long overdue.

Last year the school Musical Society again produced a number of outstanding successes. At the Carol Service, held in Holy Trinity Church, we enjoyed our largest ever school choir with ninety-three students taking part. This was followed by the popular festive concert where the orchestra rounded off the evening with a rousing

Headmaster's Report

performance of Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1. At the Spring concert we heard the complete work of Haydn's Nicolai Mass together with Mozart's piano concerto in D minor played by James Boughey. At the Summer Recital the audience was delighted by the repertoire of the school choir, which produced its exciting programme for the Spanish Tour, which lay ahead. There was also a piece from the Concert Band, the Jazz Band and the Orchestra together with some wonderful performances from Anna King, Natalie Noon, Ben Southam, Semma Enjoneatse and again James Boughey. And so to Spain, when sixty-four students flew out to Santander to sing Mass and perform concerts at the Cathedrals of St Sebastian, Bilbao and Santander itself. The choir was extremely well received and I know that all our students were superb ambassadors of this school. Many congratulations to all our musicians and my colleagues who lead them so well. This evening the school's music is once again on display and I am confident that you will appreciate the ethereal quality of what you see and hear.

The school's culture is also enriched by many other activities and I do thank those involved in the Annual Careers Fair, Work Experience Placements, the Squirrel Magazine, the Drama Workshops, the Residentials for the Gifted and Talented, the Sir Alan Tod Scholarships, the Holy Trinity Church, the Art Club, Christian Union, the Maths Game Club, Midbank, the Oxford Residential and the Craft Club. I am pleased that the Duke of Edinburgh group has again completed the Bronze Award and these details are shown in your programme. In Creative Writing sixty-one students have had their writing published in Anthologies and Mohammed Ali was a runner up in a National Poetry Competition. Mrs Ludlow has also had her third poem published and she came second in the Liverpool Poetry of Place Competition for Teachers. I am also pleased to report that twelve of our Latin students have been studying Ancient Greek, during special evening sessions, at the University of Liverpool. The school continues to support local national charities, as well as our own Tricentenary Special Appeal, and we managed to raise almost £6,000 for thirty-four separate charities.

In Bridge, for the first time ever, The Blue Coat team won promotion in the Merseyside Adult League and two students, Daniel Caton and Daniel Evans were selected for the England U19 team. Another brilliant success occurred in the Royal Society of Chemistry's 'Top of the Bench' competition when the Blue Coat team won the national final, against really tough opposition, at the Science Museum in London. The prize won was £500 for the school plus individual trophies. Additionally the school's Economics Department entered the Stock Market Challenge in Chester and secured another excellent

victory, and a further £500 prize for the school. And finally, in this section, our Year 10 Science Olympics team was runner up in the Merseyside Final. Congratulations to all our brilliant students.

During the past year we have said goodbye to two long serving colleagues through retirement, Mr Boal and Mrs Derringer. Mr Boal our Head of Art, was with us for twenty-one years. He was immensely successful, he knew his subject inside out, he was professional, committed to school improvement and he gained the highest grades for his students. Mrs Derringer served the school's Mathematics department for twenty-seven years. She, too, was dedicated, a really good professional colleague, a teacher who could perform in the classroom with consummate ease, and another who could earn the very best grades for her students. We do wish Mr Boal and Mrs Derringer a very happy retirement. Of course, we are always pleased to appoint new colleagues and we are delighted to welcome Mr Cain and Mr Fee and also Mrs Treharne, who joins our Religious Studies Department.

Some people ask "What more would you do if you were staying?" I would certainly wish to use the Clock Tower entrance on a regular basis and review, along with the trustees, how to utilise the spare space which still exists in the East Wing. In the Sixth Form we need to consider the introduction of the English Baccalaureate, which would secure the future of our Advanced Levels while, at the same time, enriching the experiences of our senior students. Then there is the question of school dinners, how much longer are we going to pay £20,000 per year to serve food at lunchtime? I really believe there could be an interesting debate around this particular issue.

As I come towards the end of this report I am mindful that The Blue Coat School will soon be three hundred years old. It is a grand school, with a rich history and rich culture, a school with traditions and standards, which make students proud, a school which has never changed its name over three centuries, a school which somehow, almost magically, seems to get the best out of everybody. I am, of course, enormously grateful to my senior team, which is so strong and so focused on school improvement. I am lucky because I work with such good people. I thank, too, all my colleagues and friends in the staff room for their exceptional leadership and loyalty and all the Governors for their encouragement, commitment, care and support. Headteachers of other schools in Liverpool and beyond, together with my advisers in the local authority, have also been helpful. The Blue Coat School is not only the oldest school in Liverpool; it is one of the great schools in England. It is a treasure, a jewel, a school full of exciting and dynamic students and I congratulate them for doing so well. Ladies and Gentlemen I conclude my report.

The Blue Coat School



1708 - 2008

Tricentenary Special Appeal

The Blue Coat School will be 300 years old in 2008. Accordingly, the school has set up a **SPECIAL APPEAL FUND** so that the school will benefit from a significant birthday present in 2008. The Parents' Association has already donated £2,008 and has promised to match this sum every term up to 2008.

WE HOPE YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS SPECIAL APPEAL

Please send your donation to either the Headmaster or the Bursar at the School. Cheques should be made payable to:

"The Blue Coat School 2008 Special Appeal"

and sent to:-

The Headmaster or The Bursar
The Blue Coat School
Church Road
Wavertree
Liverpool L15 9EE

WE ARE HOPING TO RAISE AT LEAST A MILLION POUNDS



Mr Cain

The Blue Coat School is pleased to welcome Mr Cain as its latest addition to the Art department. Having always been very keen on the subject, Mr Cain was happy to put down his golf clubs and concentrate more fully on his art. Since studying at JMU (Fine Art), he has managed a bar, and had a few jobs in the council. Before The Blue Coat School, Mr Cain worked at Bridgewater High School in Warrington. He claims there were many tears as he departed, making a point that the tears were not his. There is no evidence to support this claim. However, he seems to have settled in well here and he describes the experience so far as 'sound as a pound'. The only glitch he says is that his alleged gym partner Mr McBride is always too busy doing sums. Mr McBride retorts, 'It is better than scribbling on big pieces of paper!' We wish Mr Cain all the best here at The Blue Coat School.



Mrs Treharne

We welcome this year Mrs Treharne as the newest member of the school's R.S. department. Born in Liverpool, she went to SFX College, before going on to study English and History at Liverpool Hope University. Prior to The Blue Coat School she worked at the Inland Revenue. With her family of four, Mrs Treharne enjoys walking and is often seen negotiating the trails around the Lake District and Cheshire in particular. Just over a year ago, Mrs Treharne took up singing and has since found it very enjoyable; and it would appear that she is doing very well, having performed at a concert in The Philharmonic Hall in February of this year. So far she says she has found the school to be very welcoming and makes particular reference to the friendliness and commitment of both the students and staff. Situated by the library Mrs Treharne 'likes the view out of the window' - and many people agree it is perhaps the best classroom in the school.



Mr Fee

Our ever-improving Maths department has been given a further boost this year with the introduction of Mr Fee. Born and bred in Liverpool, he is a local guy who is new to the profession, but is looking forward to taking on the challenge. In addition to his strong interest in Mathematics, Mr Fee is also fascinated by computers, and has several apple macs of his own. He enjoys anything to do with sci-fi, in particular Star Trek, and has an interest in history, specifically Ancient Egypt. Mr Fee likes to develop his passion for history whilst on holiday and has recently explored places such as York, Paris, Efes (Ancient Roman settlement in Turkey) and Venice amongst others. He appreciates a wide range of new music; in fact he says he'll listen to almost anything other than rap and R&B. We hope that Mr Fee settles in well here at The Blue Coat School, and enjoys life as a teacher.



Marta López Pérez

¡Hola! Mi nombre es Marta López Pérez, tengo 25 años y soy Española. Mi ciudad se llama Salamanca, es una ciudad pequeña pero muy famosa por su universidad y sus monumentos históricos. Antes de venir a Liverpool estudiaba un Master en mi ciudad. Vine a Inglaterra a trabajar como Asistente de Español en Blue Coat School a través del Consejo Británico y creo que es una de las mejores decisiones que he tomado en mi vida, ¡me encanta la experiencia que estoy viviendo! Llevo en esta ciudad más de cuatro meses pero ya la había visitado anteriormente. Me encanta Liverpool, es una ciudad llena de vida donde hay un montón de cosas que hacer. La gente aquí es muy amable y simpática y estoy haciendo muchos amigos. Además me encanta el acento scouse y la pasión que tienen por el fútbol. Me encantaría decir desde aquí que mi estancia en Blue Coat está siendo muy enriquecedora, estoy aprendiendo mucho, ahora entiendo porqué está considerado uno de los mejores colegios de Inglaterra. Mis alumnos de español tienen un nivel muy bueno y siempre tienen ganas de aprender cosas nuevas, me encanta ver su interés hacia la cultura española.

Desde que llegué me he sentido apoyada por todos los profesores, en especial por el departamento de lenguas modernas, ¡muchas gracias! Por último me gustaría decir que animo a todo el mundo a venir a España y descubrir una país que tiene mucho que ofrecer, con una cultura muy rica, seguro que todos se sentirán agusto. Las puertas de mi casa siempre estarán abiertas para todo el que quiera venir.



Abdelhadi Zerarga

Je m'appelle Eddy et j'ai 23 ans

Je viens de Rueil-Malmaison, une ville assez calme située dans la banlieue ouest de Paris, connue pour son château qui appartenait à l'impératrice Joséphine. Rueil est par ailleurs la plus grande ville du département des Hauts-de-Seine.

J'ai effectué mes études à l'université Paris X à Nanterre où j'ai suivi des cours de civilisation et de littérature britannique et américaine. J'ai ensuite passé le Concours d'Aptitude au Professorat dans l'Enseignement Secondaire.

Plus qu'une expérience pédagogique enrichissante, c'est un plaisir de travailler dans une école telle que Blue Coat dans laquelle les élèves sont disciplinés, à l'écoute et souvent solidaires conformément à la devise de leur établissement. C'est aussi une chance de travailler avec des professeurs aussi compétents ainsi qu'un bibliothécaire hors paire.

J'aime la ville de Liverpool qui est une ville très animée et où j'ai eu la chance de rencontrer des personnes de différentes origines mais aussi de me familiariser avec l'accent scouse.

Le métier d'assistant est une expérience inestimable pour moi puisque j'ai l'opportunité d'enrichir ma culture en visitant les principales villes d'Angleterre ainsi que d'autres pays européens.

J'encourage finalement tous mes élèves à effectuer ce genre d'échanges linguistiques qui ne serait que bénéfique pour eux.

Anita Derringer

When Anita arrived at the Blue Coat School in January 1981, she was shortly to be married to Steve and decided to be known with her current name. When I suggested that this might confuse everybody, she told me that was nonsense. I felt able to speak to her in such a manner as I had known her for a considerable number of years before her arrival here. On reflection, her decision to arrive under her old name really sums up Anita – she is what she is, as Oliver Cromwell once famously requested in his portrait: “warts and all”. Her straightforward approach probably derives from being born in Huddersfield, where they call a spade a spade.

Training as a nurse, she graduated from Liverpool University in Mathematics and taught in a number of schools around Merseyside such as Maricourt and Bellerive. Having found her niche at Blue Coat, she quickly settled down to a long stint of quality Maths teaching where her down to earth values obviously suit that particular discipline. Her love was just that – teaching. She did not want any sort of managerial role whatsoever, which was to the great benefit of so many former students who have enjoyed her skill and care in that most difficult subject. She knew what she wanted – and stuck with it. Only once did she succumb to managing something other than Mathematics, and that was the early “computer” suite – an odd collection of mainly wind-up machines saved from the Ark by Noah, about which she knew nothing and cared even less. She did it as a favour.

In her early days, at Blue Coat, she enjoyed singing for many years with the Cantata Choir at the Metropolitan Cathedral before her two sons arrived and motherhood duties called. She also found it useful to have personal “space” – her husband was involved at the other cathedral at the time. In the choir she was famous for her knitted outfits and home-brewed wines (and fine they were too).

One amazing aspect of her life is her annual extended summer trek around Europe pulling a caravan. Anita, Steve and the boys have travelled tens of thousands of miles and visited the far-flung corners of Europe, evidently without a problem. She has entertained us all with stories of hot nights in Rome and passionate nights at the Opera in Verona. Recently I missed them by one day on the Cote d’Azur. For many years they have travelled in tandem with the Bishops (Mike and family, not the episcopal variety). To me, one caravan behind a car is a nightmare; two is...well, unthinkable.

At lunchtimes she was often exercising her mind on difficult crosswords in the Senior Common Room, as if teaching were not enough. Sadly, I don’t have the patience for such things, but often end up being consulted.

We have enjoyed a brief Indian Summer with Anita doing part-time work in the Maths department, but soon she will be gone from our physical presence, but not our memory. I am sure that she will pop into school or come along in the evening (as Oscar Wilde once famously put it). What is certain is that her teaching skills and ever-cheerful disposition will be sorely missed as will her commonsense in a world that is rapidly become silly. We wish her a long and happy retirement – and many more long hot summers with Steve and her family.

Mr E J Crighton

Dave Boal

Dave came to the Blue Coat School in 1986 having previously worked for the Art Advisor in various schools around Liverpool. He brought with him a real passion for art, as well as for snooker, horse racing, cycling and York City FC.

In the Art Department he opened all our eyes to the beauty within the local environment – the brickwork in the local houses, the surfaces beneath our feet and in the unlikeliest of places – areas of dereliction in the city centre, particularly around Duke Street. This was the starting point for some fantastic projects with sixth form students, at one time each student using an old door to produce a replica of the worn and graffiti ridden doors in the area. His work with key stage 4 students on this theme led to the school winning an award for the Best Education Project at the Liverpool Architecture and Design Trust Awards.

Dave introduced to the department many innovative ideas that we are still working with today. He started a trend of regular visits to the local galleries for all exam classes, making him a familiar figure in the Tate and Walker, and encouraging students to gain inspiration from first hand experiences with art works.

Many students over the years have benefited from Dave’s knowledge and commitment. An ex-student who is now studying art at Edinburgh recently told us that none of his tutors were a patch on Mr Boal. As well as inspiring art students, Dave was a PGCE mentor throughout his career here and we know that many trainee teachers have been grateful for his support and hard work.

Dave has always been a practising artist and is never without his sketchbook. Many students and staff have admired his paintings inspired by his love of horse racing. Several of us in the staff room have benefited from his hot tips! Now that he is retired, he intends to spend more time painting, cycling, travelling and following the fortunes of York City. Dave was always a very supportive and encouraging colleague and he will be greatly missed by both staff and students. We wish him, and his wife Sheila, a happy retirement.

Mrs S Watson

Liverpool Culture

Got the ferry across the River Mersey,
Listening to Juice FM and wearing me Everton jersey,
Went to the Cavern for a bifter and a bevvy,
Then went shopping in Town and me bags were
proper heavy,
In Town visited the museums, theatres, two
cathedrals and that,
And the people were dead friendly and up for a
boss chat,

Got the bus back to me house,
And read me Echo, while eating some scouse,
Listened to the Beatles, and watched Ken Dodd on
the telly,
And could feel the Liverpool spirit everywhere, even
in me belly!

Hannah Armstrong 11Sh

Harry Summers

Harry Summers, an Old Boy, Blue Coat parent, trustee and Governor, died in October 2007. His funeral was held in the School Chapel on Monday 22nd October, where the Headmaster spoke the following words:

Harry Summers.

Before I say a few words about Harry, I am pleased to welcome in particular Jean, Neil and Heather, and also other family members Brian, Mandy, Linda and Anita, not forgetting Hilary who is in Canada. You are all very welcome to our School Chapel. We are here today because Harry was our friend and we are very pleased that Harry was our friend. Jean, on this difficult day, we shall promise always to support you, to help you, to care for you and your family, and to love you, and we all share your sadness.

Harry was born on St. Valentine's Day in 1925. When he was eight years old he came to the Blue Coat School as a boarder, and he came with his brother Frank and Betty his sister. So Harry became a Blue Coat Boy in 1933 and in 1939, the day after Britain declared war on Germany, Harry and all the other Blue Coat boarders were evacuated to Beaumaris in North Wales. In 1941 Harry joined the Army and, shortly after, his arm was so severely damaged that he was officially declared disabled. As Harry grew up he actually went out with one of Jean's friends, before, eventually, Jean met Harry at Bradstones Tennis Club in Sandfield Park, and Jean you and Harry were married on St Georges Day in 1960, and you remained happily married for a total of 47 years.

In 1962 Harry became a businessman, a successful businessman, a role which lasted until he retired in 1991. Also in 1962 Neil was born,

and then Heather was born in 1965. Neil followed in his father's footsteps and became a Blue Coat boy while Heather was educated at King David School. Harry's passions were, of course, family life, sport and then the Blue Coat School. He and Jean were prominent in the school's Parents' Association, then the Friends of the Blue Coat School, and eventually Harry became a Trustee and School Governor between 1979 and 2001.

Jean and Harry enjoyed some memorable holidays, notably playing tennis in the Caribbean, enjoying a trip to Kenya and several holidays in Wales. But the focal point of social life remained the Blue Coat School and Harry and Jean had some titanic mixed doubles tennis matches with the Headmaster Peter Arnold – Craft, and his wife Nancy. I can well imagine how keenly fought these would have been, because Peter didn't like to lose, but it is a fact that Harry and Jean were simply too good and generally won the day.

At the age of 76 Harry was still playing tennis, remarkable really, as he had been declared officially disabled more than 50 years earlier.

Neil and Heather, you remember your father as a very encouraging parent at all times. He taught you both to swim, and many others too, and you, Neil, were proud to become a Blue Coat boy. You both very rarely fell out with your father, he never raised his voice, and it was Mum who doled out the discipline. He was a traditional man, rather shy. And a man who very rarely swore. Indeed, Heather you only heard your father swear once and that was while he was watching Everton Football Club.

Harry was a Blue Coat boy and he grew up to become a considerable and outstanding Blue Coat man. He served this school generously and loyally for many years and he was a good family man. Jean, Neil and Heather you must be very proud of him.

AC Milan Triumphs Over United

One night's football,
At the San Siro,
Against Man United,
Milan were bellissimo!

It would always be hard,
Being 3-2 down,
But Kaka and others,
Made Milan's crown.

It took them three goals,
To earn them a win,
But after their performance,
They couldn't help but grin.

Now to the finals
Against LFC,
Who will win?
We will soon see!

Mark Woosey Yr9

The 2007 Poetry of Place Awards Finalist

RIVER, RIVER

River, River, flowing past,
River, River, strong and fast,
River, River, seagulls fly,
River, River, across your sky.

River, River, swelled with rain,
River, River, cause no pain,
River, River, don't flood the road,
River, River, with your deadly load.

River, River, flowing past,
River, River, strong and fast,
River, River, time to slow,
River, River, stem your flow.

Sarah Hamilton Yr10

Entry into Higher Education 2007

Shaun Raymond Hurst	University of Cambridge	Natural Sciences
Qi Qi	University of Cambridge	Engineering
Oritsema Lucia Ejuoneatse	University of Oxford	History
Daniel Robert Mannion	University of Oxford	Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry
James Calvin Taylor	University of Oxford	Classics
Claire Thomas	University of Oxford	History
Yasin Aliman	University of Newcastle	Engineering (Foundation Year)
Joseph Armstrong	University of Leeds	Economics
Paul Williams Athans	University of Liverpool	Politics
Stephen Banks	University of Newport	Graphic Design
Samantha Leanne Barlow	University of Liverpool	Zoology
Daniel Benton	Queens University Belfast	Economics / Modern History
Laura Jessica Binsale	Liverpool John Moores University	Psychology and Biology
James Michael Boughey	Kings College London	Music
Alan Burke	University of Sheffield	Management and Economics
Laura Jane Carver	University of Leeds	History and Spanish
Mathew Caveney	University of Liverpool	E – Business
Adrian Chi – Ho Chan	Liverpool John Moores University	Accounting and Finance
Mona Ling Fung Chee	University of Nottingham	Psychology
Xi Chen	University of Liverpool	Anatomy and Human Biology
Christopher William Clay	University of Leeds	Economics
Thomas Clutton	University of Liverpool	Physics
Christopher Patrick Crowe	University of Liverpool	French
James Daly	University of Liverpool	Economics
Jonathan Davies	University of Liverpool	Engineering (Foundation)
Jonathan Davies	University of Liverpool	Law (LLB Honours)
Edward Devine	University of Liverpool	Physics with Astrophysics
Asma Diab	University of Manchester	Life Sciences applicable to Medicine
Ian Dixon	University of Liverpool	Geography
Neil Downey	Liverpool John Moores University	Law (LLB Honours)
Jonathan Stephen Dramond	University of Liverpool	Combined Honours
Laura Draper	University of Liverpool	Biological Sciences
Adibrahim Dualeh	Liverpool John Moores University	Applied Psychology
Ruth Dudley	University of Sheffield	Law
Stephen John Duffield	University of Liverpool	Medicine
Hannah Elizabeth Edmondson	University of Sheffield	Law with Spanish
Steven Edwards	Liverpool John Moores University	Economics
Igemi Ekoku	University of Manchester	Aerospace Engineering
Peter Fielding	University of Leicester	Medicine (5 Years)
Joseph Duncan Fiske	University of Manchester	Medicine (5 Years)
Mathew Christopher Fitzgerald	Goldsmiths College University of London	English with Foundation Year
Thomas Fitzpatrick	University of Liverpool	Pharmacology
Nadia Flynn	University of Liverpool	Radiotherapy
Chloe Elizabeth Freeman	University of Leeds	Mathematics with Finance
Paul Richard Galgey	University of Manchester	Geography
Joseph Sebastian Stuart Gaynor	University of Sheffield	Medicine (Phase one)
Robert James Gillespie	University of Liverpool	Civil and Structural Engineering (4 Years)
Ian Griffiths	University of Sheffield	Physics with study in Australasia
Craig Gundersen	University of Birmingham	History, Ancient and Medieval
Mathew Hall	University of Liverpool	Computer Information Systems
Timothy Wen Foong Han	University of Sheffield	European, International and Comparative Law
David Harris	University of Liverpool	Medicine
William Stephen Head	University of Durham	Geosciences
Carlo Kin Alexander Hill	University of Durham	Mechanical Engineering
Peter Hollywood	Leeds Metropolitan University	Sport and Exercise Science
George Peter Houghton	University of Sheffield	Accounting and Financial Management
David Lawrence Hughes	University of Nottingham	Environmental Science
David Michael Hughes	University of Liverpool	Mathematics
Mark Edward Ireland	University of Manchester	Science with a Foundation Year
Jonathan Jackson	University of Liverpool	Economics
Abraham Jacob	University of Warwick	Physics
Elizabeth Jacobs	University of Lancaster	Politics

Pupil Achievements

Andrew James	University of Liverpool	Financial Economics
Christopher James Jones	University of Liverpool	Anatomy and Human Biology
James Phillip Jones	Leeds Metropolitan University	Business and Management
Leigh Jones	Leeds Metropolitan University	Sport and Exercise Science
Michael Felix Kazich	University of Sheffield	English Literature
Mathew Keegan	University of Liverpool	Economics
Rebecca Kelly	University of Liverpool	Medicine (based at Lancaster University)
Muhammad Khan	University of Liverpool	Pharmacology
Zohaib Sarfaraz Khan	University of Liverpool	Dental Surgery
Anna King	University of Manchester	Physics
James King	University of Liverpool	Electronic Commerce Computing
Jonathan Paul Lalgee	University of Newcastle	Marketing
Ross Leader	University of Liverpool	Dental Surgery
Ting Li	University of Bath	Architectural Studies
Katy Lin	University of Durham	Mechanical Engineering
Luchuan Lin	University of Liverpool	Medicine
Jonathan Xue Liang Liu	City College London	Management
Leanne Yuen Lum Lo	Liverpool John Moores University	Medicinal Chemistry
Sarah Loveridge	University of Sheffield	European, International and Comparative Law
Robert William David Lowthian	University of Durham	Theoretical Physics
Cathy Mahoney	University of Leicester	History and Politics
Laura May McNeil	University of Sheffield	Law
Natalie Melia	Liverpool John Moores University	Tourism and Leisure Management
Guangxin Miao	LSE	Accounting and Finance
Mathew Milroy	University of Liverpool	Medicine
Christopher James Mitchell	Liverpool John Moores University	Economics
John Mussell	University of Liverpool	Politics
David Ian Norris	University of Warwick	Biological sciences
Caroline Mary O'Brien	Liverpool Hope University	Early Childhood Studies and Inclusive Education
Liam O' Brien	University of York	English
Luke O'Connor	University of Stafford	Economics Management
Nadia Omar	University of Liverpool	Biological and Medical Sciences
Michael Conrad Orlans	University of Sheffield	Architecture
Philippa Jayne Owens	University of Manchester	Law
James Phillips	University of Manchester	Computer Sciences
Ian Polanowski	University of Liverpool	Psychology
Jonathan Potter	University of Sheffield	Economics
Sheik Nizel Nayan Rahman	University of Liverpool	Biological and Medical Sciences
Neil Ratcliff	University of Sheffield	Genetics
Matt Richardson	University of Central Lancashire	Product Design
Brogan Jade Roberts	University of Liverpool	Criminology and Sociology
David Patrick Sheenan	University of Liverpool	Ancient History and Archeology
Jonathon Skinner	University of Coventry	Physiotherapy
Jennifer Smith	University of Liverpool	Medicinal Chemistry with Pharmacology
Mark Smith	Leeds Metropolitan University	Business and Management
Ben Adam Stuart	Leeds Metropolitan University	Sport Business Management
Nahida Sultana - Miah	University of Liverpool	Biological and Medical Sciences
Alan Kai Lok Tai	University of Liverpool	Accounting
Benjamin Tang	University of Liverpool	Biochemistry
Ian Richard Thompson	University of Bath	Physics with placement
Ryan Torrible	Leeds Metropolitan University	Economics of Business
Michael Geoffrey Walby	University of Newcastle	Economics
Adam Walsh	University of Sussex	Mathematics
Chris Watters	University of Liverpool	Medicine
Jonathon Wilkinson	University of Liverpool	Economics
Andrew Williams	University of Manchester	Engineering with a Foundation Year
Nick Wilsher	University of Leeds	Civil Engineering with Construction Management
Anthony James Wilson	University of Liverpool	Engineering (4 Years)
James Wilson	University of Liverpool	Microbiology
Mark Richard Winckle	University of Liverpool	Computer Science
Jamie Jum Yin Wong	University of Liverpool	Accounting
Jonny Chee Chung Wong	University of Liverpool	Medicine
Li Ting Wong	University of Liverpool	Medicine
Samuel Wong	University of Manchester	Physics
Laura Jane Woolley	University of Sheffield	Psychology
Sizheng Zhao	University of Liverpool	Medicine

Form Prizes

Year 7

Maria McNabb
Tom Hessom
Jack Hacket
Ellen Robinson
John Ogundele
Olivia Brown
Richard Pan
Bianca Casaus

Michael Tancred
Rebecca Smith
Lauren Atherton

Year 8

Lara Rimmer
Michael Devaney
Eleanor Marsh
James Rhodes
Grant Helm
Beth Currie
Louise Davis
Peter Athans

Year 10

Tony Ren
Jessica Low
Melody Mak

Year 9

Silviu Paraoan
Hannah Lui
Lucy Thompson
Helen Thompson
Lauren Perez
Max Thomas McGenity
Jennifer Buchanan
Matthew Benton

Michael Higham
David Jeffery

Academic Prizes

Year 11

Katherine Hughes
Vlad Paraoan
Adam Forster
Eleanor Lewis
Amy Hawkens
Michael Roberts
Alexander Leece
Lisa Tang
Max Berks
Jing Ouyang
Steven Wenham
Sophie Jain
Nicholas Farandos
Rebekah Carney

Year 12

Fengjia Cai
James Gundry
Adam Lyons - Jones
Kai-Wei Yin
Alexander Casimo
Francis Banwell
Iain Jackson

Year 13

Joseph Fiske
Ting Li
Robert Lowthian
Oritsema Ejuoneatse
Craig Gunderson
Ross Leader
Michael Orlans
Christopher Watters

Year 11

The Margaret Bryce Smith School Scholarships

Emma Longworth
Daniel Bruce
Karlra Wayland - Larty
Gregg Gaffney
James Killick
Mengxia Sun
Richard Gorst
Robin Munby
David McGowan
Nathalie Connel
Mohammed Khattak
Hai Lin Leung
Laura Watters
Zoe Glacken

Year 12

Yichen Wu
Mohammad Ali
Lewis Hou
Ben McNally
Craig Yip
Ashley Gavin
Alison Croft

Year 13

David Hughes
Daniel Mannion
Joseph Armstrong
Peter Fielding
Abraham Jacob
Guangxin Miao
James Taylor

Year 11

Richard Leng
James Rose
Natasha Bradley
Katie Dean
Kimberley Morgan
Stefanie Lloyd
Anthony Scully
Rebecca Leddy
Matthew Carmichael
Winifred Garr
Edward O'Connor
Peter Thompson
Abigail Sunderland

Year 12

Jenny Zhou
Aaron Koshy
Craig Cavanagh
Helen Johnson
Nicholas Miller
Felix Milne

Year 13

Qi Qi
James Boughey
Paul Galgey
Zohaib Khan
Liam O'Brien
Claire Thomas
Shaun Hurst

Special Prizes

The Robin S.G. Makin Prize: (Chess)

Hilda Watson Prize: (Physics)

Old Blues' Association Modern Language Prize:

D. Urquart Prize: (Library)

R. I. Powell Memorial Prize: (English)

A.Q.A. Prize:

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: (Art & 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 for Creative Writing:

Friends of the Blue Coat School Prize: (Attendance)

Verse Speaking:

Lady President's Prize: (Head Girl)

Chairman's Prize: (Head of School)

Andrew Wong

Shaun Hurst

Liam O'Brien

Ian Polanowski

James Taylor

James Taylor, Liam O'Brien

Rowan Humphries

Ben Stuart, Peter Fielding, Ryan Beeley, William Head,

Matthew Whelan, Craig Gundersen.

Qi Qi

Olivia Thompson

Igemi Ekoku

James Lacey

James Lacey

Leigh Jones

Hai Lin Leung, Nicholas Miller, Benjamin Southam,

Michael Orlans, Elizabeth Cocklin, Sam Wong

Natalie Noon

James Boughey

Mathew Caine

Ashley Gavin, Craig Gundersen, Nicholas Miller, Liam O'Brien,

James Taylor

Laura McNeil

Luke O'Connor

Claire Thomas, Oritsema Ejuoneatse

Paul Athans

Paul Galgey

Daniel Mannion

Joe Gaynor

Steven Zhou

Ian Polanowski

James Phillips

Peter Holywood

Matthew Hall

KS3 Olivia Sung

KS4 Zoë Bond

KS5 David Sheehan

Paul Galgey, Hamzar Ashur, Timothy Han

Matthew Davies, Paul Hughes, Jake Cockburn

Cathy Mahoney, Claire Thomas

Matthew Waddelow

The Presentation of the Eric Grimes Trophy, The Lord Alton Citizenship Award,

The Andrew Allen Citizenship Award and The Westminster Plate

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards

Carl Bramwell

Sam Gifford

Alex Hooley

Aaron Koshy

Peter Stoddart

Yichen Wu

Martin Campbell

Sam Hardy

Greg Jones

David Preston

Michael Sweeny

Craig Yip

Daniel Caton

James Hodgkiss

Mathew Ko

Tim Reeves

Matthew Whelan

Success in Music Examinations

Grade 1

Sam Hughes
Chantelle Wu

Guitar
Piano Theory and
Practical

Louis Maddox
Shaun Rigby
Olivia Thompson
Olivia Denvir – Parry
Katherine Bainbridge

Flute
Drum Kit
Piano
Flute
Piano

Benjamin Neo
Carlos Walker – Ravena
Rafe Wan
Maria McNabb
Katy Ashworth
Velvet Young
Ruqayyah Moynihan
Thomas Hessom

Guitar
Piano
Drums
Piano Theory
Guitar and Violin
Piano
Piano
Theory

Grade 5

Sam Hughes
Mark Sung
Ellis Johnson
Laura Watters
Benjamin Neo

Theory
Tenor Horn
Theory
Theory
Piano Theory and
Practical
Piano
Theory
Piano
Trumpet
Clarinet
Clarinet

Grade 2

Matthew Shore
Ellen Robinson
Jess Cody
Ryta Kamarova
Jenny Riordan
Eleonora Bianchi

Piano
Flute
Classical Guitar
Piano
Flute
Piano

Peter Athans
Andrew Wong
Rebecca Smith
Fiona Miller
Katherine Bainbridge
Peter Duffield

Grade 3

Ricky Cheung
Christina Farandos
Ryta Kamarova
Alisdair Chatterton
Richard Brearton
Harley Jones
Mark Johnson
Steven Haworth

Violin
Flute
Theory
Theory
Guitar
Piano
Guitar
Cornet

Grade 6

Jannette Lui
Peter Athans
Olivia Brown
Helen Mackie
Steven Haworth
Rhogan Eyre
Yee Ting Liu
Hai Lin Leung

Piano
Piano
Saxophone
Violin
Piccolo
Violin and Piano
Piano and Violin
Piano and Flute

Grade 4

Sam Hughes
Robyn Murphy
Katy Sayer
Katie Conry
Peter Athans
Eddie Sue
Shannen Bamford
Harry Catherell – Hargreaves
Emma Raynor
Alisdair Chatterton
Michael Zhung
Alice McRoe
Jack Davies

Saxophone
Clarinet
Violin
Flute
Piano
Piano
Piano
Piano
Piano and Trumpet
Percussion
Piano
Clarinet
Piano

Grade 7

Shirley Cao
Nick Power
Natalie Noon
Luke Dawkins
Steven Haworth
Luke Dawkin
Rhogan Eyre
Kaytzoomis Stratios

Piano
Flute
Violin
Piano
Theory
Piano
Piano
Guitar

Grade 8

Natalie Noon
Sam Hou

Violin
Piano

Members of the Liverpool Youth Orchestra

Katherine Gilroy, Mark Sung, Andrew Wong, Fiona Miller, Samantha Dolan, Shaun Rigby,
Helen Mackie, Natalie Noon, Nathan Ko

Members of the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral Choir

Fiona Miller

Liverpool Youth Choir

Luke Dawkin, Katy Sayer, Hayley Hedges

Liverpool Youth Brass Ensemble

Steven Haworth, Peter Athans, Shaun Rigby, Nathan Ko

Philharmonic Youth Choir

Maria McNabb, Alasdair Chatterton,

School Colour Awards

Re-awards

Association Football:	P. Fielding, J. Gardiner, P. Hollywood, J. Jones, B. Stuart.
Basketball:	R. Beeley, J. Bedford, J. Gaynor, A. Hooley, D. Idama, D. Marsh, M. Rannala, M. Saxton.
Cricket:	M. Green, W. Head, P. Hollywood, M. Whelan
Golf:	P. Hollywood, B. Stuart

Awards

Association Football:	A. Burke, A. Casimo, H. Edwards, J. Ransome, G. Stuart, A. Tomlinson, R. Torrible, Z. Washington – Young.
Basketball:	M. Sweeney.
Cricket:	L. Jones, M. Stannard, T. Bowman, B. Stuart, A. Burke.
Golf:	G. Stuart, C. Gundersen, L. Jones, A. Wan

Distinctions

Association Football:	A. Casimo and B. Stuart represented Merseyside U19
Athletics:	C. Gundersen represented Merseyside and came 3rd place in the national finals. The following were City Champions: A. Taylor (Triple), O. Kennedy (Javelin), A. Riley (100m), J. Hunt (Javelin) C. Dickinson (Shot - put and Discus)
Cricket:	U14 Team- Liverpool Runners up.
Cross Country:	G. Gundersen- represented Liverpool and Merseyside
Basketball:	U13 Team - Liverpool Runners-Up U14 Team - Liverpool Runners-Up U15 Team - Liverpool Champions U16 Team - Liverpool Champions U19 Team - Liverpool Champions
Netball:	U15 Team Liverpool League Champions
Hockey:	E. Beggs, J. Ratcliffe and S. Wilson represented Merseyside U16 C. Dickenson represented Mersey Lanes U15 C. Holmes and A. O'Meara represented Mersey Lanes U14 J. Dickenson represented Mersey Lanes U13 U15 Team – Liverpool Champions.
Chemistry:	Chemistry Olympiad 2007: Shaun Hurst (Silver) Daniel Mannion (Silver)
Physics:	Physics Olympiad 2007: Shin Miao (Silver) Qi Qi (Silver) Shaun Hurst (Silver) Adraham Jacob (Silver) Daniel Mannion (Bronze I) Sam Wong (Bronze I) Anna King (Bronze I) Steven Zhao (Bronze I) Eddie Devine (Bronze I) Robert Lowthian (Bronze I) Ian Thompson (Bronze I) Ting Li (Bronze I) In Griffiths (Bronze II)

GCSE Results – Summer 2007

	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	Total
Art		14	10	1						25
Biology	26	37	17	6	1					87
BS	36	9	3	2						50
Chemistry	29	30	23	4	1					87
D&T		15	6	3						24
English Language	33	56	29	2						120
English Literature	32	51	32	5						120
French	27	16	24	12	3					82
Geography	40	18	7	2						67
History	25	24	5							54
Information Technology	60	54	5	1						120
Latin	8									8
Mathematics	33	60	23	4						120
Music	3	7	1	1						12
Physics	24	29	19	15						87
Religious Studies	2	3	1							6
Single Science		4	4		1					9
Dual Science	2	13	27	6						48
Spanish	18	12	11	8	4					53
Italian	1									1
P.E.	8	9	4							21
Totals	407	461	251	72	10					1201

A level Results – Summer 2007

	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total
Art	5	4					9
Biology	24	20	9	4	2		59
Chemistry	26	11	9	8	2	2	58
Computing	1	2	2				5
D&T	1	1	2				4
Economics	12	11	2	3			28
English Literature	7	5	2	2	3		19
English Language & Literature	6	4					10
French	3	4	1				8
Geography	8	4	2	1			15
History	10	6	3	4	2		25
Latin	2						2
IT	1	5	5	6	1	1	19
Maths	25	18	9	6	2		60
Fm Maths	6			1			7
Music	1	1	1	1	1		5
PE	5	4	0	2	1		12
Physics	14	8	5	4	2	1	34
Politics	1	3	4		1		9
Spanish	3	2	3				8
General Studies	47	28	28	17	8	4	132
Psychology	4	5	8	1	1		19
German	1						1
Chinese	1						1
Totals	167	118	67	43	18	4	417

6th Form Graduation Programme

GRADUATES 2007

Paul Athans
Neil Downey
Ross Leader
Alan Tai
Oritsema Ejuoneatse
Daniel Mannion
James Taylor
Jamie Wong
Elizabeth Cocklin
Zohaib Khan
Luke O' Connor
Nizel Rahman
Matthew Waddelow
Grace Bradley
Ian Griffiths
Leigh Jones
Leanne Lo
Michael Orlans
Sizheng Zhao
Anna King
James Gardiner
James Daly
Michael Kazich
Brogan Roberts
Adam Walsh

Stephen Banks
Mark Ireland
Jonathan Lui
Samuel Wong
Craig Gundersen
Caroline O'Brien
Claire Thomas
Kamal Allen
Igemi Ekoku
Luchuan Lin
Mark-Anthony Page
Jennifer Smith
Hamza Ashur
Christopher Clay
William Head
Jonathan Lalgee
Nathan Ma
Nicholas Wilsher
David Hughes
David Norris
Jonathon Skinner
Ahmed Hassan
Shaun Lalley
Nahida Sultana Miah
Christopher Watters

Laura Carver
Ross Leader
Sarah Loveridge
Joseph Armstrong
Fateme Jafarzadeh
James Phillips
Mark Winckle
Matthew Caveney
Jack Humphries
Liam O'Brien
Ian Polanowski
Ryan Torrible
Samantha Barlow
Asma Diab
Christopher Jones
Ting Li
Guangxin Miao
James Wilson
Abraham Jacob
Peter Fielding
Thomas Clutton
Elizabeth Jacobs
Robert Lowthian
Donny Tsang
Anthony Wilson

Poetry of Place Competition

Sarah Hamilton, of year 10, was one of 27 finalists in the Annual Liverpool Poetry of Place Competition. She was presented with a certificate and a prize of books at the Royal Liver Buildings, in the presence of members of the Liverpool Education Authority, The Lord Mayor of Liverpool and the Chief Executive Officer of Royal Liver Insurance.

Her poem, 'River, River' can be found on page 10 of the magazine.

Mrs Ludlow gained second place in the teacher's section of the competition with her poem 'St George's Caged Lions'. Congratulations to Sarah and all students who entered, all of whom have received certificates in assembly. Keep writing!



Target 2.0 Competition

In November 2007, four year 13 students: Alexander Casimo, Drew Marsh, Matthew Whelan and Luke McGee represented The Blue Coat School in the annual Target 2.0 Competition, run by The Bank of England and The Times newspaper. The event is very prestigious with over 500 schools entering, many of whom are in the private sector.

The aim of the challenge is to make a recommendation to three Monetary Policy Committee delegates on what should happen to interest rates in the United Kingdom. This is extremely topical at the moment with much media hysteria about the impact on the British economy of the 'credit crunch', 'rising debt levels' and 'falling house prices'. The students had to design a detailed presentation outlining their interest rate decision and the reasons for it. This required considerable research and many evenings were spent in Mr. Jamieson's Economics classroom delving into different statistical websites searching for the necessary data charts and information prior to the Regional heat.

The Regional heat in November took us to Chester and we were pitted against seven other schools including Kings College Chester, Merchant Taylors, Shrewsbury School, Wirral Grammar School and Sandbach School. Alex, Drew, Matthew and Luke nervously and excitedly awaited their turn to impress the judges and did not disappoint when it mattered most. Their recommendation was to keep interest rates on hold at 5.75% (this was the rate of interest at the start of November) in the light of uncertainty in financial markets, domestic demand and the international economy. Following the fifteen minute

presentation, the students were grilled by the Bank of England employees and responded articulately to a series of challenging questions that even had Mr. Jamieson stumped as he sat in the auditorium with the other participants.

As we waited for what seemed like an age for the final results, other schools commented on the quality of The Blue Coat's presentation and this filled the students with confidence. Sure enough...when the judges returned, we were crowned the winners. As a result, we now go forward to the North of Britain finals in March and the research has started again. Victory in this Area Final would take us to London for the grand final with the chance to win 10000GBP for the School. Many successful winners in the past have actually been offered jobs in the City after they graduate so, therefore, what awaits the four students if victorious in March could be very significant.

Even if the team misses out on London, they have performed exceptionally well thus far and I have been very proud of their efforts, team work and general camaraderie. It is a personal delight to see and hear students sitting in the Common Room discussing the economy and what might happen as a result of interest rate changes, and further promotes the Department across the School and beyond.

No doubt you will hear about how the students get on in due course...

*S Jamieson,
February 2008*

Schools Bible Project Competition

A Year 9 student received a certificate for her entry into this competition. Here is an extract from it:-

Christ's Death on Calvary

It was obvious that the elders had no intention of letting Jesus die peacefully. He was led away to a giant pillar, where he was tied up and whipped. With every sickening crack, a fresh cry of pain escaped from Jesus' lips, and a fresh stream of crimson blood streaked the olive skin of his back. The soldier wielding the giant leather whip grinned anew with every scream of pain, and relished every drop of blood that was spilt. After the merciless beating, Jesus was led into a courtroom, and the public were invited to come to watch him being mocked. They stripped him, and shoved an itchy, deep plum robe over his head. I watched them twist thorns into a crown shape, and press them down hard on his head so that blood trickled down his face and mixed with his salty tears. "Hail, the King of Jews!" they cried, sarcasm thick in their voices as they dropped down on their knees and laughed. They stripped him again, took him back outside and handed him a heavy cross to carry on his back. I watched as he stumbled down a dirt path, with a crowd of

women weeping behind him. He turned to them and said, in a voice as soft as silk, "Sister, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children". At one point, Jesus stumbled and fell, and the heavy cross pressed into his back. When the heavy wooden cross was finally relieved from him, I saw splinters in his back and fresh tears sprung into my eyes. Was there no end to the suffering that our Lord had to endure? The cross was pressed upon Simon of Cyrene, an onlooker in the crowd from the side of the dirt path. At first, he refused, shaking his head and refusing to touch the cross. But then he looked at Jesus, panting and vulnerable on the ground. I imagined he must have looked into his eyes as I had done, felt the emotion that I had, the understanding. He turned towards the soldier holding the cross and, with a silent nod and a stream of tears from his eyes, held the cross over his shoulder and began to drag it up the hill, Jesus limping behind.

Fern Stocks 9Gr

British Physics Olympiad (2008), Physics Challenge & AS Competition (2007)

The highlight of this year was the exceptional success in the Physics Challenge, a national competition involving a one hour paper of demanding Physics' questions taken by our Year 11 students. Fifty two students sat the paper and the results are as follows:-

Gold Medals

Vlad Paraoan

(receives a CD prize for the highest mark in the school)

Richard Gray

Steven Wenham

Silver Medals

Mathew Carmichael

Joshua Batterton

Nicholas Farandos

Richard Gorst

Katherine Hughes

James Killick

Robin Munby

Jing Ouyang

Alexander Pask

Peter Thompson

Gregg Gaffney

Christopher Plent

Colin Poole

Holly Boyes

Amy Hawken

Sophie Jain

Bronze Medals

Matthew Elliott

Adam Forster

Eleanor Lewis

Matthew Lo

Michael Ng

Edward O'Connor

Jacob Rannala

Mengxia Sun

Daniel Idama

Mohammed Khattak

Chloe McDonald

David McGowan

Kimberley Morgan

Michael Roberts

Lisa Tang

Justin Wong

Natasha Bradley

Ian Crawford

James Rose

Maxwell Berks

Winifred Garr

David Henderson

Caitlin Higgott

Dale Rae

Andrew Troy

Laura Watters

Kahra Wayland-Larty

Participation Medals

Sam McCauley

Maya Joseph

Richard Leng

Charlotte Monaghan

Alexander Leece

Andrew Moss

Congratulations to all the students, especially the gold award winners, who ploughed through many past papers and endured after school lessons in preparation. Blue Coat finished in the top eight schools in the country!

Fifteen lower sixth students entered the newly launched AS Competition, in which an hour was given to solve novel questions on Physics, where students had to think from a different perspective compared to the normal year 12 Physics' approach. A commendable set of results was achieved as shown below:-

Silver Medals

Craig Cavanagh

James Gundry

Gregory Jones

Adam Lyon-Jones

Bronze Medals

Martin Campbell

Steven Haworth

Helen Johnson

Rebecca Smyth

Paul Spencer

Kae-Wei Yin

Craig Yip

Jenny Zhou

Participation Certificates

Adam Gosling

James Richmond

Alexander Tsang

The British Physics Olympiad 2008 (for Year 13 students) results for Blue Coat are as follows:-

James Gundry	Silver
Steven Haworth	Bronze I
Felix Millne	Bronze II
Daniel Evans	Bronze II
Craig Cavanagh	Bronze II
Adam Gosling	Bronze II
Gregory Jones	Bronze II
Tim Reeves	Bronze II
Helen Johnson	Bronze II
Alison Croft	Bronze II
Paul Spencer	Commendation
Adam Lyon-Jones	Commendation

Alexander Tsang	Commendation
Jonathan Tam	Commendation
Kai-Wei Yin	Commendation

These students had tried numerous past papers, sat the one hour Paper 1 before then attempting the three hour Paper 2, viewed by students as daunting, formidable, menacing and disturbing! However, the discipline of tackling many past questions developed their confidence and skill which is reflected in this fine set of medal awards.

Overall, a most successful year for our students in these prestigious national Physics' competitions and congratulations go to all of them. Well done indeed!!

Mr K G Caulkin.

The Queen I Saw

I looked upon a rose one day and amazedly
exclaimed
What a fair thing it was, how wild and untamed.
Untamed maybe, and wild of course, but vulgar by
no means,
The nobility in that blood-red rose rivalled that
of ancient queens.
And this admiring eye of mine further delighted
and beheld,
With what pride and honour that Queen held up
her head.
Oh! That head and what a head! For if it could
but speak,
I am sure that dulcet voice would make even cold
stone weep.

The softness of her petals, I saw, no thing on
earth possessed,
And with what life and colour and proudness she
was blessed!
And what heavenly perfume! - I scarce could fain,
What sorrow that very scent one day had to
wane.
And wane it must, for beauty such, lives not for
very long,
How sad, I thought, how sad and short that
beauty's glorious song.
And how can one, with this Queen, this noble
monarch, compare
Any other - of course a lesser other - for this
grace she does not share?

And such was this tender ache of mine, that
there I stood all night,
Not once moving, nor ever tiring, so sublime was
that sight.
Perfect was the sight, I suppose, but myself it
did not appease,
Blame me not, for man is such a difficult
creature to please.
For as the light of dawn appeared, my heart it
whispered to me
That perhaps this little angel I loved, but - and I
did of course agree -
But, I would give - and willingly give - a thousand
such roses and more,
To see that one blush on your cheek, that red I
so adore.

Mohammad Ali, U6

Tricentenary Appeal: Interview with the Headmaster

What is the Tricentenary and what does it mean to the school?

It is the school's 300th birthday. From 1708-2008, the Blue Coat Chambers is one of the oldest buildings in Liverpool. The scheme hasn't changed its name in 300 years and it means something to everyone in Liverpool. It is a famous school whose popularity is increasing; an example of this being the recent entrance exam where over 700 applied. Blue Coat means quality and it gives a sense of pride to its students.

How is the financial aspect of the appeal coming along?

At the moment, we are still raising money, but we have reached a massive £618,000. This is thanks to all the hard work that has been put into the appeal over the past year. It is also thanks to the more than 170 pledges and donations that have been made which have been a significant contribution. The events that have already been held have been extremely successful; with the Astroturf fireworks celebration costing £800, where there were more than 300 people present, and the total cost of the newly built Astroturf and 6th Form Study Area was £650,000. To continue fundraising, the students have decided on wearing lapel badges to show their support for the Tricentenary Appeal; 900 badges will be needed and they will be ready for presentation in 2008.

The school has had the Astroturf and new 6th form building built, are there any more plans for the school?

The Astroturf and 6th Form Study Area have now been built and Year 13 now has 60 new workstations to study at. Also, there has been

the recent school refurbishment costing millions of pounds, and every laboratory has been installed with electronic whiteboards. These things show that school is keeping up with modern learning resources and is making a better environment for students to work in. But we are looking forward to more extension in the near future so that every student can have a space to study.

What other celebrations have been planned and how will they tie in with Liverpool's Capital of Culture?

We are pleased to be sending 2 girls' hockey teams and a boys' cricket team to Barbados in December to represent the school; this is a sign of the Blue Coat's sporting tradition and how we are always striving to get the best from our students. After Christmas, there will be musical events in the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall and St George's Hall and on the 4th of July, there will be a dinner in the Town Hall. There are going to be many celebrations in Liverpool in 2008 as Liverpool is Capital of Culture and so, to tie in with these celebrations, there will be a three day reunion for old Blue Coat students who will come from all over the world; there will be more than 100 people visiting. On the Friday, there will be a party at the school and the old students will have a chance to see how the school has changed. There will also be a chapel service on Sunday and a tour of Liverpool so that they can see how Liverpool has developed. In 2008, all the projects will have been completed and the school is looking forward to celebrating its 300th year with Liverpool's Capital of Culture and there will be more celebratory events, such as barbecues and competitions.

Holly Boyes

Oxford Dinner Sat 15th – Sun 16th March 2008

St. Hilda's College

The annual weekend visit to Oxford University for Lower Sixth students took place on the 15-16th March 2008. The event was hosted this year by St. Hilda's College, the last Oxford College to become co-educational from this October. We were delighted to take 59 students, a record number, all of whom have the sufficient GCSE grades required to be serious candidates for Oxbridge entry next year. Having checked into the Halls of Residence, the students received a talk with a question and answer session about how to apply to an Oxford College and what student life in Oxford is like.

Everyone then set off in the rain on Mr. Cox's now annual tour of different Oxford Colleges which included a guided tour of the historic Lincoln College with its medieval dining hall and 17th century chapel. In spite of getting soaked (!), they were able to see the historic heart of this fantastic city.

The black tie dinner in the evening gave everyone the chance to be glamorous and meet two of last year's Blue Coat students, James Taylor and Claire Thomas, who spoke eloquently about their experience of life so far in their respective Colleges and challenged a few myths about both the application process and the type of people who study at Oxford or Cambridge.

The dinner was Mr. Tittershill's final one as Headmaster and he rounded off the night with a very amusing speech reminiscing about some of the stranger aspects of The Blue Coat School over the last 40 years before wishing all the students the very best of luck with their applications.

The trip was supported too by the Chair of Governors, Mr. Hallows and his wife, and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard, as well as various teaching staff who all gave up their weekend to ensure that the event was as enjoyable and informative as ever. Mrs. Tittershill also attended.

Teen Idol

Teen Idol is a citywide competition that started in 2004, presenting school students from all over Liverpool with the opportunity to sing live in front of large, cheering audiences, in a very X-Factor like manner.

It is run by CLC Parklands, and involves a lot of work. About 15 schools are invited to submit up to 8 students to take part in the competition, calculating 120 competitors in all. Students entered from the Blue Coat School were Steph Denny, Jack Kenny, Beth Leader, Siobhan Wilson, Michael Sweeney, Paul Hughes and Daniel Chambers. Like the X-Factor, each contestant is individually called to sing a verse and chorus of their choice in front of a panel of judges. Nervously the singers await feedback, and head back to the holding area to await their fate later that day.

After all 120 contestants had auditioned, spreading over 6 hours, the names of the 48 lucky people who had made it to the semi-final stages were read out. Four Blue Coat students: Steph, Jack, Paul and Daniel, were part of these lucky 48.

There were 4 semi-final evenings, held at the CLC in Speke. Each semi-finalist chose a song of his or her choice, painstakingly rehearsed it in front of the mirror at home, and prepared to give the performance of a lifetime in front of a sell-out crowd. A total of 12 contestants would make the final, which included 2 winners from each night, plus 4 wild cards, which were contestants who, the judges felt, also deserved to make the final.

The semi-final involving Blue Coat was the last semi-final of the 4, held in May. All of the Blue Coat entrants performed to the best of

their abilities, but sadly it wasn't to be, as nobody from Blue Coat managed to sneak a place in to the top 2.

However, at the evening of the last semi-final, the judges stayed until very late to decide upon the four wild cards, and by sheer luck, decided to give one of them to a disbelieving Paul Hughes, who found out the following day.

The final of Teen Idol 2007 was staged in the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, and was totally sold out, with all 1700 seats taken, which must have eased the pressure of the finalists! The competition was so high, with everybody outshining their previous performances and really rising to the occasion. Paul Hughes performed Van Morrison's classic hit 'Moondance', and ended up finishing first, with second going to Odrile Nsiala from Shorefields, and Chelcee Grimes from St Julies finishing in third.

Since winning Teen Idol, Paul has been presented with many singing opportunities, is now part of the Liverpool Sense of Sound Gospel acapella choir, and performed as a backing vocalist for world famous singers Seal and Jon Bon Jovi at the Royal Variety Performance 2007 held in the Liverpool Empire.

Teen Idol 2008 will be the final ever Teen Idol to be held, so let us hope that The Blue Coat School can hold on to their title and produce another Teen Idol!

Paul Hughes

Blue Coat or White Coat?

Blue Coat Sixth Formers on the cutting edge of world class scientific research.

To add weight to Blue Coat's status as a specialist school in Science and Mathematics, students have had a strong presence in a nationally recognised award.

On 2nd October 2007 the seven Year 13 Science students who had been involved in the Nuffield Science Bursary Programme assembled in Birkenhead for a Celebration Evening, hosted by the Greater Merseyside, Cheshire and Warrington Setpoint. One hundred students successfully participated in the schemes during July and August 2006. Seven Blue Coat students were involved, thanks to the dedication of Mr Cowan and Miss Henderson in organising the applications and overseeing the placements. The standard of work across the region was very high, and two out of six of the projects to go on to the National Finals in London were from the School.

Mohammad Ali's research on lung disease in Ethiopia broke new scientific ground, and his work has been published in the African Journal of Respiratory Medicine, to be read by thousands of doctors across the continent and beyond.

Aaron Koshi's study of Enzyme Inhibitors (a scientific method of slowing digestion) was a valuable contribution to research into the causes and solutions to digestive disorders.

James Gundry's work on how to store and compact Hydrogen molecules could one day become part of the story of the Hydrogen fuel cell-powered pollution-free car.

Rebecca Smythe's research into Anion Exchange Reactions could have significant industrial uses because her work looked at how to remove by-products in complex chemical reactions where the by-product is unhelpful.

Craig Cavanagh's research into the connection between loss of sight and reduced balance had implications for the NHS funding of sight research.

Fatemeh Keshtker's work on looking at different techniques to deal with disease of the pancreas also had the potential for use in biomedical research at an even higher level.

Mohammed Ali and Felix Milne were two out of six projects that were nominated to go forward to the national Finals of the Nuffield Bursary Awards, whilst Felix Milne was pronounced to be the winner of the North West Nuffield Bursary, with his presentation going through to the National Science Exhibition in London later in the year.

Felix's work on whether there is other life in the universe involved complex cosmological calculations and came to the conclusion that this was very unlikely! The clarity and precision of his work, and his explanation to the Judges won great praise. The awards were presented by Professor Jon Saunders, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Liverpool, who noted that one third of the most highly rated research projects came from just one school in the North West- Blue Coat.

S Cox

All the students completed their studies in the summer holidays, and Mr. Cox and Miss Henderson were delighted and proud to be with the students at the Celebration evening.

Santa Dash Report

62 staff, pupils and parents ran in this year's record breaking run through Liverpool. The weather was as pleasant as you could hope for in England in December – wet and very windy!

The field was strong with Mr McBride up to his usual tricks of finishing in about 10 minutes "Just a wee jog" if you ask him. For those of us who had the responsibility of being the Blue Coat beacon it took us a little longer!

Once again, every age group took part and there was even more excitement as the suits were allocated – apologies to the staff who had to deal with so many hyper children.

The support from families seemed even stronger this year and as the sponsorship starts to trickle in I am sure that we will match our impressive tally from last year.

Next year it needs to be even better.

Mr Howell



Year 9 Welcomes Julia Golding

On 27 February 2007, children's author Julia Golding visited the Blue Coat School, and received a warm welcome from Mrs Ludlow's Year 9 English set! Many of us were familiar with her work, so it was a great privilege to meet Ms Golding in person, have her sign our personal copies of her books and, above all, to hear her read!

The visit included an introduction to all titles, and some valuable advice on a literary career and how to get published. There was a Question Time, and then some anecdotes: one young fan had written to say thank you for the *Secret of the Sirens* fantasy, which had confirmed his lifelong belief in mythical creatures! Ouch! We also played 'Toff Trumps', derived from the original Top Trumps, with adaptations to suit Ms Golding's works and, similarly, we used props to help recreate protagonists from the novels, which was fun!



Ms Golding read from *Den of Thieves* – the third in a brilliant series that began with *The Diamond of Drury Lane* (awarded the Waterstone's Children's Book Prize, and the former Smarties Prize, both 2006). These, and the second of them – *Cat Among the Pigeons*, each feature the fascinatingly feisty character Miss Cat Royal – 'orphan and ward of the Theatre Royal'. We are whisked to the nineteenth century, where we meet a whole cast of unusual characters in unpredictable settings; the fourth of this series – *Cat o' Nine Tails*, finds our heroine recruited by the British Navy!

Having studied in Essex with our own Mrs Athis, Julia Golding entered Cambridge (and Mrs Athis Oxford, btw!), before moving to work in Poland for the Foreign Office. She returned to study literature at Oxford, where she now lives with her husband and three children. She has worked tirelessly for Oxfam, campaigning for civilians in war zones to this day. Ms Golding has written a wealth of rich and colourful novels for young children. Their beautiful, mystical style is reflected in the glittering front covers of all of her books.

In May 2007, Julia Golding was chosen as one of Waterstone's '25 Authors for the Future'. Her official website can be found at www.juliagolding.co.uk. On behalf of the Blue Coat School, we thank her for coming. For those amongst us who aspire to write, as well as embark on a perhaps less romantic career, she is an absolute inspiration. We look forward to much more of Ms Golding's work in the future.

Olivia Thompson,
10 Graham

Dave Ward Visit

When it was initially announced that Author Dave Ward was making yet another visit to the school, I remember slight sparks in the back of my mind flash into life, attempting to bridge the gaps in my memory. There was something about his name that instantly placed my nostalgia-meter at around the end of my time in year nine.

There he was. Standing at the front of my GCSE set, his familiar floppy hair and tinted glasses, and that same satisfying sound to his pronunciation. He hadn't changed a bit. I even felt a chortle brewing in my chest at the now crisp memory of a year eight boy walking past the library on his first visit, and exclaiming loudly: 'is he that bloke from Little Britain?!'

Since he last availed us with his literary expertise on the art of the short story, Dave Ward has been on a continent-spanning adventure to China in order to talk to English students, and help them to write poetry in English. This was then brought back with him and read out

to us, with various Chinese cultural bits 'n bobs to illustrate them. One poem, of course, stood out above all the others, in that it was sneakily a transcribed set of James Blunt lyrics- better luck next time, mate!

And thus we were set to write our responses- in verse form, naturally. The subject matter being the various oriental cups, saucers and fans that he brought back to show my class. Our poetry obviously was not in Chinese, but was going to be sent back to them so that they could get a real example of overly dramatic teen verse! They varied greatly from the solemn poems of paintings far from home, to the simple Haiku (I wrote that one, and felt very foolish when, 13 syllables in, I remembered they were Japanese. D'oh.)

Will our dear Dave return once again, to regale us with stories of cultural exchanges in distant China? (And the song-plagiarising industry of lazy schoolboys? Not that we would EVER stoop to that.... No.) Here's hoping! All the best, Mr. Ward.

Alex Leece

Year 7 Social Evening

One September evening, in time-honoured fashion a mass of fresh-faced and seemingly innocent Year Seven pupils swarmed into the Shirley Hall. Under the watchful eyes of Mr. Shipgood, Mrs. Tabern and a mob of upper sixth prefects (some disguised as swashbuckling pirates) the fun began...

After consuming copious amounts of the PA's sugar supplies, the newly hyperactive Year Sevens sprang into action for a few lengthy rounds of musical chairs. Only through the stringent rulings of the prefects did the game ultimately reach a just end, after anarchy descended and many resorted to unscrupulous tactics in brutal battles for the remaining chairs.

Another notable happening was of course the fast-paced game of Pass the Parcel, with seemingly infinite layers of wrapping and compulsory forfeits, particularly enjoyed by one bashful boy coerced into kissing his favourite prefect.

The fun and games continued for a short while longer before the pupils were reunited with their parents, hopefully having made more friends than enemies...

All in all, the evening was a great success and enjoyed by all. Thanks must go to all teachers and prefects involved with organising and overseeing the event, and of course to all those Year 7s who attended.

Maths Challenge

November '07 saw Alison Croft and Le Wang of U6 and Vlad Paraoan and Katherine Hughes of L6, accompanied by Mr McBride and Mr York, travel to Worcester to take part in the Maths Challenge, involving 12 teams from across the country.

Having bravely sacrificed their afternoon's lessons for the cause, and survived several hours of Mr York's driving - in a hired car - 2 rounds in they were doing well, having completed various problems in Round 1 and a Maths Crossword in Round 2, working individually and in pairs for each respective round. The final round caused more difficulty, mainly due to time constraints, and in the end they finished a highly respectable 8th.

Nick Miller and Rhogan Eyre U6

Xabi Alonso



Xabi Alonso (Liverpool FC) visited the school in December. Our exchange school, Colegio San Patricio is in San Sebastian and given that Xabi is a native of San Sebastian, he came to talk to our students about his experiences in Liverpool and Spain and about the benefits of the exchange programme and learning languages in general.

Mr O'Brien

MedLink

Just before Christmas, around seventy prospective medics travelled to Nottingham University to take part in the prestigious MedLink conference. Students attended lectures, took part in group work and, for those who could stomach it, watched live surgery. It was described by many as an inspirational, informative and, most of all, fun event.

Students had a unique chance to experience life as a university student and life as a doctor; it was chance for students to be a bit more independent and a chance to meet lots of people of a similar ages and who had similar interests.

The conference had three lecture sessions per day on extremely useful topics ranging from pathology to paediatrics. Students could also talk to professionals to ask what being a doctor is really like and the group work proved to be extremely valuable in teaching interview technique and the like.

Those who went would recommend this to anyone and they now have a valuable experience behind their belts when it comes to applying for university.

Astroturf Opening

The start of term presented the school with an exciting 300th birthday present: the School now has a brand new Astroturf facility that all the sporting fanatics can put to good use. The opening of the pitch was from 18:00 to 19:30 on the 10th October and was a spectacular event that was witnessed and enjoyed by more than three hundred people.

The event kicked off when Kevin Nolan, Bolton Wanderers Midfielder and an Old Blue, announced the start of the first matches on the new Astroturf between teams of boys and girls from each form. All the students who participated in the matches had a picture taken

with Kevin Nolan and had their P.E uniforms signed by him, much to their parents' dismay.

As the darkness of the evening approached, those present were amazed by £800 worth of professional fireworks which people were praising for days after. The Headmaster commented that he too thought the fireworks were spectacular and that the School deserves exciting events like this because being three hundred years old is something to celebrate.

Holly Boyes L6

Good Citizens Award

Congratulations to Leanne Messham, Aaron Koshy and Luke Tregilgas who have received The Good Citizen Award for their charitable work both at home and abroad. They have achieved so much for needy people and are worthy receivers of this reward. They

attended a ceremony at St George's Hall, accompanied by Mr Cox. More information about this award is in the display cabinet in the School Reception.



Conal Traverse, Yr11

Debating Society

One of the developments in the Sixth Form over the past year has been the revitalised Sixth Form Debating Society, which met ten times on a Tuesday lunchtime during Autumn Term to debate topics as diverse as whether Britain should leave the European Union (it was decided we should!) whether it was too late to stop Global Warming (it was decided that it was not) to whether Christmas did more harm than good (Christmas survived!).

W11 is packed every Tuesday as the Debates, chaired by Mr Cox, are lively, funny, controversial, edgy and thought provoking – everything a Debating Society should be. “It’s one of the highlights of my week” says Mr Cox, “and every week someone comes up with an argument that the rest of us have not really thought about. I never know how the vote is going to go which makes it exciting and unpredictable to chair”.

Volunteers from the Society debated against West Kirby Grammar School in Chester in February.

The Chester Debate

On a cold winter’s night on 26th February four Lower 6th students set off for the annual clash with West Kirby Grammar School in a debate hosted by the Chester Debating Society. Steven Wenham and Eleanor Lewis’s carefully crafted arguments to the effect that Global Warming is unstoppable were based on scientific analysis, although West Kirby Grammar’s Sixth Formers tried to argue that was all a myth, and perfectly containable.

The audience was convinced, on balance, that it was NOT too late to stop Global Warming, much to the frustration of Steven and Eleanor’s supporters for the evening, Zoe Glacken and Robert Whitehead. You win some, you lose some. The important thing was the quality of the debate, which was, as ever, impressive.

Mr Cox

Craft Club

It seems that Ms Tabern’s room, Wednesday lunchtimes, from 12:55 – 1:30, is the place to be. Open to anybody in years 7 and 8 who is looking to learn something new, Craft Club really does offer every craft going.

There is an extremely long list of activities going on in craft club, such as making gift cards, finger puppets, salt dough models, jewellery, doing bobbing work, actually making paper and much, much more. The latest craze in this jam-packed club is knitting but it seems members are open to trying anything new.

Craft club is very popular with over 30 members (and this year, there is a fair amount of boys) so finding a place may prove to be quite difficult. Craft club takes place in a relaxing environment and it is a therapeutic way to pass the time, not to mention the amazing amount of useful skills one might learn; members would recommend craft club to anyone.

Creative Writing Club

Creative writers of the School are all welcome to our weekly lunchtime meetings in WO4: Wednesdays at 1pm. Come along – you stand a very good chance of entering competitions, and even winning prizes and getting your work published.

It’s all great fun too, and a very relaxed atmosphere. Share your creative energies, inspiring and learning from others! There has been a lot of writing success stories this year. One student, Mohammad Ali, was a runner-up in a national poetry competition and had his poem published in an anthology entitled *All Booked Up*. 14 students had their *Mini Sagas* published (a copy is in the School Library); 25 year 11 students entered the NASUWT *Arts and Minds* poetry competition; 18 students had their poems published in an anthology *Away With Words*; 4 students were published in a book of poetry entitled *Animal Magnetism*; 25 students were published in anthology of poetry entitled *My Generation* and over 40 students entered the annual Liverpool Poetry of Place Competition, and Sarah Hamilton was a finalist. There is a separate report on the special prize ceremony. There is also the annual school competition, announced before Easter, which was initiated by Mrs Ludlow, called the Peter Arnold Craft Writing

Competition. There is a prize for each key stage, and the winners have their work published in this magazine and receive a prize at the School’s Annual Prizegiving Ceremony at The Anglican Cathedral. We hope to see you soon at Writing Club.



Published writers: Zoë Bond, Olivia Sung, Mohammad Ali and Mrs Ludlow

Art Club

During most lunchtimes of the week, the creative ones amongst us can find sanctuary in one of the art class rooms. All students are welcome to spend their lunchtime working towards coursework, getting on with their own projects or one can learn something new.

The art class room is a very relaxing environment where one can admire the artwork on the walls or muse at the fact that painting

guitars or vandalising school shirts can be quite fun and have a decent outcome.

With Mr Caine and Miss Vipond supervising, there is always professional advice at hand. Also, several new computers have now been installed so students can utilise art software programs, such as Photoshop and Paint.NET, to contrast with the more traditional methods of pencil and paper.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Dec 07

The following students have successfully completed their Bronze Award and attended the presentation evening on January 31st at Mountford Hall to receive their certificates, badges and well-deserved recognition:

Andrew Tomlinson
Nathalie Connell
Nick Ford
Michael Roberts
Steven Wenham

Sophie Jain
Michael Ng
Ian Crawford
Edward O'Connor
Vlad Paraoan

Richard Gray
Daniel Bruce
Matthew Carmichael
Laura Watters
Caitlin Higgott

Matthew Lo
Mohammed Kattak
Matthew Whelan
Daniel Caton
Greg Jones

A new cohort of 32 have recently embarked on the bronze award and are due to go on their first practice day walk in the next couple of weeks. Let's hope the sun is shining!!!!

Miss Cornwall

The Library

This year all Year 7 students received a free book as part of their induction class, courtesy of the government's Booked Up scheme.

A drive has been made to get more boys to read through the promotion of books that they have a ready interest in. This has varied from the ubiquitous Dangerous Book for Boys to the Encyclopaedia of Tanks and has thus far proved successful with the number of books issued to boys increasing. A large number of prospective sixth-form medical candidates have been involved in a mock interview scheme which has been well attended and has proved helpful in preparing

candidates for their university interviews. The library management system is being updated so all students will be able to search for books online via their n-drives. A lot of good stock has been purchased this year due to continued liaison with staff and students. The library continues to be a pleasant and busy hub of academia within the school and I look forward to being involved in many new initiatives to help our readers over the coming academic year.

Mr. D. Newton
School Librarian

Ballad of Jacqui Oatley

She used to be on Radio 5,
But now she's on Match of the Day,
She loves her football, she knows her stuff,
But the lads don't think she should stay.

They don't want a female commentator,
They'd rather she left it to them,
They'd prefer it if she stayed at home,
Doing the housework for all the men.

But Jacqui thinks a lot different,
She's just trying to follow her dream,
The one she had when she was little,
Of being in a football team.

But when a fatal injury
Left her dream in patches,
She went and did the next best thing,
And talked about those matches.

She proved all those lads wrong,
But some still aren't persuaded,
Girls are just as good as lads,
So stop living in the dark ages!

Katie Conry
Yr9

Christian Union

Who are we? – As a Christian Union, we are a group of people who believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died to save us from our sins. We welcome those of all denominations as well as those who just want to know more about our beliefs.

Where do we meet? – W10 (Psychology room)

What do we do? – Every lunch there is a meeting, ranging from

videos to Bible studies, science debates to praise meetings – don't worry if you can't sing – neither can most of us! For those who are early birds and at school at the unearthly hour of 8.30am, we gather to read the Bible, pray and sing. Although there is something on every day, don't feel compelled to come to all of them – we'll be glad to see you whenever you do come!

Catherine Hughes

Computer Games Club

Every Tuesday, after school computer club is held in S03. The club lasts for an hour, in which those who attend may play any games they please, or even, God forbid, do I.T. homework. Usually there are around 10-15 pupils attending the club, playing a variety of games such as Age of Empires and Unreal Tournament.

Frequently we hold LAN games on the more popular multiplayer

games, occasionally even having a teacher join in, which is amusing at least.

After half term we hope to be making use of the overhead projector, using consoles such as the Xbox 360 and the Gamecube. If you have any requests, just ask someone at computer club, and we'll see what we can do. This club is open to all years so, COME ON DOWN!!!

Matthew Allen, Kyle Wray, Joe McQuaid, Luke Jones

Chess Club

The Blue Coat School has many clubs and societies where students can learn new skills or just relax. Chess club is a mixture of both, one can simply relax by playing a fun game of chess with a friend or one can learn to be a skilful tactician and go head to head against the Blue Coat's finest.

From one o'clock on Thursday lunchtimes in C02 (one of the maths classrooms), all are welcome to play or watch. Chess club isn't quiet

like people would think but it has a very lively atmosphere and is one of the busier societies with around thirty regulars.

You don't have to be brilliant at chess to join in on the fun; there are relaxed matches and more serious games where even Liverpool Chess Champions, like Jonathan Buchanan, compete. It is run by a few year 12 students who say it is a brilliant way to improve your logic and a great opportunity to meet people.

Parents Association Gifts to the School 1969 - 2007

The Parents' Association has donated approximately £290,000 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	£24,000
Cabling	£20,000
School Magazine	£16,000
Drama and Music	£15,000
School Calendars	£14,000

From January 2005 the Parents' Association has promised to raise £2,000 per term towards the School's Tricentenary Celebrations in 2007/2008 when the school will be 300 years old.

Social Services Committee Report 2006-07

As has been the case in recent years, the Social Services Committee and the School had a successful year, both in raising funds for various charities and also in terms of the students learning more about the less fortunate members of our society. Overall, again, the amount raised for charity came to more than £5000 – the final total being £5098.63. The highlight of the year was Red Nose Day, which raised £353.05.

The students learnt and were informed about the work, for example, of the North West Air Ambulance, the British Diabetic Fund and Marie Curie, as well as collecting money on a regular weekly basis for those and some 30 other charities during the year.

The Social Services Committee continues to meet twice a term to select the weekly charity speaker. A full list of all this year's charities and the amounts collected follows.

Many thanks for all who have given so generously throughout the year.

P R Edwards

Charity Summary 2006-2007

15.09.06	Leukaemia Research	209.65
22.09.06	St John Ambulance	178.90
29.09.06	Tri Centenary Cake Sale	51.92
29.09.06	Childline	263.15
06.10.06	Pain Relief Foundation	95.41
13.10.06	Greenbank Project	166.86
20.10.06	Action Aid	228.40
10.11.06	North West Air Ambulance	192.03
17.11.06	Zoe's Place	166.76
24.11.06	Tear Fund	106.68
01.12.06	Weston Spirit	127.57
07.12.06	Cake Sale Tri Centenary	28.00
14.12.06	Alder Hey Kidney Fund	113.11
20.12.06	Own Clothes Tricentenary	775.70
11.01.07	Guide Dogs for the Blind	137.26
18.01.07	Lepra	146.04
18.01.07	Cake Sale Tricentenary	71.72
25.01.07	Woodlands	137.98
22.02.07	British Heart Foundation	130.30
	British Red Cross	144.93
07.03.07	Age Concern	106.28
16.03.07	Red Nose Day	353.05
23.03.07	MENCAP	131.00
30.03.07	British Diabetic Fund	50.74
17.04.07	Newborn Appeal	125.13
24.04.07	Wirral Heart Beat	114.52
01.05.07	North West Cancer Research Fund	122.65
10.05.07	Merseyside Centre for the Deaf	54.76
17.05.07	Multiple Sclerosis	102.79
24.05.07	Marie Curie	99.21
	TOTAL	5098.69



Zoe Maher, Yr11

Music Report 2007-08

"Now, moving into the spring term, the music department is back to full strength. The Choir will be going on tour to San Sebastian in the summer and thanks to Mr. Cook's wonderful leadership, and the undying enthusiasm of his minions, the school's musical talents will continue to shine in the Annual Summer Recital."

On that very upbeat note ended the Music Report of 2006/07, and it can only be said that the Department has this year surpassed even Ash Gavin's cheery forecast. All the school ensembles have had another impressive year of achievements – probably most notable was the Choir's biennial concert tour, which in July 2007 brought Blue Coat music to packed venues on the Iberian Peninsula. But more of such things later.

With the dawning of 2007 came the steady push towards the first of our three major annual musical evenings– March 28th's Spring Concert. The school choir opened the night with Haydn's St Nicholas Mass, followed by numerous solo, duet and trio performances. James Lacey's Dance Troupe closed the first half, and the second saw the Concert Band, Jazz Band and Jass 2 playing such things as the Batman Theme and Calloway's 'Minnie the Moocher'. The orchestra brought the evening to a close, with the world premiere of L6's Patrick Taft's 'Midnight Train', the composer playing the piano solo himself, before resident maestro James Boughey gave a sparkling rendition of Mozart's Piano Concerto in D minor (1st movement) with Dvorak's last movement from the New World Symphony to close the night.

Another major annual occurrence in the school's calendar is of course Founders' Day, the celebration of which was suitably enhanced by both choir and orchestra – Haydn's Gloria and Dvorak's New World Symphony last movement, respectively.

With Founders' Day duly celebrated, preparations continued to be made for the Blue Coat Musical Society's greatest venture of the year: the Choir's abovementioned concert tour of San Sebastian, Santander and Bilbao. As July ground inexorably nearer, the choir swelled both in terms of enthusiasm and of sheer numbers, with membership reaching well over 100.

July 10th's Summer Recital served as a pre-tour exposition of the fruits of the Choir's months of preparation – a vibrant and once-again-packed Shirley Hall was treated to the full range of music to be taken away to Spain, from Bruckner and Fauré - Libera Me, with James Boughey as baritone soloist- to Lloyd Weber and Rutter. Needless to say all was well received, and without further ado, the applause still ringing in their ears, the next day we jetted off to conquer sunny Spain in the name of The Blue Coat.

All agree that the tour was little short of fantastic: between beach visits, shopping trips and even such cultural excursions as the Palaeolithic cave art of Altamira and the Guggenheim Museum, we found time to delight audiences in Bilbao, Santander and San Sebastian. We'd all been warned that we'd be "ambassadors of the school", and I think it's fair to say the whole choir took up the role with gusto, and were a pride to both the school and the nation at large. Importantly we all had a great time in the process, one particular focal point being the final night, involving Spanish dances, costumes, foods and the like – a well-deserved and almost unanimously enjoyed relaxation after a hard and tiring week. Next day saw the flight home, and dispersal for a well-earned summer break.



Just before the gig in Santander Cathedral

Music Report continued

The department hit the ground running once again in September with the start of this academic year, with not only Christmas and Prizegiving to prepare for, but also the matter of November's scheduled performance of 'Oliver'. In typical Blue Coat fashion all the issues posed by the time pressure were overcome, and the shows ran smoothly – on the whole! The show itself will, I imagine, be covered in more detail elsewhere, but from where I was, amongst the stage crew, it was amazing to see such professionalism and genuine acting and singing talent on stage. The band, directed by Miss Horton, is also very much worthy of mention, for the commitment and sheer stamina they displayed in keeping going through a several-hour-long continuous musical.

Next on the agenda came Prizegiving, featuring 'Rites of Tamburo' from the orchestra, and Chilcott's 'Midwinter'. The Annual Christmas Carol Service followed this nine days later: a traditional service of

readings and no less than 9 carols from the choir, held in the school chapel and followed by the Festive Concert in the Shirley Hall. Here the treats included performances from the Orchestra, Jazz Band, Concert Band and others, including an orchestral arrangement of 'Chopstix Variations' with myself playing the amusing and somewhat virtuosic piano solo... rofl.

So in short, it's been another fun-filled yet hectic year in the life of Blue Coat Music, and great thanks and congratulations must go to Mr Cook for his tireless efforts throughout. 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. George's Hall, but without a doubt The Blue Coat Musical Society will, true to form, rise to the challenges and make our Tricentenary year truly to be remembered.

Nick Miller, U6E

Recipe for Scouse

The exact quantities can be varied according to personal taste. This recipe involves beef and is a variation on Irish stew: on many occasions the poor of Liverpool would have made "blind scouse" with just a meat bone to flavour the vegetables. You can make it with lamb too, but remember to skim the fat off the surface of the stew before adding the potatoes.

For 4 generous servings

Ingredients

500 grms or 1lb of stewing steak, cut into chunks.
Some people like to add kidney too for a richer flavour.
1 or 1.5 onions (approximately 500 grms or 1lb in weight) chopped but not too finely
1 kilo or 2lbs of carrots (about 3 good sized carrots) peeled and chopped or sliced into 0.5 cm pieces

Coat the steak with the flour by putting the flour and steak into a freezer or large sandwich bag and shaking until the steak is well covered. Heat the oil in a large pan; brown the flour coated steak over quite a high heat for about five minutes, turning the meat constantly. Once browned, add the carrot and onion; stir well and cook until the onion softens and the carrots are thoroughly heated through. (If you don't cook the carrots well now, they will not soften later as the stew is to be simmered, not boiled.) Once you are happy that the whole mix is well heated, add the can of chopped tomatoes and the stock cubes, dissolved in about a pint of boiling water. Add more water if the meat and vegetables are not covered in the first place. Bring the stew to boiling point, then turn down the heat until the mixture is on a low to medium simmer. Add your Worcestershire sauce, herbs and allow to simmer with a lid on for at least an hour, although you can leave to cook for longer.

In the meantime, peel your potatoes and cut them up into chunks of a variety of sizes: the smaller

Between 1.5 and 2 Kilos or 3 to 4 lbs of potatoes (about 2 potatoes per person)
A tin of chopped tomatoes
1 table spoon of flour
1 or 2 beef stock cubes
A dash of Worcestershire sauce
a drop of cooking oil
dried mixed herbs to taste

pieces will help to thicken the stew, whilst the larger pieces will remain visible in the stew.

When you notice that the meat is becoming tender, the carrots have softened and the flavours are starting to come together, add the potatoes and stir well. Add a little more water if the potatoes do not seem to be just covered. Turn up the heat a little and leave to cook for between 20 and 40 mins, returning regularly to stir and turn the potatoes to prevent them sticking to the bottom of the pan and to help the smaller pieces to start breaking up. It's a matter of personal taste how soft you want the potatoes to be. My personal preference is for soft and fluffy potatoes with lots broken into the sauce.

Serve with bread and butter and pickled red cabbage. Left over stew is delicious cold or reheated the next day. Why not try a stew butty with H.P. sauce?!

Brigid Nolan-Kershaw



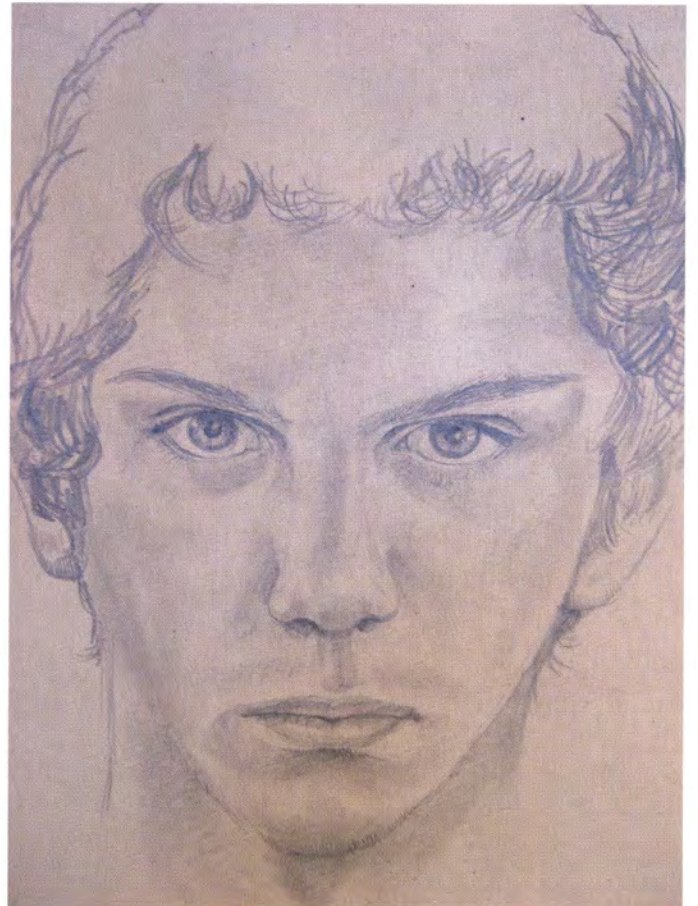
8 Blundell



Alex Cook, Yr12



Nile Denvir-Parry, Yr13



Nile Denvir-Parry, Yr13



Sarah Hodgkiss, Yr11



Daniel Bruce, Yr12



Sarah Gannon, Yr11



Edward O'Connor, Yr12



Emma Wong, Yr13



Conal Traverse, Yr11



Bronica Gumbhir, Yr11



Ciara Lenehen, Yr11



Kate Coenen-Rowe, Yr11

Oliver Twist

This year the Blue Coat decided to put on the classic 1968 musical that is "Oliver Twist". There was no waiting around as auditions for the main parts of the play were scheduled for the first week back after the summer holidays. Many people from all years of the school auditioned, and a cast-list was soon produced. As soon as this was made, rehearsals were underway: absolutely no hold up for a Blue Coat production.

With rehearsals being 4 times a week, and 8 weeks to get it sorted, you would think that by show week, it would all be sorted. You obviously don't know how a Blue Coat production works! There is a copious amount of rehearsal lessons, many hours spent learning lines, choreographing routines, building stages and getting costumes together, and the day before the first show, you're no nearer being ready than you were on day one!



However, as in all Blue Coat productions, we pull it off in the end. In the space of only 2 days, the tech staff had managed to produce a magnificent, sturdy stage, with fantastic artwork created from the Art department adding to the bustling 19th century feel to the Shirley Hall. Mr. Gettel and Sam orchestrated the organisation of all lights and sound. Ms. Holland was a massive help with regard to costumes, making sure everybody had everything they needed, and just being really reliable!!

After a few Sunday morning rehearsals and all-day practices, it was Tuesday night of the week of shows, and the charity event. We had yet to have a full run-through of the show, but as in all productions at this school, we somehow managed to put on a great show for everybody who came on every night that it was performed. Everybody who came said how they thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and how they can't wait for next year's production. Let's hope that next year's just runs through a bit more smoothly than that it did this time around!



Cricket & Hockey Tour of Barbados 2007

Nearly 12 years after the School's first tour to Barbados, the cricket and hockey teams flew out to the Caribbean once again. After months of bag packing, car washing and a number of other fund raising activities, we were finally set to make the trip across the Atlantic. The five and a half hour coach drive to Heathrow and the eight hour flight to the island got the better of us, but nevertheless, we were all looking forward to what would be a memorable experience.

The cricket was a tough, learning experience (and that is putting it kindly!!!). We lost all of the games, although the team improved a lot with each game that was played. Indeed, in one match, we 'only' lost by some 30 runs and after a great opening partnership between Eddie Parr and Andy Brearton, we were actually in with a real chance of winning. It did soften the blow when we found out that most English cricket teams on tour do not generally fair much better than what we did!

The cricket team consisted of (for the record, I didn't choose the nicknames):

Eddie Parr	Shaun "Rigby" Rigby
Andrew "Beggsy" Beggs	Peter "Robbo" Robinson
Andrew "Old Timer" Brearton	Jake "Cobo" Cockburn
Ali Edwards	James "Rhodesy" Rhodes
Jack Silverstone	Nelson "Idaman" Idama
Callum "Shotgun" Watling	Matthew "Gunny" Gunson
Danny Little	Robert Boyle
Jonathon Riley	Jack "Smurphy" Murphy
Peter "Athans" Athanisidias (yes that is his surname)	

Looking on the bright side, we do have one future cricketing star in our team. "Idaman" has been predicted to be the next Nigerian cricket hero (is it next or first?). Also, we did see fine cricket from the future West Indies stars. "Idaman" will be playing against the likes of D. Mayers, A. Blackman and many more. Watch out for them in the future.

With all the 'trophies' going to the Barbadian teams, we won consolation prizes from our teachers. Mr Jamieson and Mr Rees gave us all something at the end of the week to commemorate the hard work we had put into our playing. Awards included best shot (Oldie), best delivery (Athans), best bowler (Beggsy), best batsman (Eddie; a respectable high score of 33) and worst tosser (!!!) (Me, I lost the toss when I was captain).

The hockey team was a little more successful than the cricket side, as only two games were lost! One was won and one was drawn (this goes for both the junior team and the senior team). The games were tough and much more aggressive than at home, the heat was a great factor which made things harder, and the speed of the opposing players was amazing and we were mostly unable to keep up. A few injuries were sustained, but mostly, we all enjoyed the challenges that we faced. Sharing a room with the goalie kit after both Jenny and Ellie (Boyce) had worn it was not an experience that I want to repeat; although I am thankful Jenny kept the bag zipped up after Mr Howell had worn it!

The two teams consisted of:

Junior team:

Sarah "Sassy" Stanford
Megan "Megs" Crone-Flannery
Florence "Floss" Binks
Ellie Boyce
Chantelle "Channi" Wu
Remi Wood
Katie "KT" Blackmore
Lara Marshall
Sorcha "Sorsh" Twomey-Harris
Coryn "Cozza" Bligh

Senior team:

Gabi "Scabby" Thompson
Sharon "Shazza" Koshy
Katharine Bellis
Jenny "Jen" Ratcliffe
Oliver "Ollie" Kennedy
Elizabeth "Lizzi" Whitehouse
Alice "Alice Palace" McRoe
Jack "Blondie" Bedford
Eleanor "Ellie" Beggs
Alex Yoh

Molly "Moo" Howarth Maddison James Rhodes (borrowed from the cricket!!)

The hockey teams also got presents from our coaches. Mr Howell, not being renowned for his hockey ability, had some help from Mrs Beggs - a star hockey player, and gave most of his team a most improved player award. Mrs Beggs had some slightly more imaginative awards to give out, such as, Jenny getting the most versatile player award, for playing in and out of goal, and umpiring two of the junior team games and Jack (the Vanilla Killer) winning the social integration award, as he spent much time playing basketball with the local men.

James Rhodes was not only a member of the cricket team, but he also came down to the hockey pitch most days and played for the senior team, as we were a player short. Katie Blackmore was originally a member of the junior hockey team and very bravely played for the senior team when James Rhodes could not. I'm sure I'm not the only member of the senior hockey team that would like to thank these two younger team members for their great play, and that lovely goal from Katie!

As well as the sport, we took part in some other fantastic activities. An island safari in jeeps was enjoyed by all, with tour guides like Randy and Andrew. A "barbeque" on Crane Beach gave the girls plenty of time to sunbathe and bury Cockburn in the sand. The lads played beach cricket and tried their best to get Mr Jamieson out.

Athans finally managed it. A catamaran trip down the west side of the island gave us time to relax and see the island from another perspective. From the catamaran we went swimming with giant turtles which was brilliant and well worth doing. Cockburn and Ali even found time to go jet-skiing. 'Harbour Lights', a local club, saw us crown Ollie as 'singing king' with the Barbadian favourite "Raga-raga". Next time you see him ask him to sing it for you. We also witnessed some extreme limbo dancing by a professional dancer.

The funny times of the tour just kept coming. The tour had to be the biggest laugh ever. Countless games of pool between pupils and teachers were played. Mr Howell's dancing would bring a smile to anyone's face. His favourite moves included "chromosomes mixing" and "The robot". Mr Howell will be taking part in the P.E dance show in April if anybody will like to see these cool moves in action!!

School Trips

The funniest moment on the tour by far would be the memorable singing from the teachers. Classics like "American Pie" and "You'll Never Walk Alone" were drastically murdered by Mr Jamieson's lead vocals. His singing would even rival the worst of all X Factor auditions – sorry sir!

I believe we made some good friends while on our tour. Randy and Andrew from the safari tour will most definitely be remembered. Patrick, a souvenir salesman outside one of the local convenience stores, gave us some Barbadian words of wisdom on how to look like Elvis and how not to make our "mamas" unhappy.

While on tour, we presented little thank you gifts to the teachers for their hard work and commitment in the months working up to the tour and for their patience while they had to watch their teams being beaten. I would like to extend our gratitude to all of the parents who came on tour with us and I thank them for their support and for some brilliant catches in the beach cricket game. I would like to thank

Edwin Doran Sports Travel, for making the tour possible. Thanks also go to Keith Miller, a retired Blue Coat ex student who currently lives on the island, for his well-organised barbeque on Crane Beach. Thanks most definitely have to go to our parents who had to pay for us to go. Our thanks go once again to Mr Howell for his momentous dancing, Mr Jamieson for his "brilliant" singing, Mr Rees for giving up most of his time chasing pupils asking for money and to Mrs Beggs for helping Mr Rees and sorting out the restaurants for our lovely evening meals.

Looking back on the tour in Barbados, I really do appreciate the time I spent there, as I am sure the rest of the party did. It was most definitely the trip of a lifetime for us. I only hope that future cricketers of the school pester Mr Jamieson into going on another tour of the island. I for one would certainly go back.

Shaun Rigby & Katharine Bellis



Iron Bridge 2007

The summer of 2007 brought with it the opportunity for the students of year 8 to travel to Shropshire in order to visit the famed Iron Bridge Gorge and the first iron bridge of its kind in the world. The students were made to work for it, however, as the coach broke down en route leaving year 8 with a 10 minute walk ahead of them.

The students, having eventually reached their destination, were able to tour the bridge's accompanying museum, engaging in various activities in order to strengthen their knowledge of the iron industry in the 18th Century. Having enjoyed the splendors of the museum, lunch was followed by a trip to Blists Hill Victorian Town.

The bus may have been late but that didn't detract from the hugely

beneficial experience; by this stage everyone felt it was a matter of 'better late than never'.

As one of the largest open-air museums in Britain, the Town provided the students with a unique opportunity to sample 19th Century life as best they could. Reconstructions of Victorian shops and the opportunity to trade in Victorian currency for the afternoon enthralled year 8, deepening their interests in historical studies in the process.

The students visited a small fun fair to round off the day, before heading back home. All those who took part in the informative and enjoyable trip would like to thank the numerous teachers who made it possible and hope next year's visit is just as successful.

Empire Theatre Trip

On Monday 18th June Mrs Ludlow's year 8 class went on a trip to The Empire Theatre in Liverpool city centre.

When we entered through the back doors we were greeted by one of the staff, Laura. She was our drama teacher for the day. She led us through a series of corridors and doors and up several flights of stairs.

When we reached the top we entered the dance studio and started a warm up called "Rubber Chicken" which involved shaking our hands and feet several times. We also did an alphabet warm up and we had to say the alphabet in different voices.

Then in groups, we acted out various scenes from Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Afterwards we stopped for a quick lunch

break and then we wrote down everything we knew about Midsummer Night's Dream and we also made up our own scenes and acted them out. It was funny to watch the ideas that people had come up with.

We then left the dance studio and were handed over to the tour guide and were taken on a tour around The Empire Theatre. She took us into The Main Auditorium and explained how the shows worked and while she was explaining we watched a show being set up. Then she told us how a young girl fell to her death after an argument with her dad. After that she explained how the theatre makes money and then we left. The day was great and we had a great time...

Adam Leslie and David Sefton

Spanish Exchange 2007

Last year a few students from lower 6th and year 11 were lucky enough to be part of an exchange trip with a school in San Sebastian, Spain. I was especially lucky to be part of it as, at that time, my Spanish wasn't all that good.

However, the upcoming trip gave me a reason to practise. That really helped my Spanish and, when my partner arrived, I was able to talk quite a bit of Spanish to him.

They came during the mock exam week, but we didn't let the exams stop us showing them a good time. There were parties every night and I know at least I had a good time.

During the day we came to school as normal and they visited places like Anfield and the Albert Dock. It was a tiring week and when they left, all I wanted to do was sleep.

When we made our trip over there, however, sleep was the last thing on my mind. Our first night we found a great place to hang out and revisited it every night.

During the day we went on many different trips. My personal favourite was our excursion to the Guggenheim in Bilbao. The art in

there (or at least some of it) was amazing. The building itself was a work of art, and built on a hill so the entrance and exit are on different levels.

The trip to the nearby football stadium was also good. Xabi Alonso was captain before he joined Liverpool and his brother is still a player.

The trips during the day were nothing compared to our nights, though. One time we had an English vs. Spanish game of football on the beach with the English coming back from 4-0 down to win 5-4. It all got a bit heated during the game but afterwards we all went out and had a good night together.

Everyone in San Sebastian was so friendly, especially the families. My exchange partner's mother used to make me a packed lunch every day just in case I was hungry before our lunch break.

When it was time to leave all of the girls cried and all of the boys said manly goodbyes with handshakes and tentative hugs. We all enjoyed the trip and were glad that it would run again after our success. It really was an experience and I would recommend it to anyone with any interest in Spanish.

Josh Batterton L6F

8 Bingham Knowsley Safari Park Trip 2007

Money? Check. Camera? Check. Bus full of rowdy year eights? Check!

Excitement was high this summer as 8 Bingham went on a form trip to Knowsley Safari Park.

Starting out at school, we took a coach to the park at nine in the morning. Soon we were on safari – and ready to see some animals.

The tour was eventful, from ostriches inspecting the bus to monkeys climbing across the windscreen. The tiger was pacing in his den and, being a hot day, the lions were lying like kings in the shade. Newborn cubs also had their own den where they were playing, and the whole class rushed to see them.

When the bus ride was over, we all had lunch at the café in

Knowsley. We were all hungry after seeing the animals being fed!

After lunch we had an interactive education session in which we met Logan, a blue tongued lizard, Gary the snail, several stick insects and a rather spiky caterpillar.

With the remaining time, we were allowed to go to the fair and in the amusement arcades. The dodgems and bouncy castle held a special place in 8 Bingham's hearts. Everyone split up but ended up on the same rides. We also took a turn around the petting zoo.

But of course, the message came... "Please come back to the bus, it's time to go home". We all wanted to stay longer!

We'd had a fantastic day and made some great memories.

Megan Lee, Yasamin Marshall and Lara Rimmer

Blue Coat Old & New



Spanish Trip 2007

On the 14th of July the annual Spanish trip departed for Salou in Spain. Taking part in the trip were pupils from years 7, 8 and 9 along with a few teachers who will be named and shamed later in the report!

On arrival, we checked into 'Eurosadou', the hotel where we were to live for the next 6 days and 7 nights. Luckily, it was suitable enough. The weather was sweltering and as soon as our rooms had been allocated, everyone dashed for the pool that seemed so inviting in the summer heat. Ainsy and Ado were first in the pool, closely followed by Miss Beckett. Meanwhile, Miss Henderson sunned herself with her best pal and 'favourite-person-to-ask-questions' Mr O'Brien or "Oby..." and Miss Cornwall began her quest for a tan!

After a fun-filled, money-spending night in Salou, we went back to our hotel to get some sleep after a tiring day. The next day was a Sunday and we went to the famous Torres wine caves to explore the vineyards, learning about the manufacturing of wine and grapes. During the afternoon, we visited the gigantic Olympic stadium in the Montjuïc division of Barcelona, or, in Miss Henderson's eyes, "the beach". We went to Salou again in the night-time.

On Monday we paid a visit to the Nou Camp. We did a full walk around the grounds and even went in the team changing rooms. Afterwards we went to the huge gift shop where some of us bought gifts for our friends and family back in rainy England. After a "tasty" packed lunch on a viewpoint from which you could see the whole of Barcelona, we took the coach to one of Gaudi's greatest areas: Park Güell. Here there was a multitude of buildings all designed by Gaudi using the same style and inspired by nature. We learnt that Gaudi was an amazing architect (or so the man with the red flag said), whereas Mr Ainsworth said that he was a weirdo who lived alone with his coconuts. After this, we took a drive around the city and saw a statue of Christopher Columbus, and Miss Henderson decided to step up to the tour guide's mic to tell us all that his finger was half a metre long! After this we stopped off for the chance to buy some ice-cream, do some shopping and visit a 15-minute cinema showing.

On Tuesday, we had a free morning in the resort and the opportunity to fill in some of our workbooks or visit various places within the resort (it was an educational trip after all!). Some lucky

pupils got to venture out to the local tapas bar with Mr O'Brien to order tapas in Spanish. On the menu were some... interesting foods such as calamari (squid rings) mussels, clams, crab claws and gambas (prawns), to Mr Adamson's horror. In the afternoon, we departed from the hotel for our first visit to Port Aventura and our first real insight into just how violent Miss Henderson can be with a water gun on the "Tutuki Splash". After spending hours of fun on the roller coasters, and hours of "fun" trying to get Mr Adamson on the Hurakan Condor and the Dragon Khan, we went back to the hotel – until tomorrow!

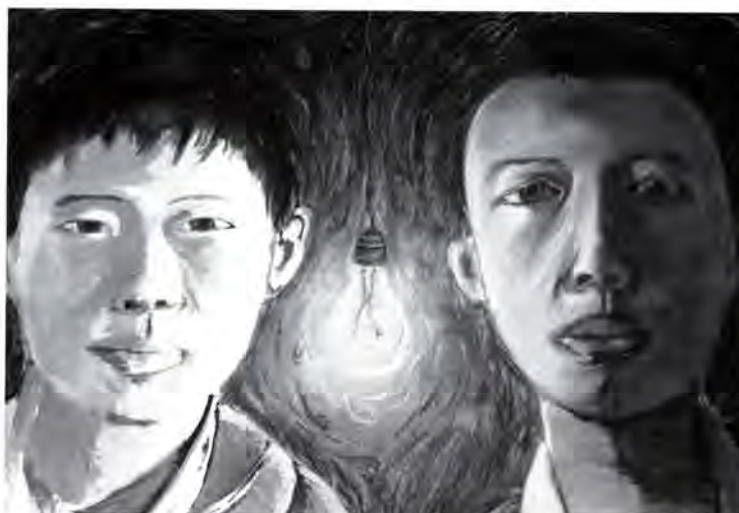
On Wednesday we went back to the theme park. We went to the water park 'Costa Caribe' for the first few hours of the afternoon, which was fabulous, and then spent the whole night on the rides including the newly opened furious Baco! (135km/h) until meeting up at midnight to watch the thrilling fireworks and fantastic show on the water.

We spent our penultimate day by the pool. It was Miss Henderson's birthday! There was a quiz about our holiday in the afternoon with some tasty prizes for the winners, and some pupils got presented with special awards, e.g. Harry and Lee (year 7 at the time) won best young Romeos and Alana and Megan (year 9 at the time) won best dressed. At dinner time, we all had a slice of Miss Henderson's delicious cake and the birthday girl received a present (duh, duh, duuuuh!) – it was a dress from all of the teachers. There was only one problem – it was the wrong size! She also received a hat, a beloved gingerbread man and a weasel; feel free to visit him in Mr Adamson's classroom. We went to the disco in the night-time and experienced some of the teachers trying to dance. A certain someone couldn't even manage the YMCA, though!

On the coach on the way home, some of the teachers got awards, including Mr Ainsworth for the most burnt, Miss Cornwall for the brightest bikini, Miss Henderson for the most excited, and others.

We still see all the teachers daily, but sadly Miss Beckett has now left – we were sorry to see her go and wish her luck in the future. On behalf of all the pupils who went on the Spanish trip, we would like to say a huge thank you to all of the teachers who went because they are the ones who made our time in Spain so enjoyable and special!

Hollie Ackers and Megan Walsh, 9Blundell



Kai Wei Yin, Yr13

Tod Travel Scholarship - Paris

July 2007 - It had long been my ambition to spend time in and around Paris, a city close to the heart of the French Organ music tradition. I've played the organ for several years now, and my real passion has always been for the French tradition (the other very major one being the German, although of course there's a lot of British/American/Japanese/Portuguese organ music out there...), partly because French organists seem to place such emphasis on improvisation, often playing for an entire mass without a single note of printed music (!).

In the summer of 2007, with the help of an Alan Tod Travel Scholarship, I did so. After the last of my AS exams I boarded an Easyjet flight for Charles de Gaulle, along with Francis Banwell, headed for the UNESCO offices in Paris to practise his French and see the work of UN translators *in situ*, and Caroline Parr, along for the shopping (Lolz). On arrival we sought out our home for the week - an apartment in Poissy, a suburb about 45 minutes' distance by train from the city centre.

The week brought all of us some much-needed relaxation after the stresses and strains of Lower 6th, AS exams and the like, but was of course not purely a holiday. Thus, between leisurely strolls along the Champs-Élysées and quiet drinks in street cafés beside the River Seine, together we found time for what we'd each come for.

For Francis it was guided tours of the UNESCO site (a stone's throw from the Eiffel Tower), its language libraries and translation department

- and of course lunch in the restaurant on the 7th floor with its panoramic views across the city, for me a great number of churches, organs and organists ranging from the world-famous Cathédrale de Notre Dame to the churches where Cesar Franck, Louis Vierne, Charles Marie Widor and Camille Saint-Saens (composer of the Jonathon Creek them tune...), to name but a few, lived and died, and finally for Caroline all the delights of arguably the greatest shopping city in the world...

Regrettably we couldn't see everything there was to see - notably the cemetery containing such musical legends as Chopin, Bizet, Rossini, Edith Piaf and even Jim Morrison of The Doors, but also the 19th century novelist Balzac, the Romantic artist Eugene Delacroix, the mime artist Marcel Marceau and Irish writer Oscar Wilde. However we did somehow find time to see the Moulin Rouge, visit The Auld Alliance - a pub that'd be more at home in 1970s Glasgow(!), get told off by French police and even, slightly bizarrely, fall asleep for several hours in a fountain...

In short, it was a very memorable week for all of us, and thanks are due to the Tod Foundation from both Francis and I for making it all possible. The experience has spurred us both on towards our respective goals in life, and it seems very likely we'll be back in Paris again soon - we've yet to make Francis eat snails...Rofl.

Nick Miller U6E

Tod Travel Scholarship - Pakistan

Location: Somewhere 11000 metres over Romania.

Time: 00:17 (GMT) - Speed: 1100 km/h

TAP! TAP TAP!

As unbelievable as it may sound, that is precisely the sound an old lady's knuckles make on the door of a plane lavatory. As troubling as that sentence may just have been, even more so is the fact that the afore-mentioned old lady was, in fact, stuck inside the lavatory. Welcome, then, to a plane full of Pakistanis.

Over the October half-term I spent 12 days in Pakistan. My aim was to gain some work experience in a few hospitals in Pakistan, and also to sample a taster of one of the world's most vibrant cultures. Fortunately for me, while I was there, I was able to attend a wedding (or *shaadi* as is said by the natives) and since weddings in Pakistan last for days, with many different traditions, and ceremonies and rituals to be fulfilled, this alone would have made my trip worthwhile.

Pakistan is a country full of contrasts. From the ski-resorts to the north and sandy beaches to the south, from the blue-eyed, blond-haired *Pathans* to the north and the darker skinned *Balochis* to the south, from the Lamborghini-driving, jet-owning rich to the struggling, under-represented poor, one is immediately struck by the diversity of the place. I visited two hospitals overall, and the days I spent there left a marked and deep impact on me. These were government hospitals, so the patients were generally from the poor masses, and the sense of poverty and despair was very depressing. Having said this, because Pakistan's population is massive, most of the doctors were extremely experienced which is always a good thing!

Unfortunately, the day I went, there was the biggest terrorist attack in the history of the country - in the Southern city of Karachi - killing hundreds of people, and injuring even more. The sheer loss of life, and the incompetency of the country's corrupt leadership to deal with the emergency, threw a pall over the rest of the trip. The biggest point of

grief is that the people who can actually lead the country towards progress and advancement are never allowed to come forward.

While there, I also had plenty of opportunity to sample the wonderful cuisine. What many people don't realise is that many foods classed as "Indian" are actually Pakistani in origin, and that the two countries do have distinct cultures and are not just the same! Eating delicious *donner* kebabs (called *shawarma*) from roadside stalls, immersing myself in the mind-bending mango-flavored *kulfi* (similar to, but not quite, ice cream) and drinking *kahweh* (green-tea) sweetened with saffron and cardamom seeds still brings back fond memories.

Although I personally dislike shopping, I realised that no trip is complete without the pastime. Thus, I found myself wandering under ancient, canopied bazaars where the sheer variety and intensity of the clothes and jewellery on sale was mind-boggling. Here sit the shop-owners, and the stall-tenders, all in business with each other, till the late hours of the night, trying to please the clientele (mostly female in this case). I found myself drawn to some small beautiful bottles on display, ornately decorated with jewels and sequins, and on enquiry about what they contained received the answer: "Itar," which is a non-alcoholic perfume so strong that even a small dab can be smelt metres away.

All in all, I loved my trip, and apart from a few depressing moments when I was overcome by the number of poor people, I realised that Pakistan is progressing as a nation. Often over-shadowed by its massive neighbour to the East, what many people don't realise is that the country is going through an economic boom. And from the men and women jogging in Baag-e-Jinnah (a garden named after the country's founder) in the late hours of the night (in an effort to lose weight), to the glamorous palace-like homes of the rich, to the beautiful tree-lined streets of ancient Lahore, to the love of poetry most Pakistanis have, I've never had quite as memorable a trip.

Mohammad Ali

Tod Travel Scholarship - Pakistan

8am GMT: Manchester Airport, England -
2pm GMT: Abu Dhabi International, UAE -
7am PST: Peshawar, Pakistan

I think it would be better if I first explained why I was in Pakistan on a school night as it isn't quite your average Thursday, as I'm sure you'll agree. I want to become a doctor but had only been exposed to the British health system and felt I needed to broaden my horizons in order to fully appreciate the role of the health professional in our world. To do this I decided to plan a trip to a 'developing country', to use the politically correct term, as this would offer me the ideal viewing block and work experience to observe how a health system and its staff cope with the harsh hand of realities that life in those areas had dealt them. I had thought of many countries to visit but only one really appealed: Pakistan, and, more specifically, the northern city of Peshawar. I chose it for personal reasons to be honest; I had many relatives living there whom I would like to visit but I felt almost obligated to go back to the country of my birth and home to my ancestors; I needed to do something pro-active, help it in any minor way and working in hospitals helping the poor was my chance to do this.

I had visited a number of times during my childhood, however this would be my first time going by myself and I did feel a bit daunted at the prospect of travelling across two continents by myself. Thankfully, I arrived in Peshawar slightly weary but safely nonetheless, and after a day of recuperation began my work in Hayatabad Medical Complex, a local hospital.

As I entered, I was immediately struck by the hustle and bustle; people were running, selling, smoking, shouting, even singing. The scene seemed more like a market place than a hospital. I somehow managed to find the general medicine ward where I was assigned to be, (thanks mainly some loose directions given to me by what I can only describe as the Asian Michael Jackson), and was led to the Professor (equivalent of Consultant) a man called Dr. Humayun. Working with him was an eye-opening experience, to say the least. The smells in some of the rooms was putrefying and one could sense the stale air. Around each bed there were several attendants who, despite giving the occasional bit of helpful information, generally got in the way, and without fans or air conditioning just added to the uncomfortable humidity that seemed to breathe down your neck, prickling every pore of your skin with perspiration, and the nurses definitely had the look of being over worked.

The one guiding light through this were the doctors. They ran the show on their own. On an average day a doctor on duty in the hospital would see 30-40 patients; in England, to see 10 patients is a big deal. They also have to learn English to a very high standard in order to even work as all text books and lectures are in English. The amount of knowledge they have to know is astounding as they not only receive people with text book ailments such as; jaundice or anaemia, but also have to be able to cope with snake bite and scorpion stung victims. This is certainly not Holby City, and despite all the work they go through both academically and physically, they get paid a fraction of the wages of a doctor in the UK, in fact the average SHO in a

government Hospital receives around £60 a month, with nurses earning even less, so who can blame them if they had a bad work attitude? What do they have to work for? However, they didn't feel sorry for themselves they got on with their jobs and tried to help the sheer volume of patients passing through.

The main issue here is that in Pakistan 70% of the total budget goes to the military. Now let me put that in perspective for you, it means we spend more money than India do on their defence despite them having over 5x's the population of Pakistan. This leaves very little money for everyone else and ultimately means that everything is under-resourced and badly run (e.g education: 50% literacy in Pakistan). So it was no surprise to me that the people of Pakistan recently stood up to the Military dictator Pervaiz Musharraf in an attempt to bring back democracy.

The situation in the health system gets less systematic the more rural you get; malpractice is rife as hospitals try and save money and there are even less doctors and nurses available. In fact, the village I visited didn't even have the use of its hospital as it was being refurbished, (of which it was in dire need, as the equipment looked to be from the 1930's and 40's). This meant that thousands of people were left with practically no local health treatment centre for months. Despite the efforts of the local government, there was very little support from the central government; most health schemes were run by charities.

These conditions are in stark contrast to the health treatment received by the privileged few at private health institutes in which the facilities and general comfort puts the NHS and most five star hotels to shame. It is a shame that the people who can take advantage of such an opportunity are those who generally don't need it.

However, this isn't to say that there are no good points in the public health system. A lot of good work is done in the community through the out-patients clinic in which people can come in and get advice and treatment from a doctor. The staff are also extremely hard working, knowledgeable and committed to making a difference.

My time in Pakistan taught me a lot. It was the first time in all reality in which I had considered how lucky we are as Brits to have the NHS but how much we take it for granted and thinking that there were people across the world that die due to the lack of such a service. I witnessed the true selfless nature of humanity and realised that it was this trait that embodied the role of those people who worked not only in the health sector but in all of the human service areas of our society, from teaching to law enforcement, and how we could all learn from the people I met during the journey.

Ahmed Khattak U61

Tod Travel Scholarship - Choir Trip to Spain

"Er... Sir? They won't let us take the keyboard with us..."

"No, I really have no space in my bag for another set of microphones..."

"My bag's overweight!"

Such was the scene of chaos of Liverpool John Lennon Airport one afternoon when the whole choir and accompanying staff were checking in, ready to board to plane to St. Sebastien, Spain, on the biannual choir tour. Thankfully everyone remembered their passports and was on time, but we had other problems. The weight restrictions meant the airline wouldn't allow us to take the keyboard with us, and our luggage was too heavy too! A flurry of activity ensued, with everyone attempting to fit just a few more extension cords and microphones into their hand luggage! Somehow we eventually managed to check everything and everyone in, and proceeded to board the flight. For many, it was their first time flying, and the plane journey went well, most of us managing to resist the temptation to burst into song.

We were picked up at the airport by coaches and taken to our hotel. We had dinner, and then spent the rest of the evening unpacking and hanging up our choir uniforms to make sure they were crease free. The hotel had a small indoor swimming pool, tennis courts, and a games room with a pool table, all of which we used to keep ourselves entertained between rehearsals and excursions.

The weather was brilliant, many of us taking the opportunity to try and get a tan! We visited the famous caves of Altimira, went down to the beach, did a spot (or more) of shopping, went bowling, danced at a Spanish open air music festival, and more. The days were crammed full of activities, rehearsals and, of course, concerts! Getting changed on moving coaches was an experience not to be forgotten, the agony of standing up for two and a half hours with no breaks and, of course, the incredible performances. All the solos were splendid; Miss Holland sang "Piu Jesu" beautifully with Jack Kenny, and James Lacey sang "Ave Maria" with such emotion that he evoked tears in two women. Everyone sang well and the concerts were a success. We even gave an open-air concert outside the Cathedral in Bilbao (mostly because the coach drivers got lost and we were late), much to the appreciation of the passers-by.

The trip was a great success; everyone had lots of fun and participated fully in all the activities. The singing was excellent, the weather great, and the atmosphere warm and friendly. I certainly enjoyed myself very much, my only regret being that I will be in university when the next choir tour takes place!

Fengjia Cai U6D

Malham 2007 Report

Our adventure started at 7.30am in the school dining room. All the U6 biologists were assembled clad in suitably old clothing and ready for the coach ride to Malham, a little village in the middle of nowhere. When the coach arrived we loaded our bags onto it, marvelling at the size of Ahmed Khattak's case, which was even bigger than those of any of the girls! Just how much stuff had he brought with him? We made ourselves comfortable and our journey began!

The journey was uneventful, and we passed our time by sleeping, talking and playing cards. A few hours later a bleary-eyed crew of students arrived in Settle, and took the minibuses to Malham itself. This part of our travels was rather interesting to say the least, with some of us feeling rather sick as the bus sped around the corners of the mountainous path with alarming speed. We were shown to our rooms which were, for the most part, pleasant, despite some highly

questionable stains on some of the mattresses...Having settled in we split into two groups and started our fieldwork.

We kicked rocks in streams, counted plants, measured distances, counted plants, looked for small invertebrates, counted plants and counted plants. I can tell you that, after a few hours, the novelty of counting plants definitely wears off! The weather remained remarkably pleasant, prompting Mr Kenny's question, "This isn't Malham, where's the rain?"

We attended classes, made endless cups of tea and, being the mature students we are, amused ourselves by playing games like manhunt and hide and seek. Memorable moments include the toilet roll incidents (!?), walks near the lake and the careful bartering of breakfast items between tables. It was an enjoyable few days, but I think I can safely say that on the last day we were all glad to be on our way home.

Oxbridge Conference 2007

Mrs. Athis continued her dedication to the school's Oxbridge programme by organizing for a group of twelve students from year 12 to be taken to Old Trafford for the annual conference aimed at assisting prospective Oxbridge applicants.

Having endured the school mini bus all the way to Manchester, the first call of the day was to meet individual students from Oxford and Cambridge in order to discuss the cities, the best way to approach an application and how to decide on a course.

The morning then became occupied by lectures regarding each of the most popular undergraduate courses and the group split up so that each person could get the most out of the day. Students and Professors had made the journey from both Oxford and Cambridge to Manchester in order to explain the finer details of Oxbridge life and how to craft a strong application to England's premier Universities.

The remainder of the day was given over to further lectures regarding Law, Modern Languages and History to name a few and with all the students looking to assess as many subjects as possible before deciding definitely on their undergraduate study; this was greatly appreciated.

The group, having endeavoured to strengthen their University applications, returned to the mini bus with a much better grounding for the important academic decisions that lay ahead.

The conferences certainly aided this year's successful Oxbridge applications and as Francis Banwell, recently accepted to read Modern and Medieval Languages at Selwyn College, Cambridge said 'the trip provided everyone with great insight into the two Universities and undoubtedly assisted me in my application.'

Finally, all of the students who attended this year's conference would like to thank Mrs. Athis for efforts in making it possible, as it was such an informative and beneficial experience.

Benedict McKenna



An Article Written for a Teenage Magazine in which you Persuade Readers not to Smoke

Nowadays, smoking isn't a leisure activity anymore, it is becoming a fashion statement. However, if you currently smoke or are thinking of taking it up let me get one thing straight with you: **SMOKING DOES NOT MAKE YOU LOOK COOL.** But if that doesn't bother you, I'm sure I can find something that will.

As we all know, smoking is linked to many health problems, namely: lung cancer, respiratory problems and heart disease. What you probably didn't know is that smoking is related to three quarters of all known cancers, including breast, testicular and ovarian cancers, as well as cancer of the mouth, throat, bowel and skin. And that's not all. Smoking is addictive - making it a lot harder to give up once you've started.

If you are being pressured into smoking by friends, then think long and hard before coming to a decision about whether to have a pull or not. If your friend won't take no for an answer, then they don't deserve to be your friend - a good friend will respect your decision. But whatever you do, don't cave in to peer pressure - wanting to fit in or impress your mates is no reason to risk your health. And if you have what is known as an 'addictive personality' then just that one pull of that Lambert and Butler king size is enough to have you hooked. You'll probably be tempted to rob one of your Auntie Lynn's 'ciggies' every time she goes to the corner shop for a pint of milk.

On top of this, smoking is known to have many other side effects. It can make your breath smell of stale smoke for some time after a cigarette. It also stains your teeth, which after a while will become permanent. A combination of these two is a dead cert to get you dumped - who would want to kiss someone whose breath reeks and teeth are yellow?

People who enjoy gardening are said to be, metaphorically speaking, green fingered. Well, smoking will leave you literally yellow fingered. Also, it is well known that smokers age prematurely and also that, especially as a teenager, just a cigarette a day can stunt growth.

Imagine if Peter Crouch began smoking at the age of fourteen. It is likely that he would look less like a cross between Plug from the Bash St Kids and Timmy from South Park and more the Jabber the Hutt. It may sound funny (and slightly over exaggerated) but smoking really can ruin your life.

And for the more athletic of you, this is sure to grab your attention - In the average boy or girl of fifteen years of age, smoking lessens the ability to gain lean muscle by roughly 88%. Imagine that. Your six pack: gone. Your biceps: gone. Think of it as a 'demon weed' or if you prefer it, 'death stinks!'.

So just dwell on it for a minute or two. Bad breath. Yellow fingers and teeth. Scrawny as a rat. And the chance of cancer later in life. Wow.

If you already smoke, don't worry - there are many support groups you can call and the ways of quitting are too many to count.

For more information go to the website - www.sugarmagazine.co.uk - there you'll find information and a link to the 'Roy Castle's Fagends' website.

Remember - **SMOKERS ARE JOKERS**

Kieran Doyle 11Sh

Did you know that Pythagoras was a Native American?

On the banks of a river sat three Native American women, sitting on three different animal skins. On a deerskin was a woman with her son, and the son weighed 140 pounds. On a buffalo skin was another woman, and her son weighed 160 pounds. Then on a hippopotamus skin sat an immense woman, who weighed 300 pounds alone.

A Native American mathematician saw this and noted that the squaw on the hippopotamus was equal to the sons of the squaws on the other two hides.

Cryptogram

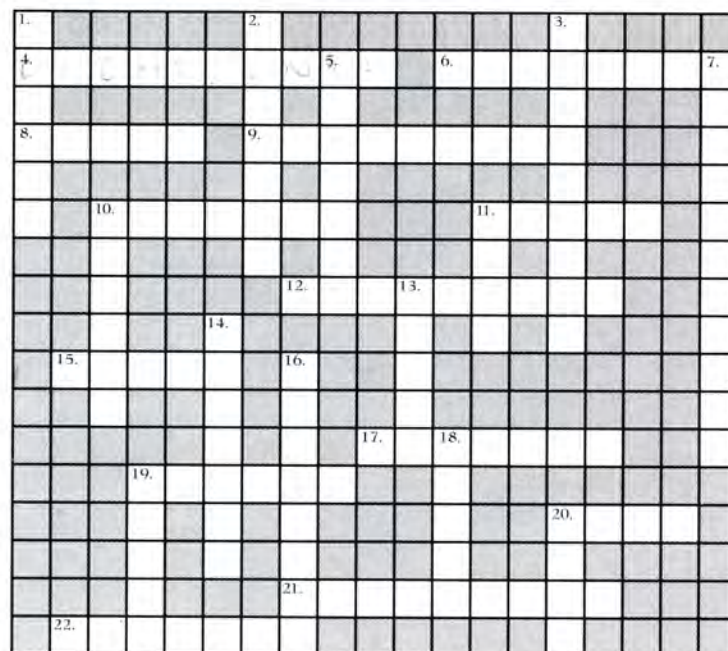
Decipher the encrypted message to reveal the real text. The encryption itself is very straightforward with a simple substitution cipher in which each letter is replaced by a different letter.

E.g. FBJ LGDQYYJR WZXZTQAJ QL XYJZF would be: 'The Squirrel magazine is great'. Notice that if letters are repeated in the message, then they will be repeated in the encryption.

BJR SFXR KTZB WKJTTF, UZQROBORR, FCQRODTTF.

Blue Coat Prize Crossword

There is a £25 prize, generously donated by the Old Blues Association, for the first student to hand a correctly completed crossword puzzle to Mrs Ludlow



ACROSS

4. The Blue Coat School, Liverpool, was founded in this century (10)
6. Sad blazer? – Not here (cryptic) (4,4)
8. Old schoolers may remember this teacher. He used to be a form teacher for Shirley for some of the current Year 13 (5)
9. Never works out perfectly – Metal bite (anagram) (9)
10. Our school specialises in this area (7)
11. Subject involving numbers (5)
12. Teachers' zone (5,4)
15. The school's Spanish assistant 2005-2006 (5)
17. Department which teaches in room N2 (7)
19. Monday to Thursday for some; only Friday for others (6)
20. To wander (4)
21. 12.35-1.40 (9)
22. The old canteen – bookworms find 'food for thought' here (7)

DOWN

1. A corridor was named after this guy (6)
2. I.T. has to consume in male monarch (cryptic) (7)
3. Some don't pay attention at the beginning of December and pay the price (cryptic) (9)
5. Mixing 'stem pet', gives Shakespearian play (7)
7. Like a beach – popular, dependable and sandy! (11)
10. Makes musical noises with the voice perhaps, plus, this teacher wears glasses (6)
11. Fourth planet from the sun (4)
13. Reliance or trust in a person or thing (5)
14. European country with a rich history for this teacher (7)
16. Two of these every morning without fail (except for weekends) (8)
18. Young person (5)
19. To go higher (8)
20. Capital city of Italy (4)

Chris Dillon

Hello reader. I'm Chris. I left Blue Coat in 2006 (with a Cowkeeper's prize under my belt!) to pursue a career as an International Business student at the University of Liverpool. I guess I'm supposed to be passing on words of wisdom to you lot. My favourite thing about university is the silly and infantile games, such as everybody setting the alarm clock on their phone for exactly the same time during a lecture: priceless. Another good one is searching for bluetooth devices on your phones during lectures. This not only provides you with hours of endless giggling at hilarious and naughty bluetooth display names, but also gives you the chance to send funny and random photos to funny and random people.

On a slightly more serious note, university gives you the chance to try a load of new things. Last year I started playing the drums and became a paid-up member of DrumSoc (Drum Society – nothing to do with socks). We've enjoyed some great nights out, had regular get-togethers to 'jam' and discuss the wonderful world of music and drums, and have also attended workshops by STOMP! and a Samba squad from Manchester called Republic Of Swing (check them out, they're great). I also started playing the piano in October. I would say, "Look out for me on Top Of The Pops", but it is, sadly, no longer with us. Blimey, I'm showing my age – good times, good stuff.

University is fun. The occasional 9am lectures are a nightmare to wake up for. And three hour long lectures aren't ideal for a Friday afternoon. But they're made all the more fun by discussing bribery, corruption and the terrible state of the planet caused by evil multinational corporations. Marketing is also fun and interesting. From September to November, I was working on a market research group project for a local primary school. After a scary presentation to the school's governors, telling them how they should market the

school, we won the prize for best report and received a very nice cash prize. See kids, it does pay off to do some work every now and again.

I still don't know what I want to be when I grow up. I think my career test thing that I did in Year 9 told me that I was going to be a builder. Or a farmer. I can't remember. I have one more year of university left (it's going so quickly!), so still some time to decide and plan a suitable career. Teaching looks fun; I've seen what you get up to in the Richmond – and you call yourselves responsible adults and role models!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the teachers who taught me at some point during my time at Blue Coat. Without you I would never have discovered: the joys of Shakespeare, Philip Larkin, Ian McEwan and his erotomania, pingos, or Adam Smith's invisible hand. I have also taken with me many great memories and some very close friends. One of my favourite moments include the time a banana with a tippexed smiley face suddenly appeared during a very serious discussion in English – I have no idea how it got there. I'd also like to apologise on behalf of another former pupil for his slip of the tongue that occurred at the very, very end of Antony and Cleopatra. We were so close to the last page too. I never have worked out what the brown thing on Cleopatra's chest was, nor, for that matter, why it was so funny. Blame the teacher, who also happens to be Editor of this fine specimen of a magazine.

Thank you again to all you teachers for everything you did for me and my friends and for helping me get through all those horrible, ridiculously nerve-racking exams! I'm so lucky to have had the chance to go to such a great school and to get know so many lovely people.

Happy 300th Birthday!

Auf Wiedersehen, Pets.

Daniel Haggis

I studied at Blue Coat from 1995-2002 and enjoyed every minute. Even the vast quantities of detentions and essays I got in the first few years were part of the adventure. I made lots of friends there, most of whom I still see regularly when back from touring. The 1st gig I ever played was in the Shirley Hall at a Battle of the Bands in 1999/2000 (I think!) I'd been pestering my parents to get a drum kit for a few years but their eardrums weren't ready for the onslaught, but when a few friends and I decided to enter the competition, I told them there was no other way. They finally gave in and I set about teaching myself a few beats. The 1st band was born... I think we called ourselves 'P.F.M' for that night. It stands for Pure F***** Magic. Terrible name, but then we did get a lot of stick for the current name of our band, The

Wombats. People didn't take us seriously for some reason! Needless to say our covers of 'Johnny B Goode' and 'Everybody Hurts' didn't win us the competition, but it got the ball rolling for me and my musical friends. I owe a lot to Blue Coat and some of the great teachers I had, and if they're reading this and I ever disrupted your class, I'm sorry!

All the Best

Daniel Haggis
The Wombats

Alan Gleave

Alan Gleave taught English at the Blue Coat School for thirty years, until he retired in 2005. This is an extract from his memoirs of his first fifteen years of Blue Coat School.

They are not long, the days of wine and roses (turning to evenings of wine and tears, in later life). But most who have been mentioned so far in this account were young enough to think they would last forever, and Young Tyro thought he knew what he was about, and was soon about it. However, before he could unleash himself (like a deadly, coiled, jack-in-the-box), he had to pass through a Blue Coat institution which somehow combined the purgative and uplifting qualities of a sheep dip and a Chamber of Astral Enlightenment... I mean, of course, the Senior Common Room. And more specifically I mean the old Senior Common Room, venerable and chaotic and dusty, impossible to enter for all except the initiated – and actually almost impossible physically to find! (The entrance was secreted in one of those many odd corners of the old school building where useful space seemed to trail off in a series of whimsically designed, impractically-sized roomettes and dungeons – where a unicorn might be stalled, or the art of cat-swinging perfected).

To the extent that the old Senior Common Room had geographical location (it was partly an evangelical state of mind, like the River Jordan), it was to be discovered beyond the Boarding-Masters' Dining-Room (where now the Head of Economics presides over the dismal science of Jam Tomorrow), and sharp left under a gloomy angle of the stairway to Shirley Hall corridor, where what seemed the deadeast of dead ends, suddenly opened... to the anti-climax of a cupboard-sized ante-chamber. Here were other barriers to daunt the fearful postulant – shelves piled high with mouldering heaps of exercise books, waiting in agonised, towering, outreaching shapes that somehow made one imagine bewitched and cobwebbed first-formers, pleading for admission, and the thawing, genial rays of Sir's condescending attention (universally and fervently believed to be due some considerable time before the Last Trump).

But for those who wielded the Sesame of Senior Common Room status, there was a Beyond over the threshold of a second door, left permanently open but armed with latent thunderbolts against over-venturesome Youth ("Get out, you little boy – GET OUT!"), which was the Room itself. At first, progress seemed blocked off by a formation of wooden tables, shoved together in a defensive phalanx, and liberally strewn with a litter of A4 hand-written sheets. These were sixth-form essays and exercises, favoured with the attention of the assembled Sirs, as was evident by sporadic emendation in splatters of red ink, executed in the gamut of legibility and intelligibility. The most fortunate scripts may have been enriched with priceless instances of Sir's sardonic wit ("I've seen more intelligence shown by the gunge in a Petrie dish"), or may have conveniently served as an odd scrap of paper for a shopping list, or a doodle-caricature depicting the Prize Pain of the group.

But even these tables, with their Blue Coat cultural treasures, can detain us no longer, and we are vouchsafed a view of the Room itself, inhabited (as to some of us it always will be) by the deathless Colleagues of the Seventies and Eighties... The eye of memory – one by one – picks them out, variously disposed among the contemporary Parker Knolls (minimally "ergonomic" wooden arms, and minimally padded upholstery, on worn springs which sagged and sang with the years and the increasing avoirdupois of some...). But now I encounter one of those problems of literary technique which solemnly and unavoidably reminds us all that matters of literary art are indeed (at bottom) matters of Truth and Justice.

Now Time, I sense, yawns at me through these bathetic scribbles, and wonders when I shall have done. Soon, soon. But Time in those days (and each of us has in life what may be termed our Heroic Period

– usually coterminous with Youth) seemed a vantage point overlooking a wide resounding high road, and thereon a marching, glorious Blue Coat cavalcade. Look here come more of us, whether in greeting or now in farewell – do you recognise them?

Here comes Edmund Crichton, ever as elegant as a gangster-priest, the charming-dangerous chronicler of Blue Coat life, both official and (primarily) unofficial. No Blue Coat teacher I knew had a surer grasp of what three things are important in life: art, sociability, and making the way straight and easy between the first two for all gauche and hesitant souls.

There is Ian Miller, with his bristling toothbrush moustache (out-Hitlering Hitler) and his protuberant, swivelling eyes of a deeply philosophical salamander: he was Editor of the School Mag in its best, deeply sardonic and intensely sporty, phase. And the Sorcerers' Apprentice, Mark Halton, the outer man all honest scholarship and charismatic pedagogic craftsmanship ("Here be understanding of ye English Literature fettled, under the sign of ye St Helens Rugby League heroes"); the inner man is such a creature of elusive, fleeting darkness as (I prophesy) a Headmaster is made of... Then Nick Cowan, Head of chemistry, as clever a man as you could meet on a Summer's day (and as disputatious and doctrinaire as any you might meet in your Dark Night of the Soul): so quicksilver and God-like his mind that it seems to run faster than the atoms themselves to speed from casual Big Bangs let off for casual amusement in the lab to the very Bar of sane professional judgement, expertly special-pleading another round of indulgence from the powers that be.

And let me mention last – because he is certainly not least, and happily still there, our own Cockney Latinist and ubiquitous moralist, defending the empire of clear and humane thinking from the modish, clap-trapping barbarian hordes... Phil Watson. Behold him put the foes of the BCS to rout, with steely apothegms, and the flawless timing of a classic turn from "The Good Old Days." "You say the School is frightened of change? Well, think of the School as a gleaming, purring Rolls Royce, and the change you want will involve bringing a hammer to it... Yes, we're wary of change!"

Well such was "my" Blue Coat, and perhaps what I have described, however sketchily and inadequately, will be of interest to coevals, and stimulate another round of: "Yes, but what I remember, and what old Gleave has left out, is..." Quite right too: I must plead guilty on account of each account not made, each notable personality glossed over or omitted altogether. I can only ask for understanding and forgiveness, invoking the classic Blue Coat defence: I have done my best, and I, too, loved the place.

And I also loved that the history of the dear old BCS did not begin and end with the fifteen-year span of my advent, and the end of the Peter Arnold-Craft era! There is a heroic (if occasionally grim) tale to be told of the three succeeding Headmasters, who all struggled in their own ways with the historical equivalent of a kind of second English Reformation – the dissolution of the monasteries, (i.e. of education left in the hands of the debauched clerics), and the carving up of ancestral intellectual lands to be turned into the fiefdoms of the worldly, where market forces and "accountability" were to be free to roam. So perhaps this mini-testament to a time in education which has become, in some ways, as remote as the Middle Ages will be of interest to later Blue Coat generations, too. They will be best placed when it comes to evaluating the worth of anything it may record, or endeavour to communicate from a bygone age.

All that is left to me is to claim, modestly but certainly, that I now understand something of what Wordsworth meant when he wrote:

**"Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive,
But to be young was very heaven."**

Ron Richardson

I attended The Blue Coat School as a student from 1962 to 1968.

The most memorable experience I have of that time is a very sad one: my father was tragically killed in a car accident; my mother and I were passengers and she was very badly injured. Members of the Blue Coat staff were excellent in their support, most notably Mr Watcyn, who was Headmaster at the time. This helped me tremendously through a difficult time in my life.

I have very happy memories of student life, including some of the pranks my friends and I got up to. At the time, Metalwork and Woodwork were taught and I particularly enjoyed the former. In fact, so much so, that I asked for special dispensation to drop Religious Studies to give more attention to Metalwork at which I excelled. I would cycle to school from Newsham Park, which was quite a trek, but I enjoyed it and it was good exercise, and worth it because I loved being at the school. I was also a competent ice skater, later to go on to win

competitions, and I was delighted to discover that the then Head of Physics, Mr John Barry Peters, was also an ice-skater. I also established a little money earner in selling golf balls to members of staff!

I have fond memories of my Maths lessons – not for the maths we learnt but for the tales of World War Two which Mr Leslie Price, who called himself 'LSP – Long Suffering Patience', would regale on request.

One prank I got up to was playing tick in the corridors at lunchtime, with a woodwork apron. It got a bit out of hand once and a ceiling light got smashed. We got the cane – although somehow it's not mentioned in the Punishment Book – and a boy who had gone home for lunch got caned and he wasn't even involved!

I am now a member of The Blue Coat Old Blues Association, a Governor and a Foundation Trustee, which is emblematic of my sustained dedication to The Blue Coat School.

Keith Caulkin

For my teaching career I had a seven-year apprenticeship as a student at The Blue Coat School. As a student, I remember that all students were addressed by their surname. What was confusing for the staff at the time was that my twin brother, Cyril, also attended the School and we would sit together in lessons. It was a bilateral school stream system: grammar and secondary modern. We were in the grammar stream and the form room and some lessons was, in year 9, in WO4, where the current Editor of this magazine teaches English. There seemed to be less stress as a student in those days, and numerous extra-curricular clubs and societies. There seemed to be time to reflect and enjoy education. The playground was a field and the borders would manage the gardens there, which were beautiful. The staff-student ratio in Sixth Form was so small that it was more akin to private tuition.

I studied Metalwork in Sixth form and there we made equipment for the School, such as thirty technical drawing stands for the DT

Department. It helped the educational process to see what we had produced in use. I made a wrack for my bike, which lasted for the first fifteen years of my teaching career, when I cycled to school.

At Prizegiving and Founders Day Ceremonies, students would process formally in fours as they left, bow to the front, and then pairs would split off to either side.

It was Mr Dai Davies who taught me Physics for seven years. He was inspiring and was like an uncle to me. I became a teaching colleague of his in the same Department until his retirement.

One amusing incident which occurred was when the Headmaster, Mr Watcyn, made a public spectacle of me for not wearing socks which adhered to the school regulations. For such a heinous crime I was frog-marched in front of assembly, my foot was raised onto a chair for my bright yellow and grey chequered socks to be displayed, whereupon I was told in Mr Watcyn's endearing but firm Welsh accent: 'Just tone down, Caulkin!'.

She brings me sorrow, but also joy;
To a life that without her would be, incomplete.
She is modest of those words that praise her;
And to my words, she praises me.
In the years that I loved, I feel no regret,
For as friend or lover, I still cherish her most.
Her voice calms my heart;
As if it were a melody.
She minds not of what I have done in the past.
For her the past will remain, as the past.
If love was pure and tangible, I would reach out;
Grasp and hold it, then give it to her.
If there was a purpose to life, my purpose would be:
To love her.

Anon

Teacher News

- Congratulations to Mr. Kenny on the birth of his new daughter, Sophie.
- Congratulations to Mr. Barends who has been recently awarded an NPQH, which qualifies him for Headship.
- A round of applause to Mrs. Silcock for her bravery on accepting the post as next Blue Coat Head.

- Congratulations to Ms. Roberts - or rather, Mrs. McDonnell - on her marriage!
- Mr. Crighton made an appearance on the Antiques Road Show- any more televised appearances and his fame will match his 'ancestor', Julius Caesar! (All jokes regarding antiques and polishing his head were deftly avoided.)

Congratulations to Mrs Hornby and her husband on the arrival of their baby daughter.

Congratulations to Mr Ainsworth and his wife on the birth of their son Isaac.

Teacher Quotes

Anonymous, for the protection of the innocent.

"Remember: pack them closer, it's 'SLEERP!', as they're further spaced, it's 'WooOOoOoop!'"

"He's obviously been taking MANY more drugs than the other person..."

"It was... like butter. Only buttery. Like butter!"

"Shut your mouth, or I'll fill it!"

"Oh, Mister Bumble!" [Strikes Girlish Pose]

"Brother! What have I done?! Mind you, wasn't it cool the way it went 'splat'?"

"Everyone would try being a member of the opposite sex for a BIT, wouldn't they? No? Just me then?"

"I mean, I love my car, but I wouldn't have sex with it."

"Everyone's a secret Nazi."

The Punishment Book

When I became Headmaster in April 2001 I was surprised to find the Punishment Book in my desk drawer The last entry was dated 1985 and this year marked the end of corporal punishment in English schools.

The Punishment Book was a record of all the offences committed by Blue Coat boys between 1963 and 1985 which were punished by "caning" ie. A beating upon the backside using a cane, a type of bamboo which was designed to hurt. The minimum number of canes appears to be three and the maximum six, depending on the severity

of the particular offence. Oddly, my predecessors, Mr Speller and Mr Bell, had served their entire headships at this school between 1985 and 2001 without removing, or disposing of, this particular book. At least it gives us a glimpse into this period of time. The following is an amusing trawl through the book's pages which shows the offence and the number of canes applied in each beating by the two Heads Mr Watcyn and Mr Arnold-Craft.

➤ Smoking on the school premises but given the benefit of the doubt	3 canes
➤ Playing with a dirty football in the building	4 canes
➤ In lieu of court appearance for cycling offence in the park	4 canes
➤ Wasting time	3 canes
➤ Stealing	3 canes
➤ Forging	3 canes
➤ Disobedience	3 canes
➤ Lies	3 canes
➤ The lot !	6 canes
➤ Disobeying a Master	3 canes
➤ Disobeying a Prefect	4 canes
➤ Talking without permission	3 canes
➤ Not returning from a weekend away	4 canes
➤ Defrauding Liverpool Corporation in not buying a bus ticket	3 canes

Sports Day Results

Team Results – Boys and Girls combined

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
1st – Bingham – 269	1st – Graham – 289	1st – Shirley – 246	1st – Blundell – 237
2nd – Graham – 268	2nd – Blundell – 240	2nd – Blundell – 224	2nd – Shirley – 196
3rd – Shirley – 230	3rd – Shirley – 231	3rd – Graham – 216	3rd – Bingham – 157
4th – Blundell – 207	4th – Bingham – 198	4th – Bingham – 191	4th – Graham – 156

Individual Year Champion Results

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
<i>Boys</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Boys</i>
1st – Jamie Mackreth	1st – Aidan Riley, Nelson Idama & Grant Helm	1st – Ben Kelly	1st – Oliver Kennedy & Jack Bedford
2nd – Callum Hancock & Matthew Hodgkins	2nd – Stuart Campbell	2nd – William Qi	2nd – Alex Taylor & Lee Roberts
3rd – Joe Hunt	3rd – Danny McGuinness	3rd – Jack Stanton	3rd – Dean Rahman & Victor Truong
4th – Dylan Costanzo	4th – Peter Athans & Mark Keating	4th – Peter Gleeson	4th – Kieran Koshi & Michael Tancred
<i>Girls</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Girls</i>
1st – Katie Blackmore	1st – Jessica Dickenson	1st – Helen Thompson & Ellie Darby	1st – Charlotte Dickenson
2nd – Katie Ashworth	2nd – Ashley Davies	2nd – Danielle McDonald	2nd – Ellie Beggs
3rd – Lara Marshall & Sarah Stanford	3rd – Sarah Edwards & Ashley O'Mera	3rd – Laura Caveney	3rd – Melody Mak
4th – Carmen Zhang	4th – Robyn Tisdale	4th – Zoe Pulford	4th – Gabbi Thompson

This year's sports day was a very successful and well organised event. The conditions were perfect with blue skies and almost no wind at the Wavertree track. Unusually, each year group was won by a different house: Blundell took victory for Year 10, Shirley and Graham were the winners for Years 9 & 8 respectively, and in the closest battle of the day, Bingham edged out Graham by a single point in the Year 7 competition.

The first track event of the day was the Year 7, 70m hurdles race (girls) and this produced one of the overall winners, Katie Blackmore, who collected further points by also competing in the high jump, the 800m, and helping her team out in the 4 x 100m relay. Another notable victory was for Oliver Kennedy who won his hurdles race by a large margin. This was despite three restarts due to Mr. Ainsworth having difficulties with the starting pistol. Aidan Riley of 8 Bingham impressed, winning both the 100m and the

200m, and showing some good talent for the future. However it was not enough for individual victory which he had to share with Nelson Idama and Grant Helm. Other creditable performances came from Jessica Dickinson, Ben Kelly, Ellie Darby and Jamie Mackreth.

Sports day was very entertaining for both those watching and for those competing. Thanks go to all the staff who helped out and ensured it was a smooth running and fun competition. Also, many prefects volunteered to give up their time in order to supervise the spectators and oversee events; their assistance was greatly appreciated.

Laurie Luscombe U6A

Track and Field News

2007 saw Michael Sweeney of year 13 compete at the English Schools (multi-events) and the AAAs indoors. Also, Harry Harper rounded a superb season finishing 5th at the English Schools in Birmingham; this was despite being in the lower age bracket for the event. He hopes to continue this success in 2008, and was heard after his race to say: 'Next year I'm going for gold, too easy'.

Athletics

District Boys Athletics

Well done to all the boys who took part in the following meetings: Centrals, Champion schools and the Individual Championships.

In particular well done to the following boys who were city champions:

Year 7 Jo Hunt	– Javelin	27.42m
Year 8 Aiden Riley	– 100m	12.22sec
Year 10 Alex Tayloy	– Triple Jump	11.48m
Oliver Kennedy	– Javelin	36.9m

Champion schools team event Years 7,8 and 10 all qualified.

Year 7 third

Year 8 fourth

Year 10 third

P Phelan

Girls' PE Hockey

Each year group have the opportunity to do the same in hockey as in netball. The year 7 and 8 play 7a-side so two squads are entered and then in year 9, 10, and open they play 11 a-side.

The one great asset to the school this year is the addition of the artificial turf. Sixteen players, a mixture of year 7 and year 8 have been invited to become part of a development squad for the County.

There are also 3 girls in the U15 County quad and 3 girls in the U17 County squad.

On Sunday 2nd March 08 two of the young Blue Coat volunteers were accepting the responsibility of the management of the National

Mini U11 tournament.

The enthusiasm of all the girls in one form or another is infectious and wonderful to see. Because of the extra amount of time they are prepared to put in to their interest, their development and progress is outstanding as a Leader and or participator. This Leadership ability can be developed through the Young Leaders Awards. With the constant increase in numbers, gradually it out grows, that, which school can offer so then we look into the community for clubs, in order that, these young people can fulfil their dreams and potential in whatever their interest.

Ms Arnold

Netball

League results:

Yr 7 squad finished 5th

Yr 8 squad finished 6th

Yr 10 squad finished 3rd

Apart from one draw the Year 9 squad won all their league games this season to qualify for the City finals. They were unfortunate in the short game time allowed and faced negative external influences which caused them to finish 3rd in the city, a pleasing result but not a true reflection of their ability. They impressed at the city tournament in reaching the semi finals despite extreme weather conditions and again short match time. Unfortunately the tournament was abandoned and the finals will now be played after Easter- good luck girls!!!!

Year 11 league results and positions have not published yet although they have been on form this year as a very strong squad having won all but one of their league games to date and look likely to yet again qualify for the league finals. They also impressed at the National School Tournament where they outplayed numerous talented teams to reach the semi finals along with Wirral Grammar. At the County Schools Tournament they played with great determination, and

despite missing their key centre player- Sophie Batterton, they again successfully reached the semi finals, unfortunately being beaten by Rainford by a mere 3 goals. Unlucky girls! – *Miss Cornwall*



Dance 2007



A group of keen and committed dancers participated in the annual "Dance Celebration" organised by Broadgreen high school and held at the Olympia Theatre. This year as the City of culture approached the show had a Liverpool theme and all schools and groups were given an artist to plan their dance to. Our school was given Atomic Kitten. We chose an upbeat track of "dancing in the street." All the girls showed great commitment to rehearsals and performed exceptionally well on the night obtaining a second place award in the competition.

Well done girls!!!!

Miss Cornwall

Girls involved were:

Rebecca Warriner, Tori Jones, Fern Montgomery, Holly Hughes, Gabi Thompson, Nicola Winstanley, Amy Lewin, Rebecca Jones, Robyn Tisdale, Rachel Holgate, Laura Wilson, Jenny Williams, Lauren Ventre, Katie Conry, Beth Currie.

Dance 2008

The activities have been varied between the creative and functional. With this year being the 300th year of the school, the girls wished to put on a dance festival. Four girls from yr 11 took the initiative and asked if it was feasible. Under the watchful eye of Miss S Cornwall and Miss J Morris, a Dance Coach, the idea is now becoming a reality. During the lunchtime and after school when it does not interfere with all the other activities the yr 11 girls have had 35+ girls involved from yr 7 to yr 9. Where to perform and the costs involved then became a concern. At this the girls did not panic but got involved and helped lead a 'Dance-A-Thon' during every break time for two weeks. Yr 8 set the scene cheerleading using their blue and white pom-poms. This was a great success with some of the boys getting involved as well. All will be revealed on the 21st April and the 22nd April 08.

Ms Arnold

Annual Cross Country Races

In the annual cross country races held in the Mystery Park, there were many good runs from various students in Years 7 to 10. Callum Hancock and Lara Marshall were winners in their first year at the school, and Rebecca Warriner took first place in the Year 10 girls race. In an exciting battle for the Year 8 boy's title, Nelson Idama just edged out Jake Cockburn, the two both finishing strongly in the final few hundred metres.

As always, students were encouraged to find themselves sponsors. This year didn't disappoint and many students collected money from friends and family members after completing the race. The money was added to the school's special Tricentenary Fund and the current total has just reached over £575,000! The Blue Coat School thanks everyone for the support and kindness they have shown and would also like to congratulate this year's winners.

Laurie Luscombe

Visit of St Laurence's College, Brisbane, Australia

The Visit of St Laurence's College is the start of a friendship between the 2 schools which will see each school visit one another every 2 years Blue coat will return to Australia during the 2009/10 academic year.

St Laurence's have used this opportunity to combine a football tour with our centenary and the capital of culture. So far they have played the following fixtures

Blue Coat U-19 lost 4-1

BC U-16 LOST 7-1

Birkenhead sixth form college lost 6-2

BC U-15 won 2-1

Cardinal Heenan lost 4-1

I would like to thank the following people who have made this visit possible and successful:

St Laurence's staff: Jim and Michelle McLoughlin, Eddie Wallace, Andrew Kendall and Gregg Steele

All the families who have hosted the students, and there were 21 homestays.

BC Students as follows:

Jack Bedford, Alex Taylor, Tori Jones, James Platt, Alex Edwards, Alex Mallon, Thomas Morrey, Michelle Ariss, Aiden Riley, Matthew Gunson, Megan Welsh, Craig Morrow, Thomas Starkey, Jake Cockburn, Robert Fiske, Jo Hunt, Sam Batterton, Lee Smith, Matthew Hodgkinson, Matthew Shore.

The Staff at Blue Coat School, in particular: The Headteacher, John Rees and all the PE staff, Edmund Crighton and Site Staff.

Peter Phelan



St Laurence team



Blue Coat team

Rugby Report

This is a first in the 300-year history of the Blue Coat School. The 6th form played a competitive rugby match against our oldest (and only) rugby rivals – St Margarets. They were difficult conditions as the pitch was fairly small and quite boggy in places. We would have preferred more width to utilise our pace men!

The result of 15–0 to St Marg's does not reflect the closeness of the game and in the re-match I am confident that the score line will point in our favour.

Every player gave 100% and very few tackles were missed. The team was well drilled and well disciplined and were fine ambassadors for the school.

From a biased point of view I feel we had a moral victory as they have been playing for many years whilst we have been playing for only two months on no pitch and with a couple of cones!

It is a testament to the students' commitment and dedication that they achieved so much in such a short space of time and they are already hungry for more. A wholehearted congratulations is in order as once again Blue Coat students have shown that they can achieve great success in any field.

Well done!

U12 Cricket

Squad: Matthew Hodgkinson (captain), Jo Hunt, Michael Boyes, Sam Batterton, Liam McRoe, Matthew Shore, Aneish Mangarai, Taseen Rahman, Edward Lynch, Mark Smyth,

U13 Cricket

CAPTAIN – T. JACKSON
PLAYED 14 WON 6 LOST 8

A BATTING AVERAGES

	INNINGS	NOT OUTS	RUNS	AVERAGE
RHODES	14	4	162	16.20
ROBINSON	14	1	160	12.30
BEGGS	10	1	110	11.00
GUNSON	13	2	102	9.27
ATHENS	9	3	51	8.50
COCKBURN	7	0	46	6.57
BOYLE	9	1	42	5.25
WATLING	4	2	10	5.00
JACKSON	13	1	49	4.08
WALSH	10	1	28	3.11
LITTLE	6	0	6	1.00
IDAMA	4	0	4	1.00

(TWO COMPLETED INNINGS REQUIRED)

B BOWLING AVERAGES

	OVERS	MAIDENS	RUNS	ECONOMY RATE	WICKETS	AVERAGE RUNS/WICKETS
LITTLE	27.3	2	118	4.32	13	9.07
ATHENS	42	7	172	4.09	16	10.75
WATLING	53	5	214	4.03	17	12.58
RHODES	52	3	223	4.28	17	13.11
ROBINSON	11	1	53	4.08	4	13.25
BEGGS	56	8	163	2.91	11	14.81
JACKSON	12	0	72	6.0	4	18.00
GUNSON	14	2	93	6.64	3	31.00
COCKBURN	9	0	36	4.00	1	36.00

C FIELDING – CATCHES/RUN OUTS/STUMPINGS

Cockburn 4/0/4, Robinson 6/0/2, Rhodes 10/1, Gunson 6/2
Jackson 2/3, Beggs 5/0, Athans 2/1, Walsh 2/1, Boyle 2/0
Watting 1/0

The season was highly successful in terms of progress. The winter nets helped. The standards of batting and bowling improved with each match. With another winter of evening nets next season promises to be more successful and with the arrival of an artificial wicket at Easter the running between wickets and the fielding will also improve.

The following represented the side:-

Theo Jackson, Danny Little, Peter Robinson, James Rhodes, Andrew Beggs, Matthew Gunson, Peter Athens, Robert Boyle, Jamie Walsh, Jake Cockburn, Callum Watting, Nelson Idama and Ben Stoker.

JGR

U12 Basketball

PLAYED 16 WON 14, LOST 2

This is potentially an outstanding team whose only two losses this year have been to Year 8 teams.

The team became the first ever Blue Coat side to win the annual Year 7 Christmas tournament in Manchester.

All the boys are really keen and enthusiastic, training regularly at lunchtimes, after school and in the school holidays.

Squad

Luke Findlay (Captain)
Gavin Spruin
Dan Harvey
Conall Jager
Joel Best
Andrew Callaway
Jasper Johns
Sean Leddy

James Lovell-Kennedy
James Scott
Jon Ashcroft
James Edwards
Peter Harrison
Adam McGowan
Robert Rimmer
Andrew Whitfield

Mr N Barends

U14 Basketball

FROM NEW YORK TO THE NATIONAL FINALS

At the time of writing the squad has just qualified for the National Finals to be played up in Barrow (Cumbria). Last January the squad had taken part in a Basketball trip to the eastern seaboard of the USA where they experienced a basketball way of life, playing seven matches, one of which was against Riverside Church in Harlem, New York.

Thirteen months later the squad has developed and improved in all aspects of the game, to such an extent as to reach the prestigious National Finals. I am sure there is more to come in future years.

The squad is made up of:- Nelson Idama (Captain), James Rhodes, Peter Robinson, Andrew Beggs, Matthew Gunson, Aiden Riley, Jamie Walsh, Theo Jackson, Grant Helm, Michael McNulty, Shakeel Idowu.

Alleyne and Dileep Karthikappallill.



U15 Basketball

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

An outstanding season to date, which saw the boys unbeaten in Merseyside and top their English Schools Pool beating Helsby, St Matthews and Pristnall to advance to a last 16 fixture in Birmingham against the Arden school.



We won by 50 points to reach the under 15 Elite tournament at Brunel University in London.

A mixed tournament was to follow! Having lost our first pool game to The Lancaster School by 5 points we had to win the next 2 games to qualify for the semi finals. Nerves was a factor in the opening game and we should have won by at least 15 points. We won the next game beating Chadwell Heath (London) by 16 points. In our final pool game we were 8 points ahead of The Shenfield School when the inspirational Danny Roberts had a foul called - this should have been his fourth but the table officials called it as his fifth and Danny had to sit out the remaining quarter. We lost in the end by 5 points. Later, the officials apologised after watching a recording of the game, which showed Danny only had 4 fouls and the table had made a big mistake. Ultimately this cost us a semi-final place.

Eventually we finished 6th.

We now hope to finish the season by regaining the Liverpool Cup from SMA.

P Phelan

U19 Basketball

Squad: Ryan Beeley (Captain), Drew Marsh, Michael Sweeney, Daniel Idama, Michael Roberts, Justin Leung, Matthew Saxton, Jack Bedford, Danny Roberts, Luke Williams, Ben Kelly, Vlad Paraoan, Danny Bruce.

Last 16 Nationally losing to the 2006 National champions Danum from Doncaster.

U14 Football

So far this has been a disappointing season from quite an able group of students. Too often games have been lost as a result of stupid mistakes, with the only victory coming against Calderstones.

The boys will have to improve their concentration, effort and technical ability if they are to make headway this year.

Peter Robinson, Thomas Starkey, Matthew Gunson and Daniel McGuinness have particularly impressed and have been supported by Jamie Walsh, Aidan Riley, Robert Boyle, Nelson Idama, James Rhodes, Jon Reilly, Antony Robinson, Jake Cockburn, Jake Atkin, Nathan Bond, Jonathan Woodward, Andrew Beggs, Alex Plent, Stuart Campbell and Sean Studley.

Mr N Barends

Year 11 Football

This was a disappointing year considering the ability of some of the players. Having been knocked out of the Merseyside Competition by a very strong Alsop side 2-0, we were hoping to have a good run in the Liverpool cup. Unfortunately, a below-par performance against New Heys in the first round resulted in a defeat, and the end of the season in only November.

This team was full of talent and on its day was capable of defeating any other side in the city. When they were good they were tremendous but, alternatively, when they were below par, they were dreadful.

Alex Yoh captained the side and led by example. He is a fine player and was extremely consistent. He was very ably supported by Gary Chan, Elliot Kwong, Victor Truong and Michael Tancred who formed a technically able spine to the team.

Other players who impressed over the last three seasons have been Richard Hetherington, Michael Blackmore and Daniel Corns, who all displayed excellent attitudes. Alex Waterfield did well at left back, always working hard, and Lee Roberts scored some exceptional goals. A word of praise for our goalkeeper, Jack England: he enjoyed great success, at times making some fantastic saves.

Valuable contributions were also made by Liam Brown, Matthew Carney, Jagdip Bains and Dan Bartling. I will be very sad to lose this team. They have been an excellent side to be involved with full of very likeable students. I would also like to thank all the parents who have supported the team on a regular basis.

Mr N Barends

U13 Football

Squad: Lee Smith (Captain), Matthew Hodgkinson, Matthew Shore, Jo Moorcroft-Moran, Callum Taylor, Jo Hunt, Mark Smythe, Jamie Mackreth, Robert Fiske, Jon Ogundele, Adam Gaffney, Sam Batterton, Mark Sung, Alex Turpin, Michael Boyes.

Also from year 7: Daniel Harvey and Gavin Spruin

Another entertaining season which has seen the boys progress further as a team and, at present, they are still in the Liverpool Cup quarter finals waiting to play Archbishop Beck.

Once again a big thank you to all the parents who have supported the team throughout the season, especially Winstone Landscaping who have sponsored the team, providing a free kit and sponsoring the Barbados tour.

P Phelan



Winners of the Annual Peter Arnold Craft Prize for Creative Writing

The Candlelit Dinner

The romantics filled the evening,
As the waiter served up the first plate,
My suitor began to talk to me,
But by then it was far too late.

The cucumber was the first to speak;
She surveyed me up and down,
And said, "Darling, I may be crispy,
But you've by far the best complexion around."

Then the lettuce looked up with delight,
And adored the chain at my throat,
Saying, "I know that I make mouths water,
But about your radiance I'm sure you must gloat."

And when soup was served she observed me,
With her spicy aroma about the air;
Said, "I have many sons who'd admire you,
As the scent of your perfume's so fair."

The first course came around and the roast beef,
All strong and dark and lean,
Murmured, "You're the one woman who could digest me,
And on strength I'm especially keen."

But it was when the chocolate fudge cake arrived,
Whispering, "Oh, my, the colour of your eyes
Rivals my own beauty so,"
I must say I was rather surprised.

And so while all that was delicious admired me,
I nibbled away like a gull,
Had eaten so much when my suitor knelt down
by my side,
My conscience started to lull,
Who can take so many compliments anyway?
When he proposed I was far too full.

Olivia Sung, 8BI
KS3

I Like Food

Dumplings and tea-cakes and sausage and peas,
Pizza and cabbage and fresh cottage cheese,
Hot-dogs and lamb chops and bacon and beans
Hob-nobs and burgers and different ice-creams!

Vanilla and strawberry and mint chocolate truffles,
Apples and carrots and fresh sprouts and mussels!
French fries and chicken, some radish and rare steak,
Gateaux and pork pies and chocolate cheese cake!

Scallops and fish fingers and toad in the hole,
Fish cakes and kippers and fresh trout and shoal.
Tomatoes and wedges and some beans on toast,
Pancakes and French bread and your Nan's Sunday roast.

Muffins and cookies, truffles and eggs,
Lettuce and sprouts, corned beef and frogs' legs,
Potatoes and ham, spring onions and ribs,
Biscuits and crackers and a packet of crisps.

Bananas and oranges, mangos and a stir-fry,
Meat and potato and steak and kidney pie,
Curries and popadoms and strawberry jelly,
I like food, in my wobbly belly!

David Sheehan
KS5

Winners of the Annual Peter Arnold Craft Prize for Creative Writing - continued

"Mmm... hard decision, 'The soup, please and white bread,' I stressed,
"Followed by the steak and chips, not too well done, I like it pink."
"Excellent option, and to drink?" replied the waiter well dressed,
I pondered, "Dentist tomorrow, just water is best, I think."

Broth comes, piping hot, with the soft bread just how I wished,
Eating my warm mixture of liquidised vegetables and fish.
I sit, listening to the gentle sounds of the pianist,
After my superb scrumptious soup, I progress to my main dish.

Beef arrives succulent, juicy, tender together with fries,
My fork laden with delectable treats reaches my lips,
The textures and flavours explode: little bundles of surprise,
As satisfying as little intelligent witty quips,

"Dessert?" I know I shouldn't, I inspect the list anyway,
"Chocolate fudge cake!" my favourite, I cannot hold it in,
"Fresh, clotted, whipped, or ice-cream?" no contest - "whipped", I say
Oh well, it's one night, a special treat, I've let temptation win.

Whilst waiting, I let refreshing chilled water flow down my throat,
Before I can see it, my nose has caught the sweet chocolate scent,
The fudge cake, so hot, the surrounding cream is more like a moat,
My taste buds tingle as I indulge, and wonder: cash well spent?

I leave the exquisite restaurant, my pockets a lot lighter,
However, my stomach is full and I am feeling great
I feel nourished, a lot happier and generally brighter,
Definitely I think, money well spent - I'm so glad I ate.

Zoë Bond 11Bi
KS4

Come and experience all the great things Liverpool has to give
You'll never get bored, it's such a great place to live
To start with there are the two famous football clubs
And all the men who go for 'a pint' in their local pub
Then there's the Docks, the Tate and China Town
And all the scousers sayin' 'Ey Lad What's goin' down?!'
Next there is the famous Radio City Tower
And all the students walking around with their ipods on full power
Finally there's the Beatles and festivals such as the Summer Pops
And many people waiting patiently at the bus stops.

Bronica Gumbhir 11Sh

The Land of Golf

"Portugal? Why... who likes golf?" How many times did I hear it? I really should have got it. I mean, "EVERY RESPONSE" CONTAINS A GOLF REFERENCE! THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING IN THAT!" But no! On the two-hour flight, I plotted out my week in terms of online: on beach ratio. Maybe a boutique or two? And we'd fit in a few sights on, say, Wednesday? All in all, I looked forward to this. Fara airport, buffed and spacious, exuded efficiency. A slim chap stood propped against a wall, brandishing a sign that read 'Thompsons'. "40 minutes me waiting. Hurry up then me got plenty jobs".

We set off on a chalky main road, lined with deserted cafes, terracotta roofed, and punctuated by palm trees, boasting billboards which advertised golf. I puzzled at the 'golfness' of it all as we swerved to a halt. Mr Mean Driver gestured to a little golfing village on the left. "You in there". So, in we went, towards a cluster of white coloured chalets and a Reception, of sorts, housed in the one at the end. I gaped at the several low stacks of golf related leaflets, as a skinny, gaunt chap appeared, seemingly from a cupboard at the back, with our key.

Inside the complex was grass; a luscious sea of rippling blades, stretching out in lawns of every size, and every way we turned, the greenest thing I have ever seen. We were just pink blobs in a painting by numbers; chalk, terracotta, grass, sky. Us. Only us, actually - was this place closed? Our chalet was spotless but sparse. Never mind that though ... where was our Internet access? When I couldn't find the computer, we went back to Reception, and were told it was "No worky. Under maintenance, in fact". Furthermore, most of the golfing centres were similarly disposed, but, as luck would have it, the main one - the Land of Golf - was up and running.

This promised land was Roman themed and perfectly pruned. Luxurious in texture and emerald in hue, not a blade askew, this grass couldn't possibly be real. The Guardians of the Blades, aka the grounds men, hovered, so we didn't dare touch it and see. We mini-golfed, which was actually fun! Just not to the extent that we'd buy the Full Week Bargain Pass. I found myself longing for purple! Or even yellow! And...food! We were hungry. The supermarket on our complex, though, was meagrely. Where were the restaurants, anyway? And what about nightlife? Or any life, for that matter?

They phoned us a taxi at Reception. Then lo, came forth a vision! A smiling, friendly taxi driver pulled up and shot out of his cab to let us inside. We might have guessed he wasn't Portuguese; indeed he came from Venezuela! He took us to the harbour, although warned us it was closed. The boats were chained, and covered with tarpaulins. But in the corner, albeit dimly lit, stood a tiny bistro and a waiter at its door. Our four small meals cost the earth. The 'cola-cola' (yes, not the real stuff) was an equivalent £2.50 a glass. I knocked mine straight off the table, and it shattered and spread across the terracotta tiles. A small, thin waitress cleared it up without a word.

Later, we slumped onto crisp white sheets and talked. We didn't 'like' Portugal. There was a lack of most things, except grass. We were starved of amenities and what was available was ridiculously over priced. We were treated with disdain. But, tomorrow was another day. We worked out that it'd cost about three grand to get to the beach, but at least there'd be sunshine! Which was free! So we caught the train bright and early, and the beach was sublime. We rented deck chairs (green and white) costing 9 euros each, and spotted dolphins really close to the shore. They left, when we did, at the first sign of thunder. Soaked and defeated, we trooped back to camp.

That night, the man from Venezuela took us to an Internet Café. I bought sole rights to one computer. I signed on MSN, and was saved. All at once, the light went out and the screen died. We clung on to each other and felt our way out to the street. In the grip of a blizzard, we walked the two miles back to camp. Mr Mean Receptionist had candles, of which we were allocated "one". "Wha?" he spat. "You no power cuts UK?" "Um, no. Well yeah..." we said, "just not the whole country at once".

The following day, we decided to try out the market. A gold-toothed Moroccan person forced us to sit and wait for cheap cigarettes (the fact that none of us smokes was besides the point). We were being circled by his associates when an elderly Englishman sidled up and muttered "Don't buy the fags, they're stuffed with straw". We froze in terror until we felt we could escape without being trailed. It was decided that we should go home, as in, our home. We'd all had enough.

The relief of being back on English soil cannot be described here. I'd like to believe that, perhaps in season, the staff at Vilamoura might cast off its miserable cloak, buy in some food, sort out the electrics, welcome the guests, and invest in some paint, so that someone can throw some colour at that mean and dreary place, and turn it into a holiday.

Olivia Thompson 10Gr

Disappointment

People say that you know it's love from the moment you first lay eyes upon that special thing. Well, from my experience, that's definitely true. It was a cold December night of 1995; I was wrapped up in so many layers my arms stuck out at odd angles and I was unable to straighten them to my sides. I clutched my mother's side in the noise and mammoth crowd of hundreds of vulture-like shoppers desperate for that perfect purchase surrounding my terrified 3 year-old self. We wandered up into Lewis's as we did every Christmas, so I could gaze in child-like awe at the wondrous toys I could only dream of opening on Christmas Day Morning and that's when I spotted it: the Tomy Dressing Table. It was the most beautiful thing I had ever seen. I wanted it; I needed it; I had to have this. I excitedly waited in the never ending queue for Santa; my stomach flipped and my knees trembled, I could tell Santa what I wanted personally and then he'd have to bring me it. I'd been an angel all year. How could he say no? So, after walking through the winding corridors waiting for what seemed like an eternity, I walked into the cottage to the big man himself. I whispered into his ear my wish, and he smiled, telling me: "We'll, I'll see what I can do."

The days that followed dragged on at an endless pace until finally Christmas Morning came. I ran down the stairs at breakneck speed; I could feel the wind in my hair as I arrived in the living room, a ball full of excitement and thrill. I tore open the presents like an animal willing to get to each one. I opened the first big box, a rocking horse, wow, next a tent, ooh. I opened each and every one, my anticipation building and building for my beautiful dressing table, but it never came. How could Santa do this to me? How could he deprive me of my wish?

The years passed and each year my one desire never came; as I grew older I knew I was far too old for it but the secret yearning for it lived on. Until 2003 came along; by now I had grown out of the old Santa story but the excitement was still there in the form of my younger sister. Now, each Christmas we both open our presents, not really paying any notice what the other has, too thrilled with our own personal delights. But this year was different; this was the year the biggest disappointment of my life would occur. As my sister opened her present, my eyes widened in shock and horror: what did she have, but the dressing table I had always wanted. And how did she thank Santa for this treat? "Oh, I didn't ask for this", and carelessly pushed it aside with no regard.

My dream present, given to my little sister, who didn't even care. That was my biggest disappointment.

Lisa Tighe 11BL

The Ups and Downs of Teenage Life

Being a teenager is quite good at times,
Sometimes it is not.
Such as when my sister claimed she was hurt,
The blame was what I got.

"It wasn't me!" I said in protest,
While my mother just ignored.
"I just walked in and she fell over,
With a great dramatic fall!"

My words fell on deaf ears it seemed,
My protests were in vain,
For all I got was a telling off
And sent to my room yet again.

However, when you're a teenager,
You've collected a lot of things in your room,
So when you've been sent up there,
To so-called: "Face your doom"

You're never bored for the simple reason,
There's a lot of things to do,
So the next time you are sent up the stairs,
You can quietly shout: "Woohoo!"

By James Draper
8 Bingham

Aftershock

Oh ho! Welcome, weary traveller, to the back end of the Squirrel (the bushy tail, obviously). Easily the most anticipated section (for myself at least) in any of our school publications, it is, ironically, the first thing I usually turn to. So what better way to start your read- and end our work- than with small mammalian toilet humour?

Back on track, this foray into the world of small-scale publishing has been interesting to say the least. I know I speak for all of the lower sixth editorial team when I say that the easiest way to avoid W04 when a piece of work is due is to use the language corridor, or at least dive beneath the classroom window as if you're a member of the SAS. (The Upper Sixth members of course seemingly got by doing whatever Upper Sixth people do to avoid stuff. UCAS-ing or something unimportant).

As per usual, the Squirrel's editorial team has diligently avoided all form of actual editing and have laboriously allowed their workload to pile up for the final day before printing. Such dedication to the job would appear to be norm, at least according to the 2004 edition I have open on my lap (there are tales of long ago when sixth formers were strong, bold, and paid attention to meetings, but such things are fantasy and should be paid no heed).

As a functioning team, one would expect us each to play the role of a finger that is able to grasp as a hand. A hand that can grasp a pen or tap dance its way on a keyboard. Perhaps it is our inability to form this imaginary gestalt-hand-entity that I find myself typing this late at night before the final deadline. As a group we are a relatively taciturn bunch- hardly the Power Rangers, or anything- but rather bookish fools who thought editing a school magazine was the cool thing to do. In fact, we more closely resemble the cast of Black Books, than we do say, the A-Team.

Year Sevens think we're cool. That's the main thing.

A big thanks to:

Amy "Yellow Ranger" Hawkens

Holly "Molar the Wondercat" Boyes

Alex "Voice of the Mysterons" Leece

Laurie "L. Lawliett Lupin Livingston" Luscombe

Benedict "Breaking Benjamin" McKenna

Nick "Scarfman, away!" Miller

And a final big thanks to Mrs Ludlow, whose careful, tender slave driving brought this magazine together, and without whom we would probably not even have a magazine.

Alex Leece

The sun was just beginning to set when I saw him.

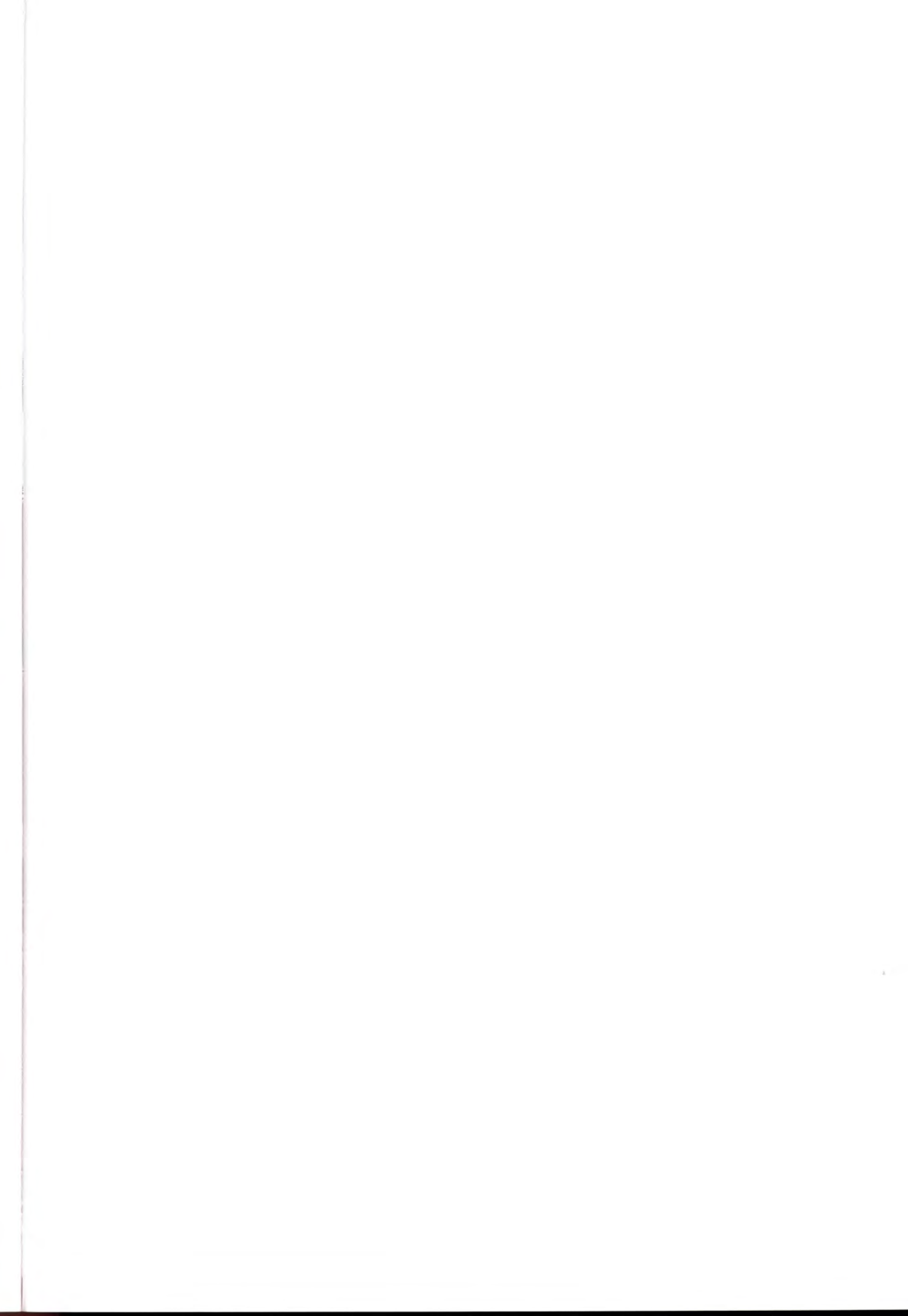
I stood beside the window, admiring the view, as did he. I guessed him to be in his early thirties, as his facial marks and details suggested. I realised, staring at his face, that the marks were in fact healed wounds: scars of the past.

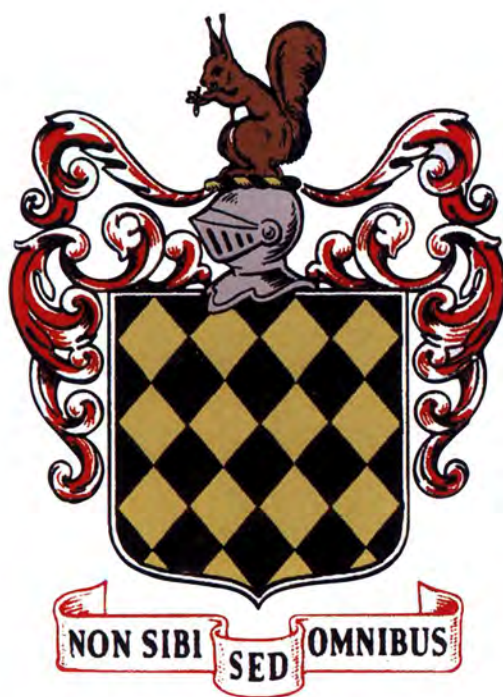
His eyes scanned the scenery of the golden fresh park as if he had never seen life before. And then, I noticed his particular gait. It seemed strong and exciting, but it slowed down with every step. It dawned on me why: his left leg was wooden. After realising this, I was overcome with a new-found respect for this honourable figure.

Such scars and injuries must have arrived after some heroic deed.... a disaster, or perhaps a battle. Yes, a battle seemed more likely. My instincts were whispering to me, my mind running away from me. My gut feelings told me that this was a man of war. Perhaps he had just returned from war, which would explain his amazement at his surroundings: the way he stared at the golden leaves, the budding flowers, the mellow butterflies.

And then he turned the corner, and was gone.

Thomas Hessom
Year 8





SQUIRREL 2008