

# SQUIRREL

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL

06/07





# Blue Coat

## *Exclusive Gifts*

### Rugby Shirts

Long sleeved rugby shirt: a very smart leisure shirt featuring our splendid Blue Coat School Crest. 100% cotton with twin needle seams and taped side vents.

Available in all sizes S-M-L-XL & XXL

Price **£30.00**



### Old Blues Tie

Our famous golden squirrel featured on a blue striped background. A must for any past pupil or member of staff.

Price **£12.00**

### Lapel Badge/Pin

A glossy enamel lapel badge, featuring the Blue Coat School crest. Ideal for the discerning wearer.

Limited stock available.

Price **£7.00**



### Blue Coat Wall Plaques

Attractive wall plaque featuring our splendid school crest.

Price **£25.00**

### Cufflinks

Enamel-based, featuring the Blue Coat School crest.

A must for that "well dressed look".

Price **£15.00**



All of the above items are available to the whole Blue Coat family and may be purchased exclusively from 'The Old Blues'. Please allow £1.50 p&p per item and make cheques payable to the Blue Coat Brotherly Society.

Contact: Ron Richardson on 0151 426 0029 or email: [raffles@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:raffles@blueyonder.co.uk)

---

# LIVERPOOL BLUE COAT SCHOOL

---



# SQUIRREL

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL

**06/07**

Editor: Mrs. B. D. G. Ludlow

Editorial Team: Ash Gavin, Craig Gundersen, Nick Miller,  
Liam O'Brien and James Taylor.

The Magazine Committee acknowledges the contributions of all students and staff involved in providing the items within these pages, especially the Art Department and Mr K. Caulkin for Photography

*Cover illustration: Lewis Coenen-Rowe 9Bi*  
*School Photograph: Francis Tierney L6Sc2*

First published in 2007 by The Blue Coat School  
"Squirrel 2006/7" © Blue Coat School MMV  
Designed and produced by Crown Printing, Liverpool

# Contents

<b>Editorial</b>	3	<b>School Trips</b>	
<b>Headmaster's Report</b>	4	Oxbridge Dinner Trip	35
<b>Avete</b>	8	Alan Tod Scholarship – Greece Trip	35
<b>Valete</b>	11	Year 8 Ironbridge Day Trip	36
<b>Pupil Achievements</b>		Spanish Exchange Report	37
Entry into Higher Education	13	Ski Trip to Italy	37
Form Prizes	15	Stratford Trip	38
Academic Prizes	15	Chester Zoo Trip 2006	38
Special Prizes	16	Lake District Hike	39
Duke of Edinburgh Awards	16	Blencathra Geography Field Trip	39
Success in Music Examinations	17	Year 8 Trip to a Chemistry Lecture at LJMU	40
School Colour Awards	18	Visit to the Royal Armouries Leeds	40
GCSE Results	19	PGL Trip	40
GCE Results	19	Helmshore Mill Textile Museum Trip	41
Sixth Form Graduation Programme	20	Year 7 History Trip – Chester	41
Physics Olympiad 2007	20	Outing to the Ballet	42
The Liverpool Good Citizens Award	20	Visit to Krakow	42
Unilever Competition at Tate Liverpool	21	Oxford, June 2006	43
Poetry of Place Competition	21	Versailles 2007	43
Coaching Success	21	Paris Trip	44
<b>The Tricentenary Committee</b>	22	Year 10 History Conference Trip	44
<b>School Events</b>		<b>Puzzle Page</b>	45
Santa Dash 06 – A Tradition in the Making	23	<b>Staff Pages</b>	46
Two Days with an Author	23	<b>School Sport</b>	
National Poetry Day	24	School Sports Results	48
Winged Words	24	Hockey	49
Aim Higher Presentation	25	Annual Cross Country Championship	49
Year 7 Social Evening	25	U12 Cricket	49
<b>Clubs and Societies</b>		Girls' P.E.	50
Bridge Club	26	Athletics at Blue Coat	51
Craft Club	26	Staff Football Match versus Calderstones	51
Creative Writing Club	27	U13 Basketball USA Trip 2007	52
Computer Club	27	U13 Basketball	52
Debating Competition 2006	28	U14 Basketball	52
First Lego League 2006	29	U19 Basketball	53
Scripture Union	29	U12 Football	53
Social Services Committee Report	28	U13 Football	53
The School Library	29	U14 Football	54
<b>Drama</b>		U16 Football	54
Joseph	30	<b>Creative Writing</b>	55
<b>Music</b>		and throughout the magazine	
Music Report 2006-07	31	<b>Post Mortem</b>	64
<b>Art</b>	32-34	<b>Word Search Solution</b>	64

# Changes....

I'm sure I speak for most people when I say that I'm happier when February comes around and the evenings and mornings are lighter, bringing salvation from the grim prospect of leaving for school and leaving school when it's still dark. Just the other day, there was a white mist above some snow-encased fields and the brilliant orange sunrise created a spectacularly beautiful scene as I drove to school, and I only wished I'd had a camera to hand.

There was great excitement at school later when some students, who had been gazing longingly from corridor windows at the inviting whiteness that lay beyond their grasp out in the yard, were allowed to escape as the fire alarm sounded for a drill. Mr. Row managed to control the snowballing chaos which predictably ensued, and students and staff eventually returned safely to their drier and warmer classrooms.

When the fire alarm rang in the afternoon, the students were certainly delighted at the prospect of more snowballing pursuits. I was surprised, however, to discover that the fire alarm was linked to the pachydermatous 'mad professor' in the form of Mr. Cowan. (There are many enthusiastic chemists at Blue Coat who can tell tales of the smoky pandemonium of open evenings, when one can smell one's way, admittedly through smog, to his laboratory.) Mr. Cowan's 'controlled' explosions are a refreshing reminder that some of us never lose our sense of adventure, and some things don't change.

The Blue Coat School has faced many changes over its near 300 year history – at times even being faced with closure and also relocation. Very recent years have seen many changes to the structural fabric of the building, and in the past year the clock tower has taken

on a new face. 2007 will be the first year that girls have taken GCSEs at The Blue Coat. There are student and staff changes each academic year. Mr. Cox, for example, has arrived to shape up the sixth form and entertain us with his witty aphorisms in assembly.

As we go to press, there are moves afoot to designate Blue Coat as a Church of England school, a reform which many of its community have challenged, concerned about the changes this would incur.

When my son was very small, one of his favourite first books was *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, which he enjoyed particularly for its colourful illustrations. I remember his wide-eyed fascination at the image of the transformed creature, resplendent in colour, which graced the book's closing pages. Whatever changes the Blue Coat School may face in the future, with many celebratory events planned for its 300th birthday, we hope that they will be for the benefit of all.

**Mrs. B D G Ludlow**

*Editor*

## Acknowledgements

*I am very grateful to the Editorial Team, whose unstinting efforts to type, email, interview and pester have made this magazine possible. Mr. L Lander has helped with publishing advice and The Blue Coat Old Boys' Association are due our thanks for the generous donation for the Caption Quiz. We are also grateful to the P.T.A. 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.*

## Day to Day

Day to day I wonder why  
people across the world still cry;  
why people crave what they don't have,  
the little things should make them glad.

Day to day why are they cold  
and left alone, grey and old;  
wars are still fought inside this place,  
the look of terror on the public's face.

Day to day cultures can change  
from one to another they can range;  
why are people sectioned for what they believe:  
because of this these people grieve.

Day to day the world must reform  
people still die but others are born;  
the world of sorrow and remorse  
must change to joy and run its course.

Day to day life still goes on  
like a journey but then it's gone;  
what do we do with what time we have?  
What we are should make us glad.

**Matthew Pollard**

11 Shirley

# Prizegiving Monday 11th December 2006

**Lord Mayor, 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.**

In the Autumn of 2005 I began to hold a series of meetings with the school's Governors and Trustees around the subject of the special celebrations in 2008 when the school will be 300 years old. It occurred to me that the school would need to have at least one significant Birthday present, as well as a number of exceptional and particular celebratory events, in order to mark this special occasion. Indeed, the school is lucky in that the same year, 2008, will be celebrated by the City of Liverpool's Capital of Culture status. And so the school set about the appointment of a Tricentenary Committee, which in turn established a Special Appeal to raise funds for the school. A target of £1,000,000 was agreed, as were two special projects, firstly a new Astroturf sports pitch on the games field and secondly a study area for Upper Sixth Form students in the East Wing of the school. It was further agreed that fundraising would continue to the end of 2007 which means that, just now, we are approaching the half way point in our two year Special Campaign. I am really delighted to announce that the current total in the Appeal Fund is more than £440,000 and, although we have been able to identify and draw in some rather large contributions from the Trustees' Development Fund and the School's Budget, we have been able to gather £104,000 of new money via donations and pledges from parents, old blues, friends and businesses. We are doing really well, so far, and I do hope that many more parents and former students will support our Special Appeal during 2007. I am also pleased to report that the Sports project is due to be started next March, and completed by August, so that when we return for the new academic year in September 2007, our students will be able to enjoy the school's first 300th Special Birthday present as we approach 2008. At this point I would like to thank all my colleagues on the Tricentenary Committee for giving such outstanding support and clear direction to the overall project, including all the planning of events together with a thank you to all parents, students and friends who have given so readily so much, but there is one other group of people which I wish to thank in this section, and that is all my colleagues and 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, we regularly have more than twenty willing members at our meetings, and £2,000 is paid into our Special Appeal Fund every term. Many thanks to all my loyal friends in the PA who work so hard for the school.

One of the joys of working at the Blue Coat School is, of course, the celebration of success, whether in fundraising, the planning of projects or elsewhere, and I am delighted to report that in the public examinations of 2006 Blue Coat students performed very well indeed, again confirming the view of Her Majesty's Inspectors in 2004 that the school had the capacity and potential to improve even more.

In Key Stage 3 National Tests 93 students out of 120 obtained the highest level (level 8) in Mathematics, a new school record, 102 students achieved the highest level possible in Science and in English 81 students obtained the highest level. The school's work in Key Stage 3 is truly remarkable and our value added score at the end of Year 9 has

placed the Blue Coat School at the top of the Government's performance table for all schools in Greater Merseyside and this has been achieved three years in a row. Yet again, I offer my congratulations to all colleagues in English, Maths and Science for pulling off this excellent result.

In Key Stage 4 our GCSE results were the second best we have ever obtained with almost 51% of all grades at A\* or A. In real terms this means 610 A grades out of a total of 1194. Some departments and subjects performed really well at GCSE level and I am pleased to offer special praise to Art, English Language, ICT, Latin, Maths and Music. For the first time fourteen students were entered for an examination in Citizenship and all were rewarded with an A grade. I know that this success has led to further interest and next summer there will be thirty five students aiming for a similar outcome.

At Advanced level the results were again the second best we have achieved with 62.6% of all grades at A or B and, especially pleasing, was the continued reduction in the number of D and E grades obtained at this level. My Annual Report from Dr. Kevin Conway, who produces value added data for all sixth forms in the area, tells me that in 2006 27% of all our A level teaching was outstanding or very good and a further 66% was between good and satisfactory. The top subjects at Advanced level in 2006 were Art, Biology, Chemistry, DT, Economics, English Literature, Geography, Maths and Physics. According to the Sunday Times newspaper, if we combine our GCSE results with our A level results, the Blue Coat School is the 116th most successful state school in the country out of more than three thousand schools.

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's 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, Davide de Maestri, Lord Rennard and Dr David Halpin and this year I am delighted to welcome Tom Greggs as our special guest. Tom was Head of School in 1999 and winner of the Westminster Plate. A modest self effacing intellectual giant, Tom had the knack of mixing easily with everybody before leaving school to read Theology at Christ Church Oxford, where he achieved a remarkable double first. Tom then taught briefly at The Manchester Grammar School before returning to study, this time at Jesus College Cambridge, where he is currently a PhD student in the faculty of Divinity. Tom, it's no surprise to us that you have personally done so well and I extend to you the warmest of welcomes.

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 five sixth form students visited Krakow in Poland for a cultural and historical tour of the City, and in the same month the

school's 1st XI football team travelled to Amsterdam to play a series of soccer matches. In January twenty five History students embarked on a four day visit to the splendid Palace of Versailles whilst in February a party of forty four students enjoyed their skiing in the Italian Alps. At the same time thirty six students made the journey to Russia, where they spent a week in St. Petersburg and Moscow, and eleven more students visited New York for a Politics Convention at New York City Hall. In April fifteen girls formed the U14 Hockey Party which toured Amsterdam successfully and a little later a group of twenty students enjoyed their host families' hospitality in San Sebastian. In the summer term thirty two more students spent a week in Barcelona and Salou and, in addition, thirty one students travelled to Paris with the Art and French departments.

These journeys across the world are incredibly worthwhile and beneficial, as are the educational trips to destinations in the UK, and I am pleased that all our Upper Sixth Biologists visit Malham in North Yorkshire, thereby continuing a long Blue Coat tradition of fieldwork within the Biology department. All students in Year 7 visited Chester, Year 10 History students enjoyed their theatre trip to Port Sunlight, two sixth form students attended a ten day residential course in Latin at Eton College where, apart from receiving intensive tuition in Classics, they were able to take part in the famous Wall Game and Eton Fives, and finally fifty four sixth form students enjoyed our Annual Oxford Dinner, this time at Hertford College. To share a black tie dinner with more than fifty Blue Coat students, on a Saturday evening in Oxford, is for me one of the highlights of the academic year.

All these trips and residential require expert leadership and management and I do thank and congratulate the group leaders as follows:- Ms Holland, Mr Rees, Mrs Athis, Mr Crighton, Mrs Beggs, Mr O'Brien, Mrs Jackson, Mrs Watson, Mr Watson and Mr Kenny.

In February, under the guidance of the Languages Department, and with an intention to raise money for the Spanish exchange to San Sebastian, James Lacey, and Ross Leader, two of our sixth form students, organised 'Spanish Night'. It was a resounding success and audiences were treated to two thoroughly enjoyable evenings of song and dance with a Latin feel. Equally, and in the same category of entertainment, the Annual Celebratory Evening of Poetry, Winged Words, set a new record for its audience as more than two hundred parents and students packed into Shirley Hall to enjoy masterpieces from Shakespeare to Shelley, Bronte and Blake amongst others. The contribution of the Year 7 students was a particular highlight as 7 Graham performed a superb presentation of "The Daniel Jazz". As usual all our students in Winged Words were simply outstanding and I am grateful to Mrs Athis for her leadership of this event.

Three years ago we were very pleased to introduce the school's Shakespeare Company into the life of the school and this group of students continues to perform, often independently and out of the school, as at Croxteth Hall for the LEA and sometimes for the school itself as at Open Evening. In all their efforts over the last three years the students have shown initiative and dedication as they share their love of Shakespeare with other young people.

I come now to the performance of our students in the British Physics Olympiad and the Chemistry Olympiad and I congratulate all students who enter these prestigious competitions, but especially we celebrate the success of our medal winners who are named in your

programme. Many thanks to Mr. Caulkin and Mr. Cowan for setting up these special opportunities.

Last year the school's Musical Society enjoyed a string of outstanding successes. At the start there was a large increase in choir and orchestral membership and several good string players entered the sixth form from other schools. The Annual Carol Service took place in Holy Trinity in front of a packed church and the concert which followed included the usual Christmas favourites, with Paul Athans especially notable playing "The Acrobat" on the trombone. Ting Li astounded the audience at the Spring Concert with her performance of "The Warsaw Piano Concerto" with the school orchestra, and Stephen Zhao played Bruch's "Kol Nidroi" for cello and orchestra with great skill. The orchestra itself concluded with the Schubert Unfinished Symphony (first movement) whilst James Lacey and Paul Athans performed other outstanding solos. At Founders' Day the congregation was treated to Beethoven's "Finale from Symphony Number Five" and so we moved on to the summer term when the Choir prepared "St. Nicholas Mass" by Haydn which we shall use on this year's tour to Spain. This evening the school's Music is once again on display and I am confident that you will appreciate the quality of what you see and hear. The standard of music at the Blue Coat School is first class and I do thank the Director of Music, and his colleagues, for leading our talented musicians so very well.

The school's culture is also enriched by many other activities and I do thank all those involved in the Annual Careers Fair, Work Experience Placements, the School's Entrance Exams, the Squirrel Magazine, the Creative Writing Cub, the residential for Gifted and Talented students, Sir Alan Tod Travel Scholarships, the Holy Trinity Church, the Art Club, Bridge Club, Christian Union, the School Website, the Maths Games Club, Midbank, the Social Services Committee and the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Last year's Duke of Edinburgh group has just completed the Bronze Award and I am pleased to see that a new cohort of twenty students has just been recruited. In Bridge three students, Jonathan King, Daniel Caton and Daniel Evans were selected to attend trials for England U19 Team at Loughborough and in March a pair from this school, Jonathan Liu and Michael Orlans, won the English Bridge Union Schools Simultaneous Pairs Competition. In March eight students represented the Blue Coat School in Merseyside's Stock Market Challenge held at the financial headquarters of Marks and Spencer in Chester and I am pleased to say that the Blue Coat School won this event and, in the process, the prize of £500 for the school. Enterprise Week has been introduced for all students in Year 10 and this programme is supported by the staff at Shorefields City Learning Centre.

The school continues to support local and national charities and, although we were unable to hold assemblies in chapel throughout the entire year because of refurbishment, we still managed to raise almost £6,000 for twenty seven separate charities.

In School Sport I am delighted to report that we still participate in a full programme of fixtures in Association Football, Basketball, Cricket, Hockey, Netball and Rounders. Last year's most notable team successes occurred in Basketball when both our U15 and U16 teams finished in fourth place in the National competitions, a fine achievement. These two teams, as well as the U14 team and U19 team, became Champions of Liverpool, as did our U15 Netball team,

# Headmaster's Report

and Daniel Idama and Ryan Beeley continued to represent the England teams. Our programme this evening shows an impressive list of students who have been selected to play for Liverpool, Merseyside or Lancashire in Association Football, Athletics, Cross Country and Hockey and I congratulate them all. Many thanks to all my colleagues who managed Blue Coat teams or assisted in any way in the development of Blue Coat sport.

During the past year we have experienced the loss of two long serving colleagues through retirement, Mr. Mockler and Mr. Caulfield. Mr. Mockler served the school for seventeen years as a teacher of Chemistry and also as an Examinations Officer. He was a good colleague, always effective and reliable, cheerful and supportive. Mr. Caulfield also retired in the summer after a Blue Coat career spanning thirty four years. He rose to be Head of History, then Head of Politics and, even further, to the senior post of Head of Sixth Form. For two years he acted as my deputy, and he proved immediately that he was up to the job. He could make difficult decisions and stick with them, he never backed away from problems, he was brave and he never sought popularity.

Mr. Caulfield's contribution to the school has been outstanding and I thank him for his loyalty and support. We have also lost Dr. Hill and Mr. Boardman, who have both moved on to other schools, and although they stayed with us relatively briefly, they both clearly made

an impact in school improvement. Of course, this gives the school the opportunity to welcome fresh colleagues, one of them additional due to expansion, and we are very pleased to have appointed Miss Bailey, Miss Horton, Mr Doherty, Mr. McBride, Mr. Pearson and Mr Cox.

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 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 almost everybody. This time next year the school will have reached its three hundredth year, it will be a famous and memorable year, and we must celebrate in style. I do hope the Tricentenary Special Appeal will reach its target and I do hope you will all be able to give something towards the fund. I am, of course, enormously grateful for all the leadership and loyalty of my colleagues. Grateful, too, for the support of the parent body and my thanks go also to the School's Governors for their exceptional commitment and care. It is the students, though, who make the Blue Coat School what it is: dynamic, exciting and successful.

I congratulate all our students for doing so very well.

*Ladies and Gentleman I conclude my report.*

## Advice For an Escaped Convict

Beware of the convicts  
And beware of the cops  
Beware of the posters  
Lurking in shops.  
Beware of staring eyes  
That will report your denials  
And don't be fooled by the deaf and the blind  
They only ever want to lock up your kind.

Beware of the gutters  
And beware of the nutters  
Beware of the mutters  
And beware of the stutters.  
Many people want you in jail  
Even the rich, the weak and the frail.  
But most importantly of all  
Don't come out: beware of nightfall.

Don't forget, my convicted friend  
Many people don't care you escaped  
They want to drive you 'round the bend.  
But don't get cocky  
And don't get foolish  
Just keep away from the cop's white light.

Ashymaa Essa 8BL

# 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***



## Ms Bailey

Born in Bedford, but without much to say for the town ("it's got a nice river...") Ms. Bailey hadn't always wanted to be a teacher – shock! Having done her degree in Birmingham university, she is coming to us from the sparkly world of Marks & Spencer, from company cars and pay rises to teach Chemistry! When asked about this remarkable mind-change, she says she simply wanted a change. There's probably some sinister underlying motive. She's proved herself an enthusiastic and more-than-capable tutor, and has already thrown herself into setting up a Blue Coat branch of Café Scientifique with a bunch of chemically-minded 6th Formers. We hope her career at the school is as successful as the first few months have been.



## Miss Beckett

Miss. Beckett, 26 years old, is the newest member of our language department, teaching both French and Spanish. Previously training to be a physiotherapist, she changed her career choice and gained a degree, from John Moores University, in Spanish and European Studies, spending a year in Seville, Spain, as part of it. This is her first year in full time teaching having served placements in Halewood Comprehensive and Shorefields, and commenting upon the school her opinion was "Brilliant school, where the students portray a positive attitude and the staff, fantastic and very welcoming". When asked why she became a teacher her reply, whilst apologizing for the cliché, was her "enjoyment in interacting with people of differing ages with each day bringing something new". Looking back upon her own childhood she reminisced about her old school nickname, Big Bird, stating she wasn't too fond of it but recognised it was assigned to her because of her height and possibly clumsy nature. In her spare time, she enjoys going out with her "Amigos" either to the cinema or for a meal. In addition, simultaneously laughing, she stated how she also looked forward to her Saturday nights out to "Relieve the stresses of teaching". We Welcome Miss. Beckett and wish her all the best in her time teaching here at the Blue Coat and also in her life outside school.



## Mr Cox

Mr. Cox is the brave, and possibly foolish, individual who has decided to take over the demanding job of Head of Sixth Form here at Blue Coat, as well as taking the position of History and Politics teacher, moving from his previous job at Belvedere. During his first week, I asked Mr. Cox what his first impression of Blue Coat Sixth Formers was, to which he replied that they were "very intelligent and mature individuals". If only he'd known the truth. When he isn't working 14-hour days (or so they feel like, he says) Mr Cox enjoys cycling, and spent some time during the summer in Geneva doing just that, as well as narrowly escaping breaking every bone in his body after falling down a hill! Having attended Warwick University, Mr Cox worked as an accountant before becoming a teacher, a move he has never regretted. Despite all the obstacles he faces (most in the form of disgruntled sixth form boys) Mr Cox seems set to have a long and happy career in the Blue Coat School.



## Mr Doherty

Hailing from Glasgow, Mr Doherty obtained a Physics degree before entering into the Engineering industry. Having worked mainly in aerospace, defence, and telecommunications, Mr. Doherty is a fountain of knowledge for anyone interested in Engineering or the Military, and is always happy to share his experiences. However, after recently deciding to return to Physics, he chose to embark on a teaching career, beginning at Blue Coat. When asked about his first impressions of the school, he said they were all positive, especially complimenting that the students seemed bright and interesting – a statement he soon doubted due to his sixth form classes' random outbursts of laughter.

Unknown to most people, Mr Doherty had a brief, yet impressive acting career, starring in the Monty Python film – The Meaning of Life, and taking part in the opening of the Edinburgh festival.

Finally, there has been some confusion as to the correct pronunciation of 'Doherty'. Students have been misinformed by members of staff, that it is pronounced with a long 'o' sound commonly associated with Homer Simpson's 'Doh!'. However, Mr. Doherty has confirmed it should be pronounced with a short 'o' sound.

*Qi Qi U6S2*

**Miss Horton**



This year the Blue Coat School welcomes Miss Horton to the Music department. Hailing from Liverpool, she joins us now as a part-time Music teacher, having been with us as a piano teacher for 3 years and having also completed her teacher training with us last year.

Miss Horton has busied herself with 5 years teaching in higher education, at Liverpool Hope (where she herself previously studied) and at Liverpool Community College, and as if all this were not enough, she has 5 years as a professional accompanist to her credit and also plays regularly with various bands across the city. The warmest of welcomes to Miss Horton in her new role at the Blue Coat.

**Mr Gavin McBride**



The latest addition to the Maths department in school is another teacher who has made his way to Liverpool from the Emerald Isle. He studied Electrical Engineering at Queen's, Belfast and then chose to make the move to England to do his PGCE at Liverpool Hope University College. Besides a somewhat unique interest in

tiddlywinks, he also used to be an avid athlete, not only captaining his University team, but also running for the Northern Ireland Under 23 Team (though it remains to be stressed that this was a *long* time ago). He has been pleasantly surprised by the sense of humour and friendliness displayed by both staff and teachers.

*Andrew Marchant Lower 6*

**Mr Pearson**



Blue Coat is proud to welcome back one of its own in the form of Mr. Pearson, our new History and Politics teacher. Described by most of his students as "a total legend" Mr. Pearson appears to have received a very warm welcome. He is clearly very passionate about the subjects he teaches, spending his spare time making Politics Top

Trumps and writing History songs to the tune of 'I Will Survive', with particular reference to the Treaty of Versailles. Having experienced this song personally, I have to say it is quite a work of art (or the product of someone who has way too much time on their hands: you decide). After Blue Coat, Mr. Pearson went on to Durham University where he studied History, but obviously he felt the pull of his hometown was too strong, and is now hopefully happily settled here at Blue Coat. Let's hope he's in no rush to leave us.

*by Claire Thomas*

Hola! Soy Denise Soria y me fascina trabajar en el Blue Coat con gente tan maravillosa. Es una experiencia que nunca nunca olvidaré.



Bueno, un poco sobre mí... Soy de Arica, la primera ciudad del norte de Chile. Mi mamá es chilena y mi papá boliviano. Estudié Pedagogía en Inglés en la universidad y fui la primera en terminar entre cerca de 70 personas! Después trabajé enseñando Inglés

por dos años en muchos lugares: escuela primaria de niños, escuela secundaria de adultos, universidad, instituto...Y como también soy cristiana, solía ser muy activa en mi iglesia en Chile teniendo algunos turnos y enseñando.¿Intereses? Me encanta la música clásica e instrumental, ver ballet, musicales, tocar el piano, ayudar a la gente, visitar refugiados, hacer trabajo voluntario y pasar tiempo con mis gatos: rubia y negrito, que ahora están en Chile.

Los invito a ver algunas fotos en mi sitio:  
[www.missdenisse.blog.co.uk](http://www.missdenisse.blog.co.uk)

Wake up whenever you  
Want on a Saturday morning  
Expectation and excitement build up,  
As you're still yawning.

Walking up to the ground  
The increased level of sound  
Wanting to see the big names,  
Fighting for their team in the big game.

The crowd sings as the tackles fly in  
Wondering and guessing who is going to win...  
What will the game bring to them?  
Worshipping their hero: Number 10.

At half time the scores are level,  
But the crowd continues to abuse Gary Neville,  
Which of the teams will make the breakthrough?  
And who will score number two?

Philip Murphy 11 Blundell



Je m'appelle Murielle et j'ai 30 ans.

Je suis originaire de la Guadeloupe, une petite mais chaleureuse île des Antilles, dont la langue officielle est le français, bien que tous les locaux parlent aussi le créole, l'autre langue du pays.

J'ai toujours été attirée par les langues, en particulier l'anglais, et j'ai eu d'ailleurs l'opportunité d'effectuer plusieurs séjours

dans des contrées anglophones depuis mes années au collège.

J'ai quitté la Guadeloupe à l'âge de 19 ans pour habiter et étudier en France où j'ai passé une dizaine d'années jusqu'en 2005. Revenue en Angleterre à cette période, j'ai récemment obtenu mon diplôme d'enseignement à Plymouth, dans le Devon.

Par mon expérience, j'essaie toujours d'encourager au mieux les élèves qui partagent ma passion des langues, car j'ai la conviction que

cet engagement permet d'apprécier la diversité du monde qui nous entoure, de même qu'il constitue un bagage supplémentaire pour leur vie professionnelle.

J'entends profiter de l'opportunité qui m'a été offerte de travailler en tant qu'assistante de langue à Blue Coat, où j'ai reçu un accueil chaleureux, pour m'enrichir autant sur le plan professionnel qu'humain.

J'espère donc, à mon échelle, contribuer de manière positive à la vie de l'école, d'autant plus que les étudiants sont ici une source d'inspiration.

Je ne vis à Liverpool que depuis peu, mais j'apprends à découvrir cette ville vibrante et ... rafraîchissante ! L'accent typique de la région me donne parfois l'impression d'être débutante en anglais, mais si j'arrive éventuellement à maîtriser cette particularité, je pense alors qu'aucune autre variété d'anglais ne pourra me résister (er...).

## Hay-on-Wye

As I walk across the rough cobblestones of my  
life,  
The smell of fresh, homemade fudge, lingers in  
the air,  
And the yellow, forgotten, leather-backed tales,  
Hoarse from whispering and waiting to be read.

The seconds edge by slowly as I feel the memories  
Surface again and battle with the new knowledge  
Seeping through the walls of my mind, and,  
The dusty, stranger-filled streets, make way to  
clear skies.

Both modern and ancient stores,  
Technology versus Tradition,  
Displaying postcards and 'you are here' signs  
Guiding and yet also hindering me.

I am ever searching for that single book,  
Hidden away in the darkest corner cobwebbed  
and untouched,  
That sums up both good and bad times, fear,  
comfort, emptiness  
In 12 ever growing chapters.

Sarah Zhao 8BL

## Stereotypical Frightening Female

there she went, one day  
with an accent that clicked off the teeth  
and snapped at the palate, and spoke  
at a pitch that could shatter glass;  
she walked with a phone glued to her ear  
and spoke loudly enough for the world to hear.

there she went, one day  
with her hair bleached almost white  
and skin coated in carotene tan, and  
wore heels like ice picks with a skirt  
four inches above the legal level:  
the well-kept cat claws could remove an eye.

there she went one day,  
with nothing but unkind words in her mouth  
ready to snort disdainfully at people  
she didn't much like the look of, and  
all set for retail therapy; what a relief, then,  
that she has actually only come to Liverpool to  
visit

what a relief, then,  
that stereotypes are often false.

Amy Hawkens 11 Shirley

## Daniel Boardman

Dan joined the school in September 2000 and quickly established a reputation as a popular classroom teacher, an able sportsman with ability at both Football and Cricket, and a leading member of the staff room social scene.

Throughout his six years at the school Dan gave up large amounts of his own time to run Football and Cricket teams and frequently devoted his half term holidays to supporting skiing trips and foreign adventure holidays, while simultaneously enjoying the opportunity to sample (read 'drink large amounts of') a few foreign ales.

Dan was always extremely proud of his north-east roots and displayed a passion for Newcastle United. Dan arrived at the school expressing a hope that his beloved Newcastle would eventually win a trophy within his own lifetime. Dan subsequently left six years later still clutching the same forlorn hope.

In addition to his wide and much appreciated contributions to the extra curricula life of the school, Dan proved himself to be an extremely able teacher in the classroom with a particular talent for motivating the less mathematical of our students. This resulted in Dan twice achieving a 100% pass rate at grades C and above with the bottom set in year 11.

Since his departure, back to the trophy free zone that is the north-east, Dan has been much missed by all in the staff room and also by many at the Richmond. Dan spent many a happy hour investing large amounts in the local economy while giving us the benefit of his own completely unbiased (read 'completely unbalanced'), well informed (read 'well intoxicated') and thoroughly welcomed (O. K. I'm having a laugh) views on Liverpool F. C.'s fortunate (read 'jealous as hell') domination of English and European football, in the seventies and eighties. Although we did have to explain what those tall silvery pointy things were first. They are called trophies, Daniel.

I'm sure all students who had the pleasure of being taught by Dan and all in the staff room who had the pleasure of teaching with Dan, will join with me in wishing him all the best as he continues to pursue his teaching career at the prestigious King's School in Tynemouth, and maybe, just maybe, Newcastle will finally end that long lifetime quest.

*Mr S Shipgood*

## John Caulfield – 1972-2006

John Caulfield arrived at the Blue Coat School in April 1972. He was an old boy of SFX College and a graduate in History from the University of Leicester. At Blue Coat he couldn't have had a finer apprenticeship as he grew up under the subject leadership of John Holt. So when John Holt was appointed Deputy Head in 1978 John Caulfield was the natural successor as Head of History. At this time John also ran the school Tuck Shop. He was known as the Gammon Crisp Hitman. John had total control over the running of the shop, including the spending of the profits. Many clubs and societies benefited from his generosity but this convenient arrangement was eventually disallowed. Perhaps a pity. John then went on to introduce Politics as a new Advanced Level subject, no mean feat as it is quite rare for a teacher to have command of two A levels. He rose to become Head of Sixth Form and under his leadership the school claimed thirteen Oxbridge successes in 2002.

Then he was further promoted to the post of Acting Deputy Head

for two years up to 2003. He was my only Deputy and much depended on him. I found him to be strong and loyal, he never dodged a difficult decision, never sought cheap popularity. He could cope very well with anxious parents and stray students. He was very rarely rattled. He also devoted much time to the school's Dramatic Society where he acted as Hon. Secretary. Moreover, like most Liverpool people, he had a sense of humour which, perhaps, was most obvious to those who worked closely with him. John retired as a teacher at the Blue Coat School in July 2006 but he was allowed to stay until December, looking after the UCAS and Oxbridge arrangements and covering for absent colleagues. He was a Blue Coat man for almost thirty four years and he had the rich pleasure of seeing his two children attend the school.

John was a fine professional, well qualified and businesslike. He was an expert at dealing with scousers and there are many of those who will look back and remember him as a very good teacher. He and his wife Pauline deserve a long and happy retirement.

*MGT*

## Dr Karen Hill

Karen spent two successful and notable years at Blue Coat School teaching in the Department of Physics. She came from Queens School, Chester, an independent girls school where she was working part time. Karen soon settled in to the co-educational life of Blue Coat with an infectious enthusiasm for her subject. Students quickly responded to her style, realising that she was thorough, helpful, affable and that she possessed a deep understanding of Physics. They also appreciated that Karen meant business in the classroom and underneath her calm and serene manner was a firm disciplinarian! In the common room Karen quickly made strong friendships, displayed her unique dry sense of humour and was quietly efficient in all that she did. She has moved on to teach in Wirral Girls' Grammar School, from girls back to girls! For Blue Coat it is a loss of an able physicist, a strong intellect, an effective pedagogue and a genuinely friendly person. We wish Karen every success in her new post.

*K G Caulkin.*

## Geoff Mockler

When Geoff began his Chemistry teaching career at Blue Coat in September 1991 (after having been hurriedly "head-hunted" to replace a rather more libidinous predecessor!) we had no idea that this genial and smiling man was in fact the "Jonah" of Liverpool secondary schools- his appointment being the precursor to the closure of, inter alia, the Institute. In fact Blue Coat has been the only school Geoff has served in which has not actually closed during his tenure!

A Londoner by birth, Geoff spent much of his formative years in such institutions of gravitas as the Science Museum, Lords and Griffin Park. Graduating in Chemistry from Liverpool University in the mid-sixties, he made his home in this area, but (wisely) married a Staffordshire lady with a common interest in red-and-white-striped shirts!

The perfect foil for his manic Head of Department, Geoff brought a rare combination of professionalism and friendliness to both

classroom and staffroom. His first nickname was "Ronnie" (but which one - Corbett, Barker or Kray?) and his rapport with his students was second to none. Which other teacher was ever asked by Year 8 pupils to dress up and play Santa Claus for their Girl Guide party ("because he's cuddly!")?

Geoff's incisive intellect shone through in his Sixth form teaching, even on a Friday afternoon after "lunch" at a nearby house where coffee wasn't his usual refreshment! The writing was on the wall for anyone daring to question his formidable subject knowledge! He was also more recently the ideal Examinations Officer, with a calm efficiency about all his work, and a reassuring optimism borne out of

long years of expecting Brentford or Middlesex to win anything! A range of other interests included the Formby pine woods (a formidable experience) and - strangely- the Wallasey Darts Club.

We wish Geoff and his wife Angela (MBE) a long and happy retirement. We hope that he will always remember to get off the train at Formby station, and that he will visit both us and Richmond from time to time. It is a fitting retirement tribute to this mastermind to close with the words of the late Magnus Magnusson:

"I've Estartit, so I'll finish!"

*The Mad Professor*



*Lauren Green*

# Entry into Higher Education

Cole, Gerard Stephen	University of Oxford	Law
Davey, Peter	University of Oxford	Chemistry
Gaffney, Carl	University of Oxford	Mathematics
Jones, Alan David	University of Cambridge	Modern and Medieval Languages
Palm, Leon	University of Cambridge	Computer Science
Yip, Ivan Yeu Ming	University of Cambridge	Medicine
Ali, Sara	University of Liverpool	Medicine
Ashcroft, Leon	University of Liverpool	Accounting
Askew, Richard Daniel	University of Liverpool	Town and Regional Planning
Bennett, Johanna Jean	University of Exeter	Law
Bevan, Angharad Jane	University of Manchester	English Literature and Linguistics
Browne, Eleanor Clare	University of Liverpool	Biological and Medical Sciences
Cannon, Paul Robert	University of Liverpool	Medicine
Caunce, Christopher Michael	University of Central Lancashire	Forensic Science
Cerowski, Jonathan Konrad	University of Kent	Architecture
Chadwick, Iain Andrew	University of Manchester	Economics
Charlton, Andrew	University of Sheffield	Biomedical Science
Clarke, Andrew William	University of Reading	Psychology
Clough, Patrick	Liverpool John Moores University	Quantity Surveying
Connor, Carl Spargo	University of Lancaster	English Language and Creative Writing
Cook, Stephen	University of Liverpool	E-Business
Corns, Stuart Edward	University of Sheffield	Physical Education and Youth Sport
Critchley, Charlotte Victoria	University of Leeds	Management and Psychology
Daley, Jonathan	Liverpool John Moores University	Forensic Psychology and Criminal Justice
Daley, Matthew	University of Liverpool	Medicine
Daly, Kimberley Louise	Liverpool John Moores University	Applied Psychology
Dawson, Ria	University of Nottingham	French and Communications Studies
Dillon, Christopher James	University of Liverpool	International Business
Downey, Natalie	Liverpool John Moores University	Product Design and Digital Modelling
Duff, Michael	Liverpool John Moores University	Business Management and Information
Edgar, Damian Gary	Liverpool John Moores University	History
Edwards, Nicholas	University of Manchester	Law with Politics
Emery, Christopher Phillip	University of Liverpool	Law (LLB Honours)
Finnegan, John William	Liverpool John Moores University	History
Foo, Michael	University of Liverpool	Town and Regional Planning
Forrest, Michael	University of Newcastle	History
Evans, Gregory	University of Liverpool	Human Resource Management
Evans, Sean	University of Liverpool	Business Economics
Fairhurst, Kylie	University of Leeds	Chemistry
Ferran, James Michael	University of Liverpool	Geography
Gambhir, Jessica	Liverpool John Moores University	Medicinal Chemistry
Gao, Wei	University of Liverpool	Medicine
Garvey, James	University of Manchester	Biology
Gillies, Martin	University of Newcastle	Biomedical Sciences
Gillon, Maria	University of Liverpool	Medicine
Graham, Samuel Watson	University of Manchester	Biomedical Sciences
Green, James Phillip	University of Liverpool	Aerospace Engineering
Griffiths, Phillip William	University of Liverpool	Accounting
Grisedale, Neil Anthony	University of Liverpool	Physics
Grosart, Joe	University of Liverpool	Medicine
Han, Jonathan	University of Liverpool	Civil and Structural Engineering
Harding, Peter	University of Newcastle	Mechanical Engineering
Harris, David	Liverpool John Moores University	Pharmacy
Harris, William	University of Salford	Graphic Design
Hart, Michael Anthony	University of Manchester	French and Spanish
Higham, Andrew	Liverpool John Moores University	Accounting and Finance
How, Christopher	University of London, Imperial College	Mathematics
Hughes, Duncan Stuart	University of Leicester	Medicine
Hughes, Peter	Liverpool John Moores University	Architecture

# Pupil Achievements

Jain, Seema Kumari	University of Leeds	Product Design
Jensen, Stephanie Eve	University of Bristol	Economics with Study in Continental Europe
Jiang, Li	University of Birmingham	Medicine
Jones, Gary Alexander	University of Liverpool	Pharmacology
Joseph, Anita Jayne	University of Manchester	Biomedical Sciences
Joyce, Martin	University of Lancaster	History
Kenny, Christopher James	University of Liverpool	Business Economics
Kerr, Robert James	University of Manchester	Law (LLB Honours)
King, Jonathan	University of Sheffield	Physics
Lally, Peter	University of Durham	Physics
Laphan, Aimiee Louise	University of Liverpool	Nursing
Lau, Laurel	Liverpool John Moores University	Industrial Pharmaceutical Science
Ledger, David	Liverpool John Moores University	Law
Liu, Kin Yau	University of Liverpool	Law (LLB Honours)
Liu, Thomas	University of Liverpool	Dental Surgery
Macaulay, Paul	University of Newcastle	Civil Engineering
Mak, Jessica Chor Yiu	University of Aston	Human Psychology and Sociology
Martin, Francesca Alexandra	University of Liverpool	Law (LLB Honours)
May, James William	University of Liverpool	History
McCormack, Matthew James	University of Liverpool	E-Business
McDonald, Scott	University of Liverpool	Accounting
McFarlane, Craig James	University of Liverpool	Materials Science
McKenzie, Michael	University of Liverpool	Combined Honours
McMonnies, Kate	University of Manchester	Medicine
Menzie, Stephen David	University of Liverpool	Biological and Medical Sciences
Millar, Paul	Liverpool John Moores University	Quantity Surveying
Miller, Paul Anthony	Liverpool John Moores University	Accounting and Finance
Mohan, Harrendran	University of Liverpool	Mechanical Engineering
Montgomery, James	Edge Hill College	Coaching and Performance Development
Muscart, Sara Elizabeth	University of Liverpool	Law (LLB Honours)
Neill, Antony	University of Liverpool	Legal and Business Studies
Nkansah, Stephen	University of Liverpool	Legal and Business Studies
Norman, Graeme James	University of Durham	Physics
O'Brien, James	Liverpool John Moores University	English and Imaginative Writing
Oldfield, Martin James	Liverpool John Moores University	Computer Games Technology
Pauline, Hannah	University of Liverpool	History
Pritchard, Glyn Joseph	University of Liverpool	Business Economics
Richardson, Sam	Liverpool John Moores University	Law
Rimmer, Ricky	University of Liverpool	Biological and Medical Sciences
Shaikh, Zaineab	University of Liverpool	Dental Surgery
Sharma, David	University of Liverpool	Civil and Structural Engineering
Song, Qian	University of Liverpool	Medicine
Stone, Michael	Liverpool John Moores University	Pharmacy
Shone, Peter Stuart	University of London, Imperial College	Aeronautical Engineering
Simpson, Sarah Jane	University of Liverpool	Marine Biology
Smart, David Peter	University of Liverpool	Biological and Medical Sciences
Singh, Gurav	University of Bratislava	Medicine
Styles, Luke James	Manchester Metropolitan University	Computer and Network Technology
Sutton, Alexandra Elizabeth	University of Manchester	English Language and French
Taggart, Stuart	University of Liverpool	Civil and Environmental Engineering
Tanveer, Reema Sehair Khawaja	University of Liverpool	Dental Surgery
Tatlow, David James	Liverpool Hope University	English Literature with Philosophy & Ethics
Tittershill, Stephanie Jane	University of Liverpool	Law (LLB Honours)
Tomlinson, Detrix Anthony	Liverpool John Moores University	History
Wardle, Kieran Thomas	University of Liverpool	Architecture
Wilkes, Jonathan Robert David	University of York	History
Williams, Daniel James Rhiwallon	University of Liverpool	Marine Biology
Williams, Oliver Edward	University of Kent	Music Technology
Wilson, John	University of Liverpool	Urban Regeneration and Planning
Wong, Samantha	University of Liverpool	Psychology
Woodward, Holly Margaret	University of Manchester	Management
Yates, Mark	Liverpool John Moores University	Architecture

# Form Prizes

**Year 7**

Charlotte Holmes  
Jonathan Woodward  
Matthew Gunson  
Kathryn Sayer  
Marina Ransome  
Vanessa Fergusson  
Zhixuan Zhai  
Amy Lewin

**Year 8**

Lewis Coenen-Rowe  
Katherine Sung  
Louis Maddox  
Eleanora Bianchi  
Sarah Hamilton  
Katherine Smith  
Jenny Stoddart  
Mark Johnson

**Year 9**

Zoe Bond  
Zoe Maher  
Rachel Hodgkinson  
Lee Atkins  
Robert Farrar  
Elliott Kwong  
Conal Traverse  
Sarah Gannon

**Year 10**

Adam Forster, Katie Dean  
Steven Wenham, Amy Hawkens  
Jenny Ratcliffe, James Killick  
Rebekah Carney, Alex Leece

# Academic Prizes

**Year 11**

Ben McNally  
Timothy Reeves  
Nile Denvir-Parry  
Nicholas Power  
Manbir Sherry  
Anthony Au  
Liam Brown  
Adam Lyons-Jones  
Ashley Gavin  
Jonathon Tam

**Year 12**

Robert Lowthian  
Shaun Hurst  
Luke O'Connor  
Stephen Duffield  
Ross Leader  
Michael Orlans

**Year 13**

Zaineb Shaikh  
Samantha Wong  
Thomas Liu  
Christopher How  
James Garvey  
David Harris  
Kieran Wardle  
Li Jiang

**Year 11**

**The Margaret Bryce Smith School Scholarships**

James Gundry  
Craig Cavanagh  
Yichen Wu  
Craig Yip  
Francis Banwell  
Nicholas Miller  
Kai-Wei Yin  
Khristian Blackhall  
Lewis Hou

**Year 12**

Oritsema Ejuoneatse  
Ting Li  
Qi Qi  
Peter Fielding  
Daniel Mannion  
James Taylor

**Year 13**

Matthew Daley  
Johanna Bennett  
Peter Shone  
Wei Gao  
Robert Gillespie  
Robert Kerr  
Maria Gillon  
Kate McMonnies

**Year 11**

Samuel Hardy  
Gregory Jones  
Paul Spencer  
Matthew Whelan  
Paul Hughes  
Aaron Koshy  
Lawrence Luscombe  
Mark Dockray  
Mohamed Khattak

**Year 12**

Joseph Fiske  
Guangxin Miao  
Samuel Wong  
David Hughes  
Liam O'Brien  
Steven Zhao

**Year 13**

Katy Lin  
Nicholas Edwards  
Holly Woodward  
Gerard Cole  
Joe Grosart  
Peter Lally  
Jonathan Han  
Paul Cannon

## 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:*  
*ICT Prize:*  
*Peter Arnold-Craft Prize for Creative Writing:*

*Friends of the Blue Coat School Prize: (Attendance)*  
*Business and Enterprise Award:*  
*Verse Speaking:*  
*Lady President's Prize: (Head Girl)*  
*Chairman's Prize: (Head of School)*

Andrew Wong  
Graeme Norman  
Alan Jones  
Ian Chadwick  
Duncan Hughes  
James Gundry  
Samantha Barlow  
Ben Stuart, Joseph Gaynor, Ryan Beeley  
Carl Gaffney  
Tony Ren  
Peter Davey  
Michael Hart  
James Lacy  
Seema Jain  
Keiran Wardle, Johanna Bennett, Anna King, Steven Zhao, Ting Li  
Paul Athans  
Nicholas Miller  
James Boughey  
Chris Dillon, Duncan Hughes, Liam O'Brien, Ross Leader,  
James Taylor  
Christopher Emery  
Kin Yau Liu  
Anthony Neill  
Jonathan Wilkes  
Sara Muscart  
Peter Davey  
Michael Stone  
Ivan Yip  
Stephanie Tittershill  
Leon Palm  
Sara Ali  
KS3 Garry Wilson  
KS4 Amy Hawkens  
KS5 David Sheehan  
Lisa Tang, Christopher Plent, James Rose, Holly Boyes, Wini Garr  
Alex Leece  
Louise Goodwin, Edward Parr  
Kate McMonnies  
Michael Daley

*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

Martin Campbell  
Alex Hooley  
Peter Stoddart  
Sam Gifford  
Joe March  
Matthew Whelan

Aaron Koshy  
Craig Yip  
Greg Jones  
Yichen Wu  
James Hodgkiss  
Tim Reeves

Carl Bramwell  
David Preston  
Matthew Ko  
Daniel Caton  
Michael Sweeney  
Sam Hardy

# Success in Music Examinations

## Grade 1

Oritsema Ejuoneatse  
Fatemeh Keshtkar  
Katy Sayer  
Simon Chandler  
Rachael Lomax  
Rachel Hayes  
Zhixuan Zhai  
Joshua Owens  
Samantha Dolan

Piano  
Violin  
Classical Guitar  
Drums  
Piano  
Saxophone  
Classical Guitar  
Piano  
Theory

Max Thomas-McGenity  
Fiona Miller

Clarinet  
Trumpet

## Grade 5

James Michael Boughey  
Tim Han

Singing  
Practice Guitar &  
Theory

Anna King  
Oritesma Ejuoneatse  
Paul Athans  
Caroline Parr  
Peter Athans

Theory  
Voice  
Piano  
Flute  
Theory

Jack Luscombe  
Jessica Cody  
Laura Watters  
Alex Cook  
Katherine Hughes

Cello  
Theory  
Clarinet  
Double Bass & Guitar  
Clarinet

Nick Miller  
Steven Doran  
Samantha Dolan  
Felix Millne  
Sian Evans  
Luke Dawkin

Organ & Piano  
Clarinet  
Flute  
Flute & Theory  
Guitar, Clarinet, Theory  
Clarinet

## Grade 2

Nicola Winstanley  
Joseph McQuaid  
Leo Chen  
Harley Jones  
Steven Doran  
Samantha Dolan  
Max Tso

Flute  
Piano  
Piano  
Piano  
Piano  
Piano  
Piano

## Grade 3

Melissa Atherton  
Oliver Bradley  
Katy Sayer  
Katie Conry  
Shakeel Idowu-Alleyne  
Nathalie Connell  
John Hoyte  
Ben Miller  
Sarah Hodgkiss  
Steven Doran  
Olivia Thompson  
Jack Davies  
Shaun Rigby  
Fiona Miller

Clarinet  
Flute  
Violin  
Flute  
Clarinet  
Piano & Singing  
Guitar  
Drums  
Piano & Flute  
Piano  
Keyboard  
Drum Kit  
Piano

## Grade 6

Jack Luscombe  
Tim Han  
Peter Athans  
Leanne Messham  
Nick Power  
Charlotte Woodward

Theory  
Theory  
Trumpet  
Trumpet  
Flute  
Piano

## Grade 4

Lewis Coenen-Rowe  
Christina Farandos  
Eddie Suen  
Peter Athans  
Jack Luscombe  
Angela Boscarino  
Liz Lewis  
Elizabeth Morris  
Alice McRoe  
Steven Doran

Cornet  
Piano  
Piano  
Piano  
Piano  
Piano  
Vocals  
Piano  
Clarinet  
Clarinet

## Grade 7

Paul Athans  
Mengxia Sun  
Fengjia Cai  
Natalie Noon  
Sarah Loveridge  
Laurie Luscombe

Oboe  
Piano  
Piano  
Violin  
Oboe  
Piano (distinction)  
& Clarinet

## Grade 8

James Michael Boughey  
Paul Athans

Piano  
Trombone

### Members of the Liverpool Youth Orchestra

James Michael Boughey, Paul Athans, Jonathan Potter, Sarah Loveridge, Nathan Ko, Jack Luscombe, Alex Cook, Natalie Noon, Duncan Cowan

### Members of the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral Choir

Luke Dawkin

### Liverpool Youth Choir

Katy Sayer

### Liverpool Youth Brass Ensemble

Paul Athans, Jonathan Potter, Peter Athans

### Philharmonic Youth Orchestra

Paul Athans

## School Colour Awards

### Re-awards

Association Football: P. Fielding, M. Forrest, J. King, R. Rimmer, M. Stone, B. Stuart, D. Tomlinson  
Basketball: R. Beeley, M. Forrest, J. Gaynor, M. Gillies, A. Hooley, D. Marsh, M. Rannala  
Cricket: M. Green, W. Head, P. Hollywood, P. McAuley, I. Roberts, D. Tomlinson, M. Whelan  
Golf: I. Chadwick, P. Hollywood, B. Stuart  
Hockey: H. Woodward

### Awards

Association Football: P. Cannon, S. Corns, M. Deakin, J. Gardner, P. Hollywood, J. Jones  
Basketball: J. Bedford, D. Idama, M. Saxton  
Cricket: M. Forrest, M. Smith

### Distinctions

Association Football: M. Deakin, M. Forrest and B. Stuart represented Merseyside U19  
Athletics: C. Gunderson, P. Galgey, H. Harper and M. Rannala represented Merseyside  
The following were City Champions:  
W. Garr (100m), U15 Girls 4 x 100m Relay Team, M. Rannala (Shot), D. Idama (Triple), N. Idama (Long jump),  
T. Haggis (1500m)  
Cross Country: G. Gunderson, P. Galgey and H. Harper – represented Liverpool and Merseyside  
Basketball: U15 Team - National Finals (4th place)  
U16 Team - National Semi-Finalists  
U13 Team - Liverpool Runners-Up  
U14 Team - Liverpool Champions  
U15 Team - Liverpool Champions  
U16 Team - Liverpool Champions  
U19 Team - Liverpool Champions  
D. Idama - England U15  
R. Beeley - England U16 (European Championships)  
Netball: U15 Team Liverpool League and Tournament Champions  
Hockey: H. Woodward represented Merseyside U18  
E. Beggs represented Mersey Lanes U15  
S. Batterton, C. Dickenson and S. Koshy represented Mersey Lanes U14  
Bridge: Blue Coat School, top school in Merseyside and Cheshire  
Jonathan King and Daniel Caton, North West Pairs Champions  
Jonathan Liu and Michael Orlans, EBU Simultaneous Pairs Event – Winners  
Blue Coat Bridge Team represented Merseyside in Manchester  
Selected for England U19 trials – J. King, D. Caton & D. Evans  
Chemistry: Chemistry Olympiad:  
Carl Gaffney & Ivan Yip, Silver Medal  
Peter Davey, Bronze Medal  
Physics: Physics Olympiad 2006  
Bronze I : Leon Palm  
Bronze II: Carl Gaffney  
Christopher How  
Peter Lally  
Jonathan King  
Robert Kerr  
Commendation: Graeme Norman  
Gerard Cole  
Peter Shone  
Neil Grisedale  
Nicholas Edwards

# GCSE Results – Summer 2006

	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	Candidates
Art	6	10	9							25
Biology	11	29	30	20	7					97
BS	3	9	9	6	5	1			2	35
Chemistry	6	33	32	21	3				1	96
D&T		11	25	11	5	1				53
English Language	21	47	42	8	2					120
English Literature	7	40	39	28	4	2				120
French	7	22	5	14	13	1				62
Geography	6	6	11	4	1				1	29
History	10	28	22	11	4	1	1			77
Information Technology	39	55	22	3						119
Latin	3	12	1							16
Mathematics	20	65	29	6						120
Music	3	8	4	1						16
Physics	8	35	27	22	4					96
Religious Studies	3	2		4						9
Single Science		5	6	3	4	1				19
Dual Science			2	6						8
Spanish	11	21	19	12	7	3				73
Greek		1								1
Chinese	1									1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1187</b>

# GCE Results – Summer 2006

	A	B	C	D	E	U	Candidates
Art	2	3	3				8
Biology	20	15	7	5	5	1	53
Chemistry	23	12	11	2	6	1	55
Computing	1		2	3	2		8
D&T	1	3	1				5
Economics	7	10	7	2	1		27
English Literature	5	8	3		2		18
English Language & Literature	3	8	5	4	1		21
French	1	5	2	1	1		10
Geography	7	7	3				17
General Studies	26	34	45	19	13	2	139
History	11	6	9	4			30
IT	7	8	10	6	1	2	34
Maths	24	14	7	2	1		48
Fm Maths	5			2			7
Music		1					1
PE	2	2	1	4			9
Physics	16	9	7	1			33
Politics	3	1	1	1	1		7
Psychology		9	4	5	3	1	22
Spanish	2	3	3	1			9
<b>Totals</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>561</b>

# 6th Form Graduation Programme

### GRADUATES 2006

Paul Cannon  
Craig McFarlane  
Angharad Bevan  
James May  
David Tatlow  
Eleanor Browne  
Peter Davey  
Martin Gillies  
Peter Lally  
Samantha Wong  
Christopher Dillon  
Charlotte Chritchley  
Stephanie Tittershill  
Ria Dawson  
Paul Miller  
Sarah Simpson  
Jonathan Han

Stephanie Jensen  
Benjamin Tang  
Michael Hart  
Matthew McCormack  
Wei Gao  
Andrew Charlton  
Hannah Edmondson  
David Harris  
Stuart Taggart  
Sara Ali  
Christopher Emery  
Rebecca Kelly  
Carol Connor  
Joe Grosart  
Samuel Richardson  
Mark Smith  
Samuel Graham

Natalie Downey  
Laura Woolley  
Alan Jones  
Anthony Neill  
Anita Joseph  
Gerard Cole  
James Garvey  
Duncan Hughes  
Reema Tanveer  
Andrew Clarke  
Li Jiang  
Laurel Lau  
Matthew Daley  
Kate Lloyd  
Peter Shone  
Qian Song

## Physics Olympiad 2007

Congratulations to all the U6 students who took part in this year's British Physics Olympiad competition. The results were spectacular and the best that the school has ever achieved! The 13 students who proved themselves on Paper 1, a one hour challenge of applying their physics to unusual situations, then took Paper 2, a three hour test of strenuous, arduous, gruelling, formidable but inspiring and stimulating Physics!! Their diligence was richly rewarded in that they all received Medals with nobody being awarded the lowest category of Commendation. The Silver Medal winners each receive a book prize. Blue Coat's star Physics' students are:-

Shin Miao	Silver	Shaun Hurst	Silver
Qi Qi	Silver	Abraham Jacob	Silver
Daniel Mannion	Bronze I	Eddie Devine	Bronze I
Sam Wong	Bronze I	Robert Lowthian	Bronze I
Anna King	Bronze I	Ian Thompson	Bronze I
Steven Zhao	Bronze I	Ting Li	Bronze I
		Ian Griffiths	Bronze II

Well done to them all in tackling, trawling through, grappling and struggling with so many past-paper questions in preparation! Their success is a fine achievement in this prestigious national competition.

*Mr K G Caulkin.*

## The Liverpool Good Citizens Award

On 8th February Nadia Omar in Upper Sixth received the above-named award from Lord David Alton at a Roscoe Lecture organised by John Moore's University. Having been on a Medlink course in Lower Sixth she found out about a charity that organizes trips to Romania to work with disabled orphans. Nadia became determined to help, and with a £250 scholarship from school she went on to raise the necessary funding to pay for her trip. "I worked in the orphanage for 12 days,

mostly with a little boy called Mikai who could not walk or talk. It was a real challenge, but I am definitely returning this summer," said Nadia. Having talked to Mr Cox and Ms Holland about her experiences upon her return, they felt that if anyone deserved a Good Citizen award in Liverpool, Nadia did. She demonstrated all the best qualities of a Blue coat student and is an example to us all.

*Mr S Cox*

# Unilever Competition at Tate Liverpool

During the Autumn term of 2006 several year 8 classes took part, during their Art lessons, in a competition sponsored by Unilever based on the theme of Dreams and Reality. Students worked in groups or individually to produce a piece of work which reflected this theme, and we then had the difficult task of choosing one piece to enter for the competition. The Tate judges were to select just 23 pieces from schools all over Britain to display at Tate Liverpool. We finally decided to enter a very surreal piece by Tom McKenna and Aidan Riley and we were delighted that this was selected for exhibition. Tom and Aidan attended the private view at the Tate with their parents and the exhibition was then open to the public for 5 days. Congratulations to Tom and Aidan.

S Watson



# Poetry of Place Competition

For two years now Mrs Ludlow has invited the creative writing club to write a poem based on Liverpool, and these poems have consequently been sent off as contributions to the prestigious Poetry of Place competition. On each of these years my poem has been shortlisted to win, which puts my poems amongst the top 20 of 1000.

Because I was shortlisted I was invited to a special award ceremony, so on a Monday afternoon I went with 4 guests to the Liver Buildings where we were greeted by Liverpool's Head of Literacy and the Lord Mayor(!). A huge buffet and a wide selection of drinks were provided, and as we partook some of the poems were read.

It was a fantastic afternoon. It was great to meet other young writers, as well as the Mayor. Unfortunately last year was the last time I could enter the competition because I'm now too old, but hopefully there'll be other equally enjoyable competitions in the future.

Matthew Caine

# Coaching Success

In September, Alex Taylor of 10 Blundell gained the UK Athletics CIA (Children in Athletics) qualification. Alex is now qualified to introduce youngster aged under 13 into athletics and develop their core skills. Alex, aged 14 at the time, was the youngest member of the group obtaining the qualification and as the current Merseyside County Athletics Association triple jump champion for the under 15 age group he will now be able to share his skills with other youngsters. Alex plans to take more advanced coaching qualifications but will have to wait until he turns 16 next year.

## Formby Squirrel Sanctuary

The red squirrels eating their way  
Through a bag of nuts  
Trees stand tall, swaying in the breeze,  
Sheltering from the sun.

The golden brown sand gives the beach its glory  
And the well used but damaged picnic tables  
Have litter blowing 'round them.

Matthew Caine

# Headmaster's Tricentenary Interview

An interview with the Headmaster is becoming an annual fixture in the Squirrel, and each year an apprehensive reporter tries to persuade as much information as possible from Mr Tittershill about the celebrations and new constructions for the school in 2008. This year, after a half-hour mixture of chat and serious business, I found that the festivities planned are far grander than what was originally taken to be the focus of the Tricentenary Appeal, namely Astroturf and a new Sixth form area.

**What events were held this year to raise money for the Appeal?**

The main event was a Sportsman's Dinner held just before Christmas of last year. It was a great success, with a £5500 profit and speeches by Howard Kendall, a former EU MP, Jan Molby, a former Liverpool player and two comedians, Rob Hitchmough and Mitch Ben, who are Old Boys of the school. The assembled company was from the world of business and commerce. It was not a particularly strong Blue Coat group, though they were very generous in support of the school. Admittedly, it was a male-dominated occasion, though eventually of the 250 people assembled, one woman did reveal herself, (though not literally)! The highlight was an auction of sporting memorabilia, including signed photos of Ian Rush, and two items that individually raised £1000, a Tiger Woods photo and autograph and an England cricket shirt from their Ashes success. Additionally, a group who partook in the annual Santa-dash, headed by Mr Howell, raised £1500 and a Mufti day added around £775 to the Appeal's purse. Christmas was, as you can see, a very busy time, with the carol service raising a further £200 and the PA making their termly donation of £2000.

**Are you pleased with the student body's own initiative in organising events?**

Yes, very much so. Mrs Silcock heads a student Tricentenary committee, and the forms of the lower school take it in turns to hold a cake sale each Friday, bringing in £50-70 on average.

**Do you have any more details about the planned new facilities?**

The priority for us is the Astroturf, which we hope to have complete before September, at a cost of around £400,000. The sixth form facility is something we hope to have either before or during 2008. It is expected to house 50-60 year 13 prefects, as a sort of privilege for the top students, with a large provision of computers, desks and a design conducive to a quiet, working atmosphere. This new

development in the East Wing is a reward for our most hard-working students. The prefect office will soon be lost to a new IT suite, and a new space therefore needs to be created.

**What about provision for the rest of the sixth form?**

The current common room will be turned into an area for Year 12, thus making it less cramped, and of course students can still do work in the Sixth form library and the main library facility.

**The current total of Tricentenary money stands at around £450,000, where has the money come from?**

The majority has come from three large amounts: £100,000 came from the Trustees' Development Fund, £183,000 from the school budget and £50,000 was left over from the NDS (New Deal for Schools) rebuild project.

**Given the timeframe left, is a £1million target for the Appeal realistic?**

It's a tough target, but we hope to achieve it through increased focus on the project over the next couple of years. We are hoping for more parental pledges of £10 per month and to this end there will be Tricentenary presentations and the chance to sign up at parents' evenings. 36 parents have signed up so far. In the last year we have raised £112,000 of new money, which is excellent given that there was no single large contribution. We expect the amount raised to increase given the proximity and the excitement of the celebrations.

**What celebrations are planned for this year and in 2008 itself?**

The celebrations will begin in September 2007 and formally finish in July 2008. To kick off the celebrations, there will be a large firework celebration for parents and students to attend with various sideshows, eateries and other attractions. The fact that our Tricentenary year is that of Liverpool's year of being European Capital of Culture is a happy coincidence, and we've tried to put together a programme of spectacular celebrations in 2008 itself. There will be concerts for the Blue Coat school at St George's Hall and the Philharmonic Hall, and an Old Boy's 3-day weekend has been organised for June 2008, in which old Blue Coat pupils will come together from around the world, including Australia and South Africa, for a reunion. On this weekend, there will be a dinner, a chapel service and tours of the school and city. The closing celebration in July will be a dinner with the Lord Mayor.

*Liam O'Brien, U6A3*

# Santa Dash 06 – A Tradition in the Making!



If you judge the success of a fundraiser by the number of participants – then this is a story of success. If you judge a fundraiser by the amount of money raised then once again we succeeded.

61 staff and students stepped up when called to arms in the name of charity. Male and female, young and old, able and very able (as all our students are!), student teachers, to battle hardened veterans all helping the Blue Coat team be the largest single group in the Santa Dash. In fact at least two members of each year group competed – a real school effort.

The charities benefiting from this little exercise were elected by the Echo Sunrise Fund and consisted of the Marina Dalglish Cancer Appeal and other local shelter charities. The other major charity was our very own 2008 Tricentenary Charity Appeal.

In total £2100 was raised. This has been split so that the Tricentenary appeal receives £1500 and the Echo Sunrise Fund receives the £600 plus any late sponsor donations.

As I look at the sponsor forms it is pleasing to see that so many different groups were able to contribute to the cause. School friends, staff, parents, and family, not to mention outside work colleagues all donating something.

Even though it was a dash not a race, special mention needs to go to Jake Cockburn 8BI for coming first in our group and about 20th out of the 5000 entrants, Mr York was also up at the front flying the flag for the staff. John Hoyte 9BI was top fundraiser collecting £99. The two student teachers, Mr Miller and Miss Rogers, both showed their commitment to the cause by chaperoning the younger runners even after Miss Rogers had a nasty fall. Finally, all the parents and other runners, as without them it would not have been such a special event.

And so to next year – the 2nd annual Santa dash. With the 2008 appeal into its last month it will be an excellent opportunity to have more running. I need more runners and fundraisers I need more Mums and Dads and, need someone who can make a Blue Coat Flag that survives more than 200 yards before falling to pieces! So if you or your parents want to dress up as Santa and run 5K to get into the Christmas spirit then look out for the letter next year. –The more the merrier!

I look forward to reporting on our success next year.  
*Mr Howell, Official representative of Santa*

P.S. – see p.45 for related caption competition – Editor

## Two Days With An Author

In July, published writer Dave Ward came into school to talk to and help year 9 with their English work. For two days he helped us plan and produce some amazing stories and taught about the ways that you can develop a story from plan to paper. Using simple everyday situations (eg. a café), Dave Ward helped us learn all the ways of writing a descriptive piece and, using character planning, he taught us how to bring a character to life.

As we continue these stories in lessons, we thank Dave Ward for giving us an amazing start and we thank him for all the advice he gave us on producing a story.

*Craig Milligan*

# National Poetry Day

Obviously quite an important day in the English Department's calendar, this year's National Poetry Day was marked by a poem-reading session open to all-comers. A little space was cleared outside the R.S department and a bunch of chairs had been set up in the style of a small Ancient Greek theatre, made ultra-realistic by the masks of comedy and tragedy scattered around the room. On closer inspection these turned out to be the faces of several nervous teachers, and the big grins of some small children whose poems had been published. Not that this was just for the kiddies, but I won't name and shame the 6th formers who were there, don't worry!

The teachers are fair game though! Mrs. Jackson read a great poem in Spanish (at least I assume it was great, it sounded nice) and Mr Caulkin gave a rendition of "Chaos" - a fitting choice! Chemistry teacher Mrs. Bailey terrified everyone present with "The Laboratory" which just happens to be about a murderess in a chemist's lab, playing with poison. Coincidence? Let's hope so.

Thanks to Mrs. Ludlow for organising it, and to everyone who turned up to make it worthwhile!

Poems and readers:

Mrs. Jackson - *Cancion de Ginete* - Federico Garcia Lorca

Olivia Sung - *Field of flowers* - Olivia Sung

Ms. Bailey - *The Laboratory* - Robert Browning

Daniel Fawcett - *Mid-term Break* - Seamus Heaney

Mr Caulkin - *The Return of Chaos* - Alexander Pope

Taylor K Spruce - *24 hours in the life of a pencil* - Taylor K Spruce (published!)

Mohammed Ali - *Daffodils* - W. Wordsworth

Luke Jones - *Grizzly Grendel & Brave Beowulf* - Luke Jones (published too!)

Tom Hessom - *The lesson* - Roger McGough

Miss Roberts - *The Prize Cat* - E.J. Pratt

Mrs. Athis - *It definitely won't be me* - Mrs. Athis

Ash Gavin

# Winged Words

Seventy, sixty, fifty...the trend in attendance at Winged Words over previous years had not been a good one, and with the departure of its founder, and a decreasing enthusiasm from potential participants the outlook for Winged Words 2006 did not look good. Cue Mission Impossible Blue Coat style, though no Tom Cruise here, just Mrs Athis, Miss Fleming, Mr O'Hanlon and Peter Davey trying to ensure the credibility of one of the highlights of the Blue Coat calendar. Adverts were put up, letters sent out to everyone possible, a team of performers was thrown together (many didn't have a choice) and a programme was hurriedly printed.

The night arrived, performers that hadn't contracted sudden illnesses turned up, but would we have more than a few reluctant parents? The answer that quickly became apparent was 'Yes'! At two hundred and twenty we stopped counting, and began to consider running away, but no! we had to face them and by goodness we were going to prove what a truly great evening Winged Words is. Doc Wilde, a cherished veteran of Winged Words, led the way with a heartily enjoyable account of "*The Yarn of the Nancy Bell*" and with performances of Shelley and Chesterton by Head Boys past and present respectively, the ball of poetic brilliance was set rolling.

One of the great things about Winged Words is an event that involves all ages, from retired staff - Mr Gleave who performed his own sonnets in his ever subtle and meaningful tones, to the very young - Genevieve Athis was once again brilliant performing "*A smile*". In light of this, Winged Words chose to fully involve younger students for the first time, and Samantha Dolan, Lara Rimmer, Eleanora Bianchi, Yasamin Marshall, Charlotte Quinn and Fern Stocks all proved that younger students are just as capable as their elders. At the same time, they are also valuable for bringing a degree of comedy to the proceedings. Performances of "*Little Red Riding Hood*", "*The Daniel Jazz*" and "*Albert and the Lion*" all by year 7 groups lit up the evening with their vibrance and, quite often, hilarity.

Of course the evening still relies on the solid group of ever reluctant 6th formers to provide much of the "intellectual poetry" through performances of "*Dulce et Decorum Est*" from Duncan Hughes, Auden's "*Musee des Beaux Arts*" from James Taylor and "*Indian Serenade*" from Peter Davey. Sixth Formers are also useful for meeting the unwritten quota of Shakespeare that any credible dramatic reading must include. Michael Hart uttered the immortal words "all the world's a stage" from *As you like it*, Cat Mahoney (as well as performing her own dramatic piece - Roxanne) performed one of Lady Macbeth's monologues, and Matt Waddelow and Laura McNeil kissed in their emotive performance from *Romeo and Juliet*.

Performing in Winged Words doesn't just require a loud voice (though it didn't hurt Stuart Campbell, Jake Cockburn and Mark Keating in their outstanding performance of "*The Camel's Complaint*"), Winged Words also requires determination to perform despite adversities, courage to stand up and recite with passion from memory and willingness. Winged Words has never been short of performers with these qualities, but special mention must be given to Francesca Martin who overcame illness to perform a piece by Emily Bronte with all her usual grace, and also to Matthew Davies who overcame his nerves to give one of the best performances of the evening. Special too are the performances of the teachers. Mr O'Hanlon, Mrs Athis and Ms Holland all graced the stage with performances as diverse as "*Jabberwocky*" and "*Albert the Evacuee*" - Ms Holland's perennial piece of history humour.

Winged words 2006 had everything. New Poetry (Peter Davey performed his own poem "*Debating*") and old poetry, musicality and monologues (Portia Harris performed a brilliant murderous monologue from "*Accidents*" by Emma West); in short, Winged Words had variety, and with an audience of almost 250, who says variety is dead?

Peter Davey (formerly year 13,  
now at Oxford University)

# Aim Higher Presentation

3:pm on a Friday afternoon; under an hour away from the eagerly anticipated weekend. But Friday 26th February held one more surprise before the weekend began. The School's chapel was to become the venue for a higher education presentation from the HE4All drama group. The three exuberant performers were quick to engage in conversation with year 10 before the start of the presentation, which was to last until the end of the school day.

The 40 minute long show began with various sketches including one set in a supermarket where the characters purchased items relating to university enrolment, such as open days and taster courses. Immediately the benefits of going to university were compared to other options such as becoming an unskilled worker. Unsurprisingly university life was portrayed as a fantastic experience and a great way to boost your future earnings. Of course this information was delivered to the attentive audience in a variety of hilarious impersonations and sketches, including appearance from Andy ('I want that one') Pipkin and Vicky Pollard from Little Britain. One of the most memorable comedic moments saw the more rotund actress alarmingly dressed up

as Britney Spears. Her spectacular entrance was followed by a short rendition of 'Hit Me Baby One More Time', which caused an outburst of raucous laughter from the stunned audience. This was followed by a game of Celebrity Family Fortunes in which various important points about university were discussed.

Apart from running around the chapel like excited toddlers at a wedding, the thespians created a convincing (though aptly predictable) main story where various anti-university youths discovered the merits of university life, from attractive French students to sports and film clubs. These worryingly convincing characters were slowly tempted into thinking that university wasn't such a bad thing after all.

Friday afternoon's presentation sadly seemed to last nowhere near an hour, though the pupils left the chapel with smiles on their acne-ridden faces and heads full of facts about higher education. Although, I suspect I speak for all of year 10 students who saw the performance when I say that I will be haunted by images of that memorable Britney Spears impersonation for a very long time.

*Daniel Inwood 10 Sh*

# Year 7 Social Evening

Never one to miss an opportunity for a bit of lycra-clad delectation, James Lacey and his Superman ensemble perhaps encapsulated the essence of what the Year 7 social evening is about: it gives new students a chance to laugh at the Prefects' expense, and for the Prefects themselves, it provides a talking point for subsequent weeks.

Mr Caulkin did his usual great job of organising the event, a task made a little difficult by the costume-comparing and general cluelessness of the Prefect body. We did, however, to our credit, ensure

that the costumes were more barely-there (Supergirl) and more incomprehensible, (Chris Watters: Highlander? William Wallace? Paul Bunyan? We are still unaware) than ever before.

A personal highlight was the pained grimace of Mr. Row as he saw the myriad orbs of silly string suspended from the Shirley Hall entrance, and the fact that whilst the Year 7s were covered in the stuff as well as soaked with water guns, his children were left untouched. But Boo Hiss! to the Year 7s whose task it was to 'kiss the Prefect', reducing it to a hand-shaking farce. Shame on You!

*Liam O'Brien U6A3*



# Bridge Club

**If success were measured solely by number attending then the Bridge Club could easily claim to be the fastest-growing sporting society in the school! However N10 has become so crowded recently that it has been necessary to prune the club of all but the bona fide. Whilst – a useful precursor to the more skilful game of Bridge – has been permitted, but the recent TV inspired craze of Poker is not: a game of chance, with gambling an integral part, is not our purpose.**

It is good, however, to see students from years 8 to 13 and girls as well as boys, taking their first steps to learning a game that can become (if you're not careful!) a lifetime obsession.

The range of abilities is also remarkable, with no fewer than three boys regularly selected through 2006 to attend trials for the England Junior (under 20) squad, although Jonathan King has now left for Sheffield University. This allowed Dan Caton to pair up with the promising Daniel Evans (whose previous partner Josh Chisnall left for London last summer). The two Dans are arguably the strongest pair this school has ever produced, and are the mainstay of the Blue Coat team (consisting of past and present pupils) who have an excellent chance of promotion to division 2 of the Merseyside (adult) Bridge League – our highest position since the team formed in 1983. Sadly it is impossible to find school opposition locally, and even Manchester

Grammar are not the force they were. Dan and Dan have now won the handsome silver shield as Worth-West pairs champions, succeeding Jonny Liu and Michael Orlans, who are now (perhaps wisely) concentrating on their A-level exams this summer.

Jon and Michael's swansong was to win the English Bridge Union's simultaneous pairs championship in April 2006 finishing first, with an outstanding score of nearly 75% out of over 100 pairs nationally – the first time a Blue Coat pair has ever done so.

The most recent EBU pairs event last November saw some less experienced players do well. Just within this school, Daniel Dempsey and Joe March were the winners, although when the results were compared nationally, it was Peter Stoddart and Andrew Marchant who came out as our best pair. It is hoped that these and others will continue to play and improve.

Thanks must go to our Prefect Stephen Banks for his patience and help – Chris Counce is a hard act to follow (in fact he was always acting)! Stephen is soon to be replaced by "Fuhrer" Luke Dawkin so be very afraid you who leave litter in the sinks! Michael Higham is often seen on his Harley and Mr Cowan alternates between Christian Union and Kristian Blackhall, for whom Andrew Donoghue is a most suitable partner. Everyone enjoys Aaron Koshy's skills – you can hear (and see) the compliments flying!

# Craft Club

**The Craft Club meets in the Design and Technology department every Tuesday lunchtime at 1pm and is run by our Textiles teacher, Miss Tabern. We make lots of different craft items and get to learn a varied number of crafting skills. For example, we make jewellery, gift cards, small wooden games, finger puppets, fridge magnets, Easter and Christmas decorations - the variety of items is very broad.**

The things made during craft club meetings are later sold at the school Summer and Christmas fairs; we make 100% profit on all our craft stall sales! The CC members are allowed to take home a sample of the products they manufacture, and are encouraged to put forward ideas and methods for new product 'lines'. The club members are busily planning and making items to be sold at this year's summer fair, hoping to beat last summer's total profit of £99.50. The profits go to the school funds, and all eyes are fixed on the £100 mark - not far to go!

We especially enjoy making the bracelets because there are so many different patterns you can design. If you purchase a bracelet we've manufactured (or better still, come and make your own!) you can be sure it is unique, and no-one else will own one quite like it.

We really found the making of gift cards using the paper-folding and pin-pricking techniques interesting, yet easy to do. The end results looked quite professional, giving the impression of finely made lace when finished.

The finger puppets are the best! Miss Tabern brought in a farm animal fun book with mini books inside it, and we adapted the idea and made finger puppets from them. We sewed the main body and glued on the rest of the animal features using fabric glue. Everyone's puppet turned out really well and they sold quickly at the fair.

Craft Club is enjoyable; it feels good to make several crafted products successfully. It's a pleasant feeling to have fun, gain more skills and raise money for the school, all at the same time.

*Daisy Zhai, 8 Graham*

## St George's Hall

The columns surround the building revealing the beauty within.  
The fountain lights and drips, soothing the senses.  
The statues sit, pleasing the eyes, making you feel it's a sin,  
When you enter, the beauty lets you weaken your defence.

*Craig Milligan*

# Creative Writing Club

## Question:

Where can you make new friends, mix with students from other years, get your work published, and perhaps win prizes too?

## Answer:

The Creative Writing Club

The forty minutes spent at lunchtime each Wednesday has yet again been extremely prosperous, with several students having pieces published in anthologies and some winning prizes.

Congratulations to Matthew Caine of 10 BL, who was a finalist in the Liverpool based competition "Poetry of Place". He read his poem about the Formby Squirrel Sanctuary on BBC Radio Merseyside. He also went to a presentation ceremony at the Liver Buildings and was given a bag of poetry books as a prize.

The group was also thrilled to hear that Mrs Ludlow herself has also had two poems recently printed: "Blossom" in "Flights of Fancy" and Nice in "The Thought That Counts". The two anthologies are available to look at in the school library.

This year, the group has already had a lot of success, as seven students have had their poems published. The anthology containing all the work is in a book for North West Young Writers and will be displayed in the library from May. The pupils were: Mohammed Ali L6, Craig Milligan yr10, Zoë Bond yr10, Olivia Sung yr7, Luke Jones yr7, Thomas Hessom yr7 and Taylor Spruce yr7. Olivia has also started writing short stories that she is sending into magazines for consideration, and hopefully one will get published.

Amy Hawkens was one of 7 runners-up, from contestants from all over Merseyside, in the Athenaeum Writer in Residence Competition. She won a book token and will read her story on BBC Radio Merseyside. Her story, 'Monsoon Season', is published elsewhere in the magazine.

In February 2007, 29 students entered an Open Poetry Competition and they all had their poems selected for publication. Everybody is also looking forward to the annual school creative writing competition: The Peter Arnold Craft Competition, where there are prizes awarded at Prizegiving for the best poem in each Key Stage. The poems of last year's winners are printed on page 55: Garry Wilson, Amy Hawkens and David Sheehan.

The Creative Writing group is in the process of entering five more competitions, which are all based on different areas of writing, so there is something for everybody and we would love more people to come as, you never know, this time next year you may have your name on this very page.

On behalf of everyone who attends the Creative Writing Club, I would like to thank Mrs Ludlow, for all the effort she puts in coming up with her inspirational ideas and organising competitions for the group to enter, as without her there would not be some proud published poets in the Blue Coat School.

*Zoe Bond 10 Bi*

# Computer Club

## Lunchtimes

"It's Full" – is a common phrase in the IT rooms around lunchtime. Maybe it is because games are allowed in computer club (a far cry from the militant "work only" policy imposed in the library) or due to a small invention called broadband, but whatever it is, it seems to attract a crowd.

Computer club is the healthiest it has ever been this year with booming attendances. We are pleased to report that there has been a steady influx of female members, always welcome. To maintain the smooth running of this busy club it is down to the efforts of Kristian Blackhall the Head IT Club Supervisor as well as his dedicated team including, Duncan Cowan (deputy), Robbie Hughes, Charlie Power, Toby Underwood, Matthew Allen, Mark Woosey and Matthew Davies.

The environment of the club is friendly, and everyone who attends has a great time. It has grown from just a club into a society of regular members and is certainly a good place to relax at lunchtimes. We have the latest up to date equipment (mostly) which is in surprisingly good condition considering its level of use.

Come and see for yourselves. All are welcome.

## After School Games Club

It seems only fitting that the new games consoles and the newly installed projection systems in the IT rooms should be utilized to their full potential. The IT games club is the new 'place to be' after school on a Tuesday. Whether you want to relax with your friends and play computer games or take part in our weekly tournament you are most welcome. You can bring along your own games to use on the consoles provided, and thanks to Michael Devaney we have a multi – tap system, which allows for 5 or more players to use a single console. Being in the IT rooms, we have access to the projection system, which has been successfully hooked up to the consoles, allowing us to play games with the real "cinema" experience.

What for the future? Will people ever accept that the PS2 is a decent console? Will Robbie Hughes go on to be the best game player this school has ever seen? Will Pluto ever be reinstated as a planet? Watch this space.

*By Kristian Blackhall  
Head IT Club Supervisor*

# Debating Competition 2006

In Mr. Cox's debut debating year with the Blue Coat School the trip to Chester debating society had disappointing results for both him and the four partaking students. The house believed that reality television did more harm than good and with an audience with an average age of around 81 it didn't seem as if anything we said would alter their outlook on the subject. And we were right, after two impressive speeches from the Blue Coat and having endured almost an hour of rants from the floor, the most memorable of which came from an elderly 'atheist communist' as she described herself, the votes came in and our opponents, West Kirby grammar, had won seemingly

comprehensively. However a great deal of encouragement can be taken from the event for those who took part as the speeches, most notably Fenjai's, were of a high standard and to get as many votes as we did from the audience we were in front of was quite an achievement. It was undoubtedly invaluable experience in public speaking for those who contributed verbally and all four students who enjoyed the evening would like to thank Mr. Cox immensely for giving up his evening and organising it for us.

*Benedict McKenna L6A3*

## Social Services Committee Report 2005-06

**In spite of many difficulties it is pleasing to report that the Social Services Committee and the school in general has had a successful year in terms of raising money for charity. Altogether the school raised a total of £5849.40 for charity.**

The major difficulty was that on many Tuesdays the chapel was closed for refurbishment and there were exams in Shirley Hall so that the weekly appearance of charity speakers was somewhat restricted. Nevertheless, among other good collections, £308.23 was raised for Action Aid and £278.92 for Makhande High, our South African partnership school.

The students responded well to the Pakistan Earthquake disaster, raising £363.84, while the cross-country sponsorship was as successful as usual, with £891.34 collected. Additionally, it was good to see the reappearance of Non-Uniform Day.

The Social Services Committee continues to meet twice a term to select the regular charity speakers and students learn about the work and activities of these charities, including Tear Fund and the British Heart Foundation. Many of these are regular charities but it is always good to see new ones coming to the school, for example Jetstream Club.

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

*P.R. Edwards*

### Charity Summary 2005-2006

15.09.05	Leukaemia Research	192.10
28.09.05	Merseyside Playing Fields	198.06
01.10.05	North West Air Ambulance	249.47
06.10.05	Weston Spirit	227.51
13.10.05	Action Aid	308.23
19.10.05	NSPCC	213.86
03.11.05	Pain Relief Foundation	160.07
24.11.05	Imagine	188.32
24.11.06	Poppies	266.94
01.12.05	Age Concern	146.28
15.12.05	Childline	195.70
06.01.06	Makhande School	278.92
07.01.06	Pakistan Earthquake Appeal	363.84
01.02.05	Tricentenary Appeal	36.91
07.02.06	Mencap	99.36
14.02.06	Lighthouse Project	92.81
28.02.06	Guide Dogs for the Blind	143.04
07.03.06	Jetstream Club	93.42
14.03.06	British Heart Foundation	160.95
21.03.06	Ronald McDonald House	57.18
24.03.06	Tricentenary Appeal	100.00
28.03.06	Tear Fund	148.21
04.04.06	International Advocacy	160.95
07.04.06	Tie Day Tricentenary	171.59
27.04.06	Red Cross	105.25
28.04.06	Cross Country	891.34
10.05.06	Newborn Appeal	125.69
20.07.06	Non-Uniform Day Tricentenary	473.40
	Total	5849.40

## Scripture Union

The Scripture Union continues to meet each Wednesday. We usually have a visiting speaker to cover different topics of interest. The students have asked a considerable number of questions and the debates have often been lively. We have enjoyed having Stephen Baker speaking on Prophecy, Jeremy Singer on 'Big Brother and God' and

Dr David Webster on Resurrection, just to mention a few. We look forward to seeing others who may wish to find out what the Bible teaches on a range of issues.

*Mr Singer*

## The School Library

**The School Library continues to be very busy with pupils from all year groups using the library to help with their studies.**

With over 6000 books and 40 computers the library is a valuable learning resource for the whole school community. Both pupils and staff are actively encouraged to request books and resources and a great deal of useful and interesting stock has been purchased this year. All pupils are encouraged to pop in and borrow some of our great books and Mr. Newton is always available to help you with any queries you might have. Magazine subscriptions have increased this year with the library offering a broad range from the Beano to the Times Literary Supplement. There is an after school homework club Mondays to Thursdays and also a Computer Gaming Club on Thursdays. The Halloween Ghost Story writing competition was won by Ben Neo of

7Bi and the University Challenge Quiz competition attracted a great deal of interest from the 6th form as well as raising money for the Tri-Centenary fund. Funds were also raised with a successful book sale at the Christmas and summer fairs. Thank you to all those that helped on the stalls. There has been a large intake of Library Assistants this year and these pupils have been trained in using the library computer system and have been very helpful in looking after the library and it's stock. Order has been maintained by a crack team of library prefects led by Ian Polanowski U6A3 and his noble aid Daniel Mannion U6A2. The work of the library prefects has helped keep the library a civilised place to work and learn. All in all then, it's been a busy and fulfilling year and I hope to adopt many more initiatives and projects to keep the library a vibrant part of school life in the future.

*D. Newton (School Librarian)*

## First Lego League 2006

**On the way to the Jaguar factory in the school minibus a few things were going through our minds: would our robot work? Would our preparations be sufficient? So when we arrived we were surprised to see that some teams had more than one robot. So when we went to the theatre to practise, we knew it was going to be tough! And as we started finding flaws in our programs, disaster struck! The laptop we had brought didn't have the right software installed in order to program our robot. Although soon we found the right disk, it took a while to install on the laptop and we needed to reinstall the robot. It sounded simple enough until the robot refused to install and would 'die' at the last second. So we went over to the official from Jaguar to ask about whether they had a spare 'RCX' (the main computer).**

But unfortunately we got the RCX too late to compete in the first round and had to forfeit. But kindly they allowed us to have a try at a later time to compensate.

We played well for the first three rounds, gaining points, which were pointless in these early rounds, and experience, which was vital so that we could improve our programs in time for the knockout rounds. After lunch we were pitted against Wirral Grammar School for the quarterfinals. We both scored relatively low points in this round

but our team managed to score slightly more. Then our team was pitted against St. Wilfred's. They were the team who were most enthusiastic with their members who weren't at the table waving banners and flags. This was one of the three rounds we got in the hundreds scoring, 129, which we thought was pretty good, and then unexpectedly we found out that we were through to the finals!

This was our biggest challenge yet. We were against Halton KS4 (with the teacher that Mr. Ainsworth hates); they had a very fast robot but it was inaccurate. Then the countdown started, two and half minutes of competitive robot action started (Final Countdown playing in the background). After a short while the race had ended, we were beaten 219 to 265. We had come all this way and had lost. Although 2nd was better than what we had expected.

At the prize giving ceremony everyone won a medal and our team won the technical trophy (it was made out of Lego bricks and basically meant that your robot was the best but it didn't win). After the ceremony we went back to school in the minibus which was backfiring and we kept thinking that the trophy was going to smash and someone would be giving the almost impossible job of re-assembling it without any instructions.

*Alex Monaghan and Mark Woosey Yr8*

# Joseph

**The school's drama society production chosen for this year was "Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." This was the first time I'd ever been involved with any of the school plays and musicals, and it just happened to be the first time the play was forced to be put on in November – three months earlier than usual!**

This tightened the schedule a little, as you can imagine, and yet everyone seemed very committed, rehearsing 6 hours a week, mostly after school. Maybe they were simply afraid of incurring the wrath of the usually mild-tempered Mr. Kershaw (Oh yes, there's another side to him!).

Apparently it's normal that almost nothing is right until the last minute, but it still had us worried that the stage was still being built the day after the first performance. Joseph's coat (according to the brothers) was still "blue and blue and blue and BLUE" until about half an hour before our opening night, and no-one could sing and dance at the same time unless they were actually on stage.

Joe's gaffer tape had us worried too, but that's another story.

Things like broken microphones, people fainting mid-dance, falling down-stairs (we didn't really mean Break A Leg), drummers breaking thumbs...we can gloss over that, can't we? The audience had fun, so the cast and band have lots to be proud of.

Despite all these obstacles, James Lacey and Paul Athans's ranting must have finally got through to us. All our performances were a good 90% flawless, and if we did get anything wrong, the audience didn't seem to notice.

As Joseph travelled through Egypt and Canaan, through prisons

and palaces, rich houses and shepherds' fields, the audience got the benefit of listening to non-stop live music and songs (it's a real musical you know!) highlights of which included Any Dream Will Do, Those Canaan Days, and the Benjamin Calypso. The amount of times the cast changed nationalities was staggering!

Special thanks to:

Especially James Lacey for working himself half to death (but loving it) Paul Athans for making the band go and keeping certain bakers in line, Mistrs Kershaw and Cook for coming to rehearsals and listening to suggestions. That's the kind of teacher we like!

Sam Knott and the stage crew, the sound crew, the lighting guys with Mr. Gettel and his gaffer tape, the makeup girls (despite our eyeliner!) SallyBeth's mum, thanks from Joe and me! Ms. Holland and the dressers, for catering to everyone's clothes-related needs.

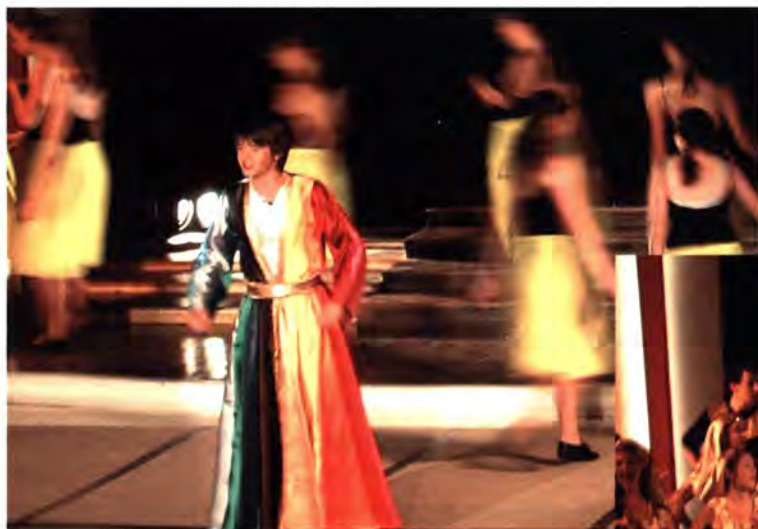
Also whoever it was that brought our drinks in the interval, but not whoever spilled them and nearly sparked a cast/band war!

Presto and whoever it was that painted those funny messages backstage, but not whoever painted "MACBETH". At least we have someone to blame now.

Finally the cast and band for making the show fantastic and getting on alright in the end, and everyone who came to watch and was proud of us, thanks a lot.

It's been a fantastic experience, hopefully to be repeated next year! And now, one last time, please raise your berets, to those Canaan Days...

*Ash Gavin L6Sc3*



# Music Report 2006-07

**The Music Department has had yet another successful year, with musical groups going from strength to strength.**

According to bizarre Squirrel tradition, the music report always begins in the spring term of the previous year, so this means, of course, the Spring Concert.

The orchestra, improving massively on the previous year, were excellent performing Schubert's Unfinished Symphony. The soloists as ever were brilliant, this year including Ting Li playing the Warsaw Concerto on piano, and Steven Zhao performing Kol Nidrei on the cello. Peter Athans played The Lazy Trumpeter and his older brother Paul went on to give a solo rendition of Jacobs' Concerto for Trombone. A talented pair indeed. Louise Goodwin also gave an enjoyable performance of the 1st Movement from Vivaldi's Concerto in A minor and Hai Lin Leung delighted us all with a piano solo. The choir of course were as good as ever, performing "How beautiful upon the mountains" and a wonderfully emotional "The Rose", followed by an old favourite, "Danny Boy". Sema Ejouneatse performed the solo part in the Gloria from Haydn's Nicolai Mass and the choir finished with a brilliant performance of Love Divine.

The Jazz Band played well, showing off with "Give Me Some Lovin'" and "Mi Chiquito". They also played "Fever" by Davenport and Cooley. The Concert Band were no less impressive, with performances of "Motown Forever" and "St Louis Blues" and "Reach Out and I'll Be There" was outstanding.

Next came the ever-popular Founder's Day. The choir performed Gloria from the St. Nicolai Mass, and a lovely Irish song called "I Cannot Tell" by Alexander L'Estrange. The orchestra, improving massively on the previous year, performed Beethoven's Finale from Symphony No. 5.

The summer concert was cancelled due to circumstances beyond even our control, ending the musical year on a fairly low note, but ready to come back out of hibernation as soon as September came.

When it did come, it brought among other things a massive influx of newcomers to the choir, both from 6th formers desperate for UCAS credit and Yr7's desperate for a holiday (and no doubt a few genuinely enthusiastic singers.) The choir swelled from its usual 60-odd to over 100 members, no doubt intimidating Mr. Cook slightly. It certainly worried the veterans among us - "they'd best not all be coming on tour this summer!"

This November saw the fantastic production of Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat. I've already written far too much about it as it was from a cast point of view, but now I have to put my hands up and say without prejudice that the band was awesome. The musical is played and sung all the way through - not once is there a break in the music. This meant, in effect, the band learning a two-and-a-half-hours-solid piece of show music, as well as all their cues and having to endure the cast being around. Credit has to go to Paul Athans the conductor, simply for remaining sane (mostly) throughout, as if leading a band to such a huge achievement wasn't enough.

Next came two events in close succession - Prizegiving and the annual Carol Service and Christmas Concert.

Prizegiving saw the orchestra performing better than ever, playing the Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1 by Elgar, a fantastically dramatic piece suited to the cathedral. Special mention should be made about the wonderfully enthusiastic Timpani player.

The choir, warming up for what promised to be a fantastic Carol Service, sang David Wilcocks' Starry Night, a beautiful piece with several solos, brought off perfectly by Joe Maryanji, James Lacey, Sarah Creed.

Next up was the carol concert, in the Holy Trinity Church. The choir had mercifully shrunk by this time, enough to let us all sit (albeit rather cosily, it must be said) in the proper place at the front of the church. The opening procession song "Once in Royal David's City" was enough to show that this was going to be a very special service, and true enough it was easily the best carol service the choir has ever performed. "O Holy Night" and "Starry Night" were outstanding, and all the old favourites, especially "Hark the Herald Angels" were sung brilliantly and the congregation joined in with passion.

That was hard to follow to say the least, but the other half of the society managed it, with the more laid back Christmas Concert, back in the Shirley Hall.

Instruments decorated with tinsel (as is customary in our school), the ever-improving Orchestra played an enjoyable variety of songs including "March of the Nutcracker" and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and a Party Popping "Pomp and Circumstance March".

Louise Goodwin and Eleanor Marsh played a duet of "Walking in the Air" on violin and piano respectively, an unusual but skilled rendition with no singer.

The Jazz Band played "Mercy Mercy Mercy" and "We 3 Kings" and the concert band played "Instant Christmas Concert" - possibly trying to upstage the rest of the performers by doing everything all at once!

James Lacey had people dressed up and dancing to "Diamonds Are Forever", and Francesca Fradley and Beth Leader sang a very good duet of "Winter Wonderland." All this was before a packed hall of parents, who were full of wine and mince pies and enjoying every minute of it.

Now, moving into the spring term, the music department is back to full strength. The Choir will be going on tour to San Sebastien 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!

*Ash Gavin and Mr. Cook*



*Ben McNally*



*Drew Marsh*



*Matthew Ko*



*Matthew Ko*



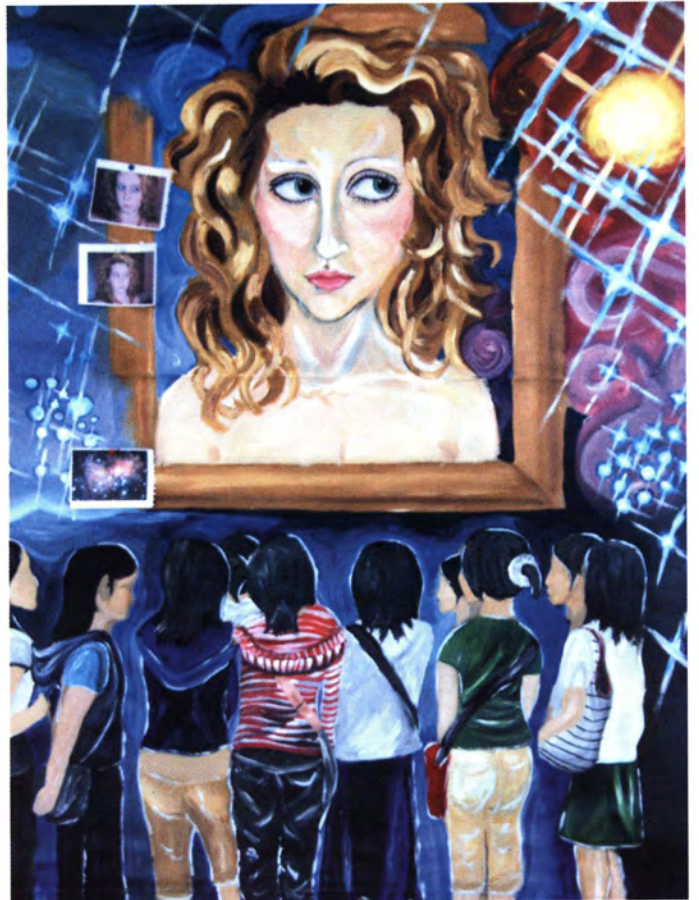
Emma Wong



Drew Marsh



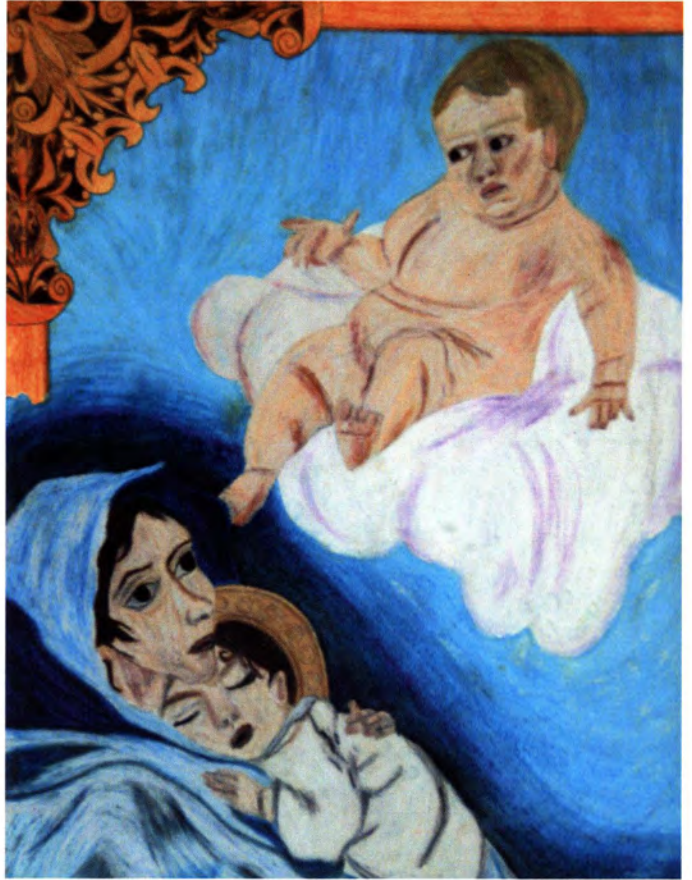
Neil Ratcliffe



Liz Cocklin



Rachel Stedman



Zoe Glacken



Rebecca Leddy



Rachel Stedman

# Oxbridge Dinner Trip

On 31st March 32 members of the Lower 6th, accompanied by Mr Tittershill, Mr Cox, Ms Holland, Mr Cook and Mr Jamieson travelled to Lincoln College, Oxford for the now well-established Oxbridge Dinner weekend that takes place at the end of Spring Term.

The students attended an introductory talk about how to apply to Oxford or Cambridge, what the college system was and how it provided facilities and care for students. A guided tour of St John's College enabled Blue Coat students to meet and talk to students who had given their time to show them what college life was really like.

The purpose of the trip is to give potential Oxbridge candidates a glimpse of student life, and the fantastic opportunities and fun it offers for those who have a love of their chosen subject. The fine weather was a bonus, making a sightseeing tour of the historic heart of Oxford an opportunity to get a sense of the size and beauty of the city centre.

At the formal dinner in college the school welcomed back as its guest speaker Mr Chris Allen who left Blue Coat in 1999 to study English at Brasenose College. Chris told the students how he had re-sat his Year 12 having decided that his first science-based choices were actually not what he wanted to do. He is now a professional fundraiser for the University as a whole. He spoke about how he had found the academic challenges of studying and working with Professors of English to be hugely exciting.

The trip helped to explode a few myths about Oxbridge entry for the students. "I thought it was going to be pretentious but it was really down to earth," said Adam Lyon Jones, while for Ahmed Khattak the trip "made Oxbridge application look like a genuine option I can actually imagine now." Ben Southam really liked the college system and was more confident that he could fit in: "I can see that you would be really well looked after in the colleges".

After dinner the students and staff had more time to look around the city and experience a little of student nightlife, as well as to relax together after what had been an informative and inspiring day.

*S Cox and S Jamieson*



# Alan Tod Travel Scholarship to Greece with the Liverpool Youth Orchestra

Having been awarded a grant from Alan Tod fund, myself, Jonathan Potter, Paul Athans and Sarah Loveridge went on the Liverpool Youth Orchestra visit to Greece to play a series of venues.

**1st Day** – After getting up at 3am, everyone was tired yet too excited by the distinct rivalry between the brass and woodwind camps to get any sleep. Arriving in Athens, though, we were rewarded with seeing the Acropolis, yet anxious about the run-down area in which the hotel was situated; an orchestra member nearly had her purse stolen within ten minutes of getting off the coach!

**2nd Day** – We boarded the cruise ship, our first engagement, and headed straight for the bar, buying strictly non-alcoholic beverages. A bit of sustenance was needed, though, to cope with our tiny room that could barely contain our instruments – I sympathise wholeheartedly with those who played the double base.

**3rd Day** – Our first concert! The rehearsals were a nightmare after the battering our instruments had taken on the plane – one cello had even snapped in the middle. We had our first stop at the picturesque island of Mykonos, full of petite white cottages and bright flowers. Despite these distractions, the evening concert went extremely well.

**4th Day** – We visited Rhodes and Patmos, with very differing impressions. A tour of Rhodes' ancient walls went down a treat regardless of the oppressive summer heat. Patmos was memorable for the beggar sporting cuts, bruises and a cast on his leg, whose desperate situation and destitution made us give him some money. The evening's



brass concert, consisting of some Beatles songs and the Post Horn Gallop, a brass classic, had a thrilling atmosphere and was, in my opinion, amazing.

**6th and 7th Days** – Leaving the cruise ship, we saw Athens by night, which was tremendous, and far more impressive than its daytime façade. Whilst touring Athens, we viewed the site of the first Olympics and some government buildings. We performed a concert in an amphitheatre, though the audience's disinterest spoiled the atmosphere of what was a fantastic, inspiring venue. After some sunbathing, we returned to Liverpool after our long, eventful week in Greece.

*by Anna King*

# Year 8 Ironbridge day trip

One mild July morning, year 8 waited outside the clock tower entrance for our coaches and to be put into our assigned groups, and departed for our two hour journey to Shropshire.

When we entered the town of Coalbrookdale, we wound our way through the village and finally got a glimpse of the world's first 18th Century Iron Bridge, spanning the river Severn.

We soon reached our first stop of the day, the Coalbrookdale museum of Iron. We were each given a questionnaire to fill out as we wandered around the museum. We found information on the Darby family, the history and relevance of iron in the industrial revolution, and a huge scale-model of Coalbrookdale. The 3rd and final floor showed us the end of the iron age and the introduction of steel.

After spending a fair amount of time (and money, of course) in the gift shop, buying things made mostly out of iron – how surprising! We were eventually herded out to have lunch on the sunny grounds of the museum. We ate right next to one of the original water-powered blast furnaces, where Abraham Darby III perfected the technique of smelting iron with coke instead of charcoal. Unfortunately, we didn't have time to visit the Darby houses, where Abraham III planned the Iron Bridge.

Our next destination was the Blists Hill Victorian town (a site of fantastic Halloween events later in the year) which is full of authentic



*Rafe Wan, Alex Campbell, Craig Morrow, Harry Hargreaves*

buildings, and even all the staff dress in authentic Victorian attire, which must have been almost unbearable in the stifling heat. On arrival we were given a packet of Victorian currency to spend in the shops, including the Sweet Shop (very popular!) and bakery, grocers, chemist and yes...a pub. Many of us spent time in the fairground, and enjoyed the carousel, swings and ice-cream.

A few of us went to explore Blists Hill, where we got lost. The only way back to the path was a very steep hill climb – easier said than done! Whilst on our trek, we came across the track which used to lead Tugboats down to the industrial Shropshire Canals, before heading quickly back to the coaches (but not before the gift shop).

Our lot in coach A got back in next to no time, but the same couldn't be said for coach B, which broke down and didn't get the rest of the year back to school until 7pm – but they said they had a laugh anyway!

It was an enjoyable day out, and on behalf of everyone, I'd like to thank the teachers for taking us, and I hope if your year group is going soon, that they have as much fun as we did!

*Samantha, Yr 8*



*Kathryn Smith, Helen Fee, Katie Sung and Michael Diavatis.*

## Wild Flower Reserve

Flowers of all colours sway gently  
The sweet sound of birds echoes through.  
Children make music on the giant xylophone  
And below is a bustling café, full of satisfied people.

Anonymous

## Blossom Tree, Rose Garden

In the rose garden, the thorns stab at me  
The stepping-stones seem to spread apart  
As I step across the running stream.

And the cherry blossom, lonely and demure  
Sheds its petals in the warm summer breeze.

Helena Sweeney

# Spanish Exchange Report

Sixth form Spanish classes were slightly wary when we were informed that Mr O'Brien had set up an exchange programme with a school in San Sebastian, in the Basque region of northern Spain, so that we could practise our oral skills, (Kieran gets points for special enthusiasm), and become more culturally aware. In a November notable only for its torrential rain, the Spanish cohort arrived with the Norman Bates-esque John Phillips, their (Welsh) English teacher. Slightly bemused by their 1990's-stlye of dayglo, comfortable dress, we mixed with our Spanish companions with varying degrees of success. My exchange partner, Macus, was great, but Alan Jones, currently at Cambridge studying modern and medieval languages, was told by his smug, overbearing partner that his Spanish was apparently insufficient.

Over the week we housed our exchange partners, we tried to entertain them (badly) with various trips like bowling and the cinema, but during the day they were contractually obliged to walk in silent torpor around the scintillating museums of Liverpool, and left kindly by Mr O'Brien to the Liverpool transport network. Overall though, I think we did a good job, and I definitely noticed that Macus' English improved immeasurably over the course of the week.

We English went over to Spain in April, and were greeted with immense, if a bit frightening, hospitality. I personally was lavished with gifts, and after professing a dislike of squid was given chocolate at every meal, having been told that "The English like chocolate". Hannah was shouted at by her Spanish family for taking her washing to the machine, as "The scrubber" (the maid) would perform the task. The families, though, were really accommodating and put on a brave face as we took a blunt axe to their language. They were really multicultural too, the members of the family able to speak Basque, Spanish, French and English, not simply resorting to speaking louder if something wasn't understood.

In terms of visits, we went to Bordeaux and Biarritz, which were lovely little French cities where admittedly the bistros and wine were

more tempting than the culture. We visited their 'Cristo' on a huge walk around San Sebastian pushed along by Tim from the Spanish camp, who looked like one of the lesser creatures from 'The Animals of Farthing Wood'. Their school, at which we stayed for a day, seemed a lot easier than ours in terms of science related subjects but exactly the opposite in terms of language classes, which came across as a real strain.

The worst part of the trip was modern art. We visited the Guggenheim in Bilbao, only entertaining after a fair bit of liquid beforehand despite its architectural merits. Inside, it was more like our awful Biennial exhibitions. The Chillida Leku museum was the worst, though. A man had devoted his life to large steel sculptures, but there is only so much concept one can derive from a featureless monolith before it becomes ridiculous. Indeed it did. We were told by the tour guide to imagine we were the air around the sculpture, that we should become another language whilst assessing it, that it was perhaps the sculpture assessing us, and not the other way around. Utter bile.

The best part was undoubtedly the social side and the nightlife, and it wasn't just the students that seemed worse for wear, though Mr O'Brien did his best screwed-up 'Bus-face' when we told him of the previous night's revels. The night on which we took part in 'Hacer el botellon', a traditional activity amongst Spanish youth, was one of the most memorable, once, of course, we had been told what happened. The meal at the cider house was a sad parting, but a fitting end to our enjoyable trip. Mr Adamson wants me to say that my Spanish got a lot better and that everyone behaved very well and that the trip is fun in that normal, school-trip, (actually very boring) way. But this is not really the case. Go on the trip and ask about the local legend of what happened when the English went on the beach.

Must, of course, say thanks to Mr O'Brien for organising it, Mr Adamson for attending and all the host families whether in Spain or England for an excellent exchange.

*Liam O'Brien U6A3*

## Ski Trip to Italy

**In February 2006 pupils from years 8, 9 and 10 went on a ski trip to Mount Mera in Italy.**

During the week we enjoyed skiing in groups. The beginners learnt to ski extremely well, especially learning to ski off-piste, while intermediate and advanced skiers extended their skills and did jumps. During our skiing lessons one instructor, Bob, decided to get on the roof of a hut and pretend to be an eagle, providing a laugh after several falls! Another laugh was when Bob's group and Bruno's group lined up opposite each other on a slope for a take-out. Bruno's group skied at Bob's group causing a lot of screaming from the

group, especially Ciara and April in 10B1. After skiing we had activities such as tobogganing and the sauna, or we just had a rest. The food was delicious, especially the pizza at lunchtime. Of a night we had discos, quizzes and a fancy dress disco, normally ending with the much played song of the holiday: Wonderwall by Oasis. Bob, Bruno, Luca, Anna and Laura made us all feel welcome and comfortable, we could not have asked for better instructors. The holiday was fun, exciting and enjoyable, as well as tiring, and we recommend it to everyone!

*Tori Jones and Hollie Hughes 10Gr*

# Stratford Trip

**In April 2006, Mrs Ludlow and about 12 students from year 9 were packed onto the school minibus towards Stratford-Upon-Avon, to find out about Shakespeare. 3 other schools went along- Childwall, Broadgreen, and The Academy. At 4pm, we had a speech on the life and times of Shakespeare, and were reminded that wherever we went, Shakespeare would be watching us.**

After this, we were shown our rooms in the youth hostel and we were allowed some time to settle down, before a meal of fish and chips. When we finished eating, we were grouped with the other schools for team building activities, which included singing, song writing, acting and making hats!

When the winning team was announced, we all celebrated and went back to our rooms, and chatted until lights off.

On Saturday morning, we paid a visit to Mary Arden's house. We looked around and climbed through tiny doorways, and then watched in awe as the man in the owl sanctuary ripped the legs off chicks to feed Angus the owl.

After lunch, we went to the Holy Trinity church, to walk around and see Shakespeare's grave. When we were finished, we were allowed to explore the town and shop around, with small shops and large favourites.

We returned back to the YHA and after another meal we set off to the Royal Shakespeare theatre to watch Romeo and Juliet. Whilst some found it interesting, even a teacher fell asleep which caused chants of "Badger, Badger fell asleep!"

After another long night, we woke up early on the Sunday morning to visit Warwick castle. There was a lot to do, with a haunted castle, tiny cellars and a journey of 503 steps. Everyone had a great time, and was disappointed when we set off back home.

*By Emma Durham and Jessica Low 10Gr*



# Chester Zoo Trip 2006

**The heat of the sun was increasing as the Year Sevens put on their sun cream and headed off to the zoo.**

As we boarded the coach the teachers tried desperately to miss a few students from the head count – luckily without success.

Having to put up with a rowdy bunch of kids, the teachers were ready to feed themselves to the lions by the time the fifty minute coach ride came to an end!

As soon as we entered, we split up into small groups (after a long speech of safety from the organisers) and set out to rampage around the zoo. We clustered the Monorail and Boat Rides, not to mention screaming in the Twilight Zone Bat House. After that we named a few of the animals (which, incidentally, seemed to have the same names as some of our teachers) and made our way back for lunch. The poor animals! We tried to sneak them a few chips from lunch, but the zoo keepers weren't buying our excuses. Oh well!

We stuffed our faces with candyfloss from the Kiosks around

the zoo. So now not only were we gorged on sweets...we were hyperactive too!

Most of us flocked to see the sea lions being fed. They're really good swimmers, but fancy having to swim to catch your dinner before someone else does (!). I think someone should tell them they need a good spring clean, though.

So now we raced to the Gift Shop. Unfortunately, they didn't have real animals for sale, but they did have a large collection of cuddly toys. It was hard to choose which to buy!

As the day drew to a close, we all reflected on the fun time we'd had - the teachers noted it was a pity they couldn't leave us there, too. They sighed as they did another headcount, and we headed back to the coach, the animals still yowling in the distance...

On the way back home, the teachers had the last laugh. None of us could shout – we had our teeth stuck with rock!

*Yasamin Marshall and Lara Rimmer*

# Lake District Hike

Trips day 2006 saw years 7 to 10 venture out on various excursions such as Alton Towers and Chester Zoo amongst others, but years 11 to 13, on the other hand, were given the luxury of being on study leave, allowing them to 'relax' in the sunshine.

All except three sixth form students, Matthew Daley, Matthew Waddelow and myself. We fortunate few were given the privilege of accompanying Mr Caulkin, Mr Kershaw and Dr Hill to the idyllic spot of Kentmere in the Lake District. With backpacks and very short shorts in tow, the six of us set out. After a two hour minibus journey and some dubious parking near the village, the six of us strode out on what we students were promised would be a 'gentle hike'. Needless to say, this was a colossal lie! The whole group was filled with enthusiasm as we hiked with the sun warming our backs. Five hours later, however, with sunburnt faces and aching backs, we three students were beginning to fall behind. The horseshoe ridge walk called the Kentmere Round that Mr Caulkin had planned was truly spectacular, but also long and tiring. The path rose and fell constantly so that as soon as we'd dragged ourselves over one massive hill, there was another right in front of us. However, the most distressing part of the hike was undoubtedly the fact that the teachers were walking about ten times faster than we were, especially the last two miles along the road, so returning to the minibus nearly half an hour before the rest of us. The three of us came up with several excuses: we were admiring the views; our boots were too tight; our bags were too heavy. But in the end it was the simplest explanation that was the most accurate – we were just plain lazy! Despite our continual struggle, the hike was a lot of fun, especially once we realised we were nearing the end. The

weather remained gorgeous throughout the day which made the views from the peaks of Mardale Ill Bell and Thornthwaite Crag even more breathtaking. Eventually, just as dusk closed in we arrived back at the minibus tired and sunburnt but with a great sense of achievement. The entire walk was roughly ten miles and had taken almost seven hours! After a totally exhausting day, we were finally able to relax in the Bluebell hostelry at Heversham for a gorgeous dinner, which, honestly speaking, was the main reason we'd come on the trip in the first place! The walk, though difficult, was well worth the effort and I would recommend this trip to anyone. I would also like to thank the staff who organised the trip and made it so enjoyable.

*Claire Thomas U6A2.*



# Blencathra Geography Field Trip 2006

**It is understandable that maybe it is not everyone's cup of tea to read about taking soil samples and how the velocity of a river is influenced, so I will not go into the Geographical details of last Easter's field trip too much. But it was together with, rather than in spite-of these field studies, combined of course with all the general banter and good fun you would expect, that made this trip a success.**

Accompanied with Mr McGreevy and the now-departed Mr Boardman, we set off on a Wednesday morning from school up to a study centre in the middle of the Lake District. Greeted by our tutor for the few days, Jess, – whom we all immediately noticed had a particular thirst for saying 'ok' (pronounced 'ooohhkaay') at the beginning and end of every sentence – we were shown to our dormitories. (I believe a further 'study' by William Head observed that she said the word an astonishing 176 times in an hour-long lecture!) We were then straight out into the field for a short walk up the valley to study an upland river. This part of the trip I think emphasised how much we all loved 'getting out into the field' (as all Geographers love to say), particularly when you are standing in the middle of a stream getting soaked, and struggling to work fiddly pieces of equipment!

The second day was filled with a long hike around the surrounding hills and valleys, to see at first hand all the glacial landforms we hear so much about in class. It was relieving to actually see that such things as

'roche moutonnées' actually do exist and were not some kind of myth that only Geography teachers know about – we had our packed lunches sitting on one! It was in fact a very enjoyable walk that really showed everyone how interesting the mountains, lakes and rivers in this part of the world are. The second night was arguably the best night, with much jovial behaviour at dinner time, where we made the most of what was a pretty disgusting lasagne! It was afterwards that Michael Green emerged as a bit of a ladies' man, with regular pleas from a group of eligible young Cockney girls for the emergence of Mr Green from the relative security of his dormitory! Ian Dixon and Luke O'Connor must also get a special mention for the high levels of banter demonstrated.

The final day consisted of a soil and plant-cover study, which, I can assure Mr Lamb and Mr Frost, were pursued with great diligence and dedication – despite the distraction of finding a number of grassy slopes which were discovered to be well-suited for sliding down. After our final lecture, it was straight onto the mini-bus for the journey back to Liverpool, noticeable only for the fact that there was only about three people awake the whole journey home! I think this shows, though, just how good a time everyone had, and that, despite all the light-heartedness, we did actually learn more about a variety of topics to help us in our studies of Geography. Thanks also to Mr McGreevy and Mr Boardman for helping out as well.

*Paul Galgey U6S3*

# Year 8 Trip to a Chemistry Lecture at LJMU

On the 6th of December, our form (8 Shirley) was picked to go to a chemistry lecture at LJMU. We arrived at the lecture theatre at around 1 o'clock, after a long walk from where the bus dropped us off. At the lecture we received crisps and a thirst quenching drink.

As we entered the long, steep room, it was filled with other students from other schools. There was a woman standing at the front of the room, she welcomed us with a brief introduction to the lecture. She then did a series of experiments, which were not permitted to be carried out in an ordinary school lab. We found it informative, and at sometimes interesting and fun. But obviously our teachers, Mr Howell and Miss Bailey, had a different view, as when we looked over they

were asleep or 'resting their eyes' as Miss Bailey later explained. A few of the experiments that were shown were:

- Objects being frozen by liquid nitrogen and then being smashed into pieces.
- They also made a gooey, green, disgusting substance.
- And they did something with glow sticks.

The lecture finished and we had a lot of time before we needed to be back at school so we went to the front and experimented with the things. When we finally left we had a long wait for the coach. Overall it was a good day, because we missed physics, we hope you get the chance to go.

*by Robyn Tisdale and Amy Lewin 8 Sh*

# Visit to the Royal Armouries, Leeds

September 21, 2006

After registration year 9 piled onto the three waiting coaches, jostling amongst themselves to get the best seats, and prepared for the 2 hour drive to Leeds and the Royal Armouries.

We arrived at 10.30, by which time everyone was just as eager to get off the coach as they had been to get on two hours previously! We wasted no time, and had soon been divided into groups inside the museum, and a short while later we were looking round the War Gallery. Here we listened to a dramatisation of Edith Gavel's nursing career, and the work she did to help the soldiers in the War.

As we went round the museum we had various worksheets to fill in with information from the displays. As it happened, only a few of us actually did the fact-finding – a fair bit of sheet-swapping went on!

Next we headed into the tiltyard and watched a falconry display while we ate our lunches, which had to be hidden every time the birds flew over our heads - there were more than a few screams as they swooped low, hoping to deprive us of our meals.

After lunch we went back into the museum and entered the Education Room. In this room were laid out things that would have been used during the war, and we were allowed to look at them and try some of them on. This display included guns, helmets, hand grenades and jackets. Everyone enjoyed trying on helmets and pretending to shoot their classmates. When this was over, we were soon rushing down to the shop, buying all kinds of products.

Finally we returned to the tiltyard, but this time to see a cavalry display. This involved a mounted cavalry officer doing various kinds of jousting events, including catching rings on his joust and picking things up from the floor whilst riding. His final trick was horseback shooting, which had us all jumping from our seats.

After all this excitement we were hurried back to the coaches, and just after 4pm we got back to school. Overall the trip was lots of fun and very interesting, but we were all fairly tired out by the end!

*Fiona Miller, 9 Graham.*

# PGL Trip

Friday the 13th (unlucky for some) October was the day Year 7 began their journey to PGL.

Anyone who doesn't believe in superstition might want to listen carefully to the next sentence: on the way there both coaches took three wrong turns: SPOOKY!!

There were loads of activities to enjoy there including: zip wire; abseiling; giant swing ... and many more. There was also a cool disco on Saturday night.

The favourite and scariest activity was the giant Swing (bom bom bom). First they strapped you in standing up, then they lifted you up fifty feet in the air standing up, and finally you pull the trigger and enjoy the swing standing up.

All the teachers were great including Mr Ainsworth who dared to go on the Rock Climbing, and also the staff at PGL who made our time more enjoyable.

*Luke Jones 7Sh*

# Helmshore Mill Textile Museum Trip

## Bringing the spinning industry to life for Year 7 pupils!

In the autumn term 2006, year 7 students went to visit Helmshore Higher Mill in Rossendale. This working mill dates from the industrial revolution and is packed with national textile treasures. Forms Graham and Shirley went first on the 27th September and Bingham and Blundell went on the 28th.

Armed with the usual supplies of warm coats and packed lunches, the two respective trips, consisting of two full forms of Blue Coat yr7's each set off to explore our past heritage and gain a valuable insight into the origins of the textiles industry.

The Higher Mill was built in 1789 by six members of a family called Turner. It was one of the first weaving mills in Rossendale. Most of the cloth created at Helmshore was used to produce the distinctive red army coats worn by British soldiers during the 1st World War.

The guides took the pupils on a tour of the mill, showing the exhibits and video footage (some taken from original film archive) developing a picture of the events of the past, during the industrial revolution, within their imaginations. They were shown the great steam engine as it was set in motion by the pressure from the coal fuelled boilers below to power the weaving mill machinery. The operators of the weaving shed set the huge, multi-gearred machinery into motion and the pupils watched as yarn was woven by the looms for the space of 1 minute - the noise from over a hundred machines was deafening!

Lunchtime arrived and shortly afterwards appetites were satisfied and the sweet shop thoroughly raided by eager pupils, they were led

off to try their hand at "carding" and hand spinning wool. They willingly tried their skills, although there were a few cries of "Eeeeeee" from some individuals when they were told the woollen fibres they were handling were straight from a sheep and unwashed! In spite of their squeamish sensibilities, most pupils managed a brave and successful outcome, spinning at least 30cms of yarn each. They left the session proud and with the realization that children their age didn't attend school in the past. Instead they had to card and spin wool all day in their own homes (perhaps we should try this with some of our own year 7's!) to be sure that the family could eventually put a meagre meal on the table each day. They realized that children led a much harder life in those days.

The pupils had spent an enjoyable and interesting day at the mill. Now was the time for the most hectic and enjoyable part, the visit to the souvenir shop! All manner of weird and wonderful items were examined well and purchased. The sweetshop was of course revisited by the majority, before finally moving on to the coaches for the journey back to school full of lively conversation and bizarre purchases.

We left Helmshore Mill until the next invasion by the Blue Coat Yr 7 cohort in 2007 where it nestles, as if in a time bubble, in the unspoiled beauty of the Rossendale valley, in the midst of Lancashire's most dramatic scenery. The preservation of this working slice of our heritage is precious; we hope the museum curators can keep its magic safe for many years to come.

*An anonymous reincarnated Mill Worker*

# Year 7 History Trip - Chester

**On Monday 16th October all Year Sevens went on a History trip to Chester, (once the Roman town of Dewa). Since we were studying the Romans, we hoped that the visit would help our understanding of Roman daily life. We left school straight after registration and travelled by coach; it took about an hour to get there.**

When we arrived we split up into form groups. The first thing our form did was to look around the Grosvenor Museum and fill in a worksheet about the collection of objects. The museum contained many Roman artefacts which were very interesting. Also, the information was useful and filling in the worksheet helped us to remember some of the facts.

Next we went on a march around Chester with a guide dressed as a Roman soldier. The 'soldier' told us all about life in the Roman army, including about how they lived, how long they served for and battle strategies. He also told us about daily life for Romans in general. The guide was very knowledgeable and we learnt a lot from him. After the march we had our lunch.

Later, we visited an exhibition called the Dewa Roman experience, where we went on a tour through daily life in Roman times. We started on a 'boat', (Known as a Roman Galley), and travelled to 'Roman Times'. Next, we walked through a Roman street and saw lots of things such as how and what the Romans ate, what the Romans used the bathhouses for and many other things. There were also sound effects and smells that made the 'Street' seem more realistic. This was very informative and fun. At the end of the tour we visited the Dewa experience museum which contained lots of genuine artefacts like pottery and bones. After we had looked at these, we went to the activity room where there were lots of different games to play, puzzles to solve and even the chance to try on replica Roman battle armour.

Finally, we completed the trip by visiting the museum shop where lots of souvenirs were available to buy. It was a great day out that everyone enjoyed and found informative. We learnt lots of useful information from our visit to Chester and it made learning about the Romans fun.

Olivia Brown, 7 Graham

# Outing to the Ballet

On the 1st of February 2007, a group of students and staff went to the Empire Theatre to see the ballet 'Coppelia', a light-hearted romance which tells the story of a young couple, Swanilda and Frantz, and the havoc they cause in an evil toymaker's workshop. Throughout, the production featured some simply outstanding dancing, with the solo pieces of the final act particularly impressive. As a dancer myself, Kristina Terentieva's amazing pirouette, lasting for at least eight spins, proved an especially awe-inspiring example of the physical capabilities of these fine dancers.

Director Ellen Kent did a stunning job of presenting the story of Coppelia in a new and exciting way, with the husband and wife duo of Kristina and Alexei Terentieva working beautifully together as the principle dancers. The ballet's production values were also exemplary, with an impressive set and Svetlana Popova's wonderful orchestra amply contributing to the magical atmosphere of the evening. Also of note were the sumptuous costumes, ranging from the startlingly colourful outfits of the clockwork toys to the gorgeous pink tutus that, like the rest of the evening, were like a young dancer's most vivid dreams brought to life.

*By Caroline O'Brien: U6A2*

# Visit to Krakow

**During the October half term of 2006 a small group of 6th form students went on a 5 nightlong trip to Krakow, Poland.**

At 8.30 on a dingy Friday morning in the middle of October the long awaited 2006 Blue Coat trip to Poland got underway. With everybody assembled and acquainted, the eight students and four adults of which the trip comprised, embarked upon a surprisingly smooth aeroplane journey (there was after all only the one arrest) for sunny Krakow.

We settled into the cosy hotel which would be our home for the next five days before venturing out into the city to explore a traditional Polish market. As we did so the entire group was able to absorb the wonderful scenery for which Krakow is famed and admire its traditional architecture for the first time. Having cased the main square of Krakow, all twelve of us ambitiously sampled one of the city's superb traditional Ukrainian restaurants. The menu was intriguing in parts but resulted in a fine meal nonetheless.

Due to the fact we were in Poland, essentially to visit Auschwitz and to appreciate the enormity of the Holocaust, the following day we felt it was appropriate to learn more about the good that came out of this bleak period of history. Oscar Schindler was a ray of hope for many persecuted Jews in Krakow and, due an excellent tour guide, we were able to understand his true worth as we toured the city, learning about what he did. A visit to his factory rounded off this memorable excursion and inspired those who had not seen the film, 'Schindler's List', to do so immediately upon their return.

The next day entailed an informative and cultured Cathedral crawl in the searing Krakovian heat for some, but for others the lure of the cloth halls in the centre of town were too much to resist. We dispersed into separate groups, however both years 12 and 13 were able to form a homogenous group despite the age difference and willingly explored Krakow together.

With a few members of the contingent suitably depressed having

heard of Liverpool losing to Manchester United, the trip pressed on and the group headed to an awe inspiring salt mine deep under ground. The highlight of this was undoubtedly the Salt Cathedral, which amazed almost everybody who entered it and had most people gaping at its greatness. Mr. Cook did however manage to slip into conversation the amount of times he had a choir sing in it.

On the last full day of the trip we headed to the infamous Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz and its sister camp Auschwitz II – Birkenau for a harrowing experience. Words can barely do the place justice and the mountains of original shoes, suitcases and human hair were enough to have a lasting effect on anybody's memory. The experience of walking through the actual gas chambers in which Hitler went about trying to achieve his 'Final Solution' was undoubtedly unique and the cold, soulless message emblazoned on top of the gates at the entrance of the camp which read 'Arbeit Macht Frei', which translates into English as 'work will make you free', summed up the feel of the camp.

Having experienced the more wicked side of Polish history for two of the days it was fitting that all of us could enjoy a few traditional Polish restaurants and revel in the delights of the Keltmer music, which parts of Poland are renowned for. To round off the evening we walked back to the hotel along Krakow's main river in wonderful crisp conditions.

An experience of a lifetime drew to a close and we set off home with both great memories to savour and vexing thoughts to consider, for the enormity of the visit to Auschwitz doesn't properly sink in until several days later. Hold ups at the airport regarding security made us wait for a few hours but eventually we returned home safely.

Finally all eight sixth formers who enjoyed Ms. Holland's, Mr Cook's and their two associate's company in Krakow would like to thank them immensely for the time they dedicated to the trip, which made it as enjoyable as it was.

# Oxford, June 2006

**On June 27th, six lucky students accompanied Mrs. Athis to Christ Church college for the University open day. All jokes about Mrs. Athis' driving aside, she managed to get us there and back safely and we were all very grateful, especially since questions like "Which one's the brake?" were common as we headed down the motorway!**

Upon arriving at Oxford we were treated to an exclusive tour of the beautiful Christ Church College, since Mrs. Athis is a former member, and so we were privileged to see sights such as the Cathedral gardens and the hat of Thomas Wolsey (non-historians please ignore) which are normally closed to visitors. After this we were allowed to roam Oxford for ourselves, and being the sophisticated, cultured teenagers that we are, we headed straight for the shops!

Once we were all shopped out, the six of us headed for Christ Church Hall for dinner. Harry Potter movie fans will be excited to know that the entrance hall of Christ Church is where the first years gather in the first film, and where Harry and Ron are caught by Filch at the start of the second film. The hall itself is an awe-inspiring building, which feels as though it should be a museum rather than a dining hall. On Tuesday evening, Mrs. Athis took us to a play called "touching the sun", a moving story about a principled socialist teacher whose values are threatened by a fortnight's holiday with his rich brother and sister-in-law. The play was surprisingly enjoyable for us, but not for several elderly members of the audience who fell asleep and proceeded to snore as soon as the curtain went up!

Wednesday was the official open day, so the six of us parted ways to attend different lectures including History, Modern Languages, Theology and Economics. Once again, historians will be interested to know that the History lecture was taken by none other than Christopher Haig, one of the most published historians in England. In the afternoon some of us hit the shops again, but most decided to tour other Oxford Colleges, such as Magdalen, Trinity, Corpus Christi and Merton among others. Each college was spectacular, but Magdalen was undoubtedly the superior, boasting its own deer park! Before dinner, five of us attended a service in the Christ Church chapel where we were able to hear the superb choir in absolutely stunning surroundings.

That night we went to the Odeon Cinema to see "The Wind that shakes the barley", a film about a guerrilla unit of the IRA battling against British oppression in 1920's Ireland; enough to say that more than one of us had tears in our eyes by the time the credits rolled.

Ironically, just as the sun came out on Thursday morning, it was time for us to leave. After a quick dash to the gift shop and a hurried breakfast, we were back on the mini-bus heading home. Again, Mrs. Athis managed to get us back safely except for a minor petrol crisis along the way.

Oxford was unforgettable and all six of us are extremely grateful to Mrs. Athis for taking the time and trouble to organise such a wonderful trip.

*Claire Thomas U6A2*

# Versailles 2007

In spite of the exceptionally early start on the Friday morning and the draining coach journey to Versailles which followed, we were still able to make the most of a long weekend just outside Paris. The first morning consisted of a trip to the historic palace of Louis XIV where we ate lunch in an extremely exclusive café prior to a guided tour of the gardens and the Versailles Palace itself. We viewed many rooms of which we were in awe and saw several works of art each one reflecting Louis' extravagant reign as King of France. We ventured to Les Invalides next, Louis' hospital for soldiers during his war-ridden reign, before going on to the Eiffel Tower in the evening. Despite some people's initial hesitation everybody made it to the top of the structure that dominates Paris' skyline with out any problems, well almost. We returned to our hotel for a peaceful evening and prepared ourselves for a trip to the world famous Louvre art gallery. Our Louvre experience

was only enhanced by the slightly eccentric and very energetic tour guide Anne Marie. We did manage to catch a glimpse of the Mona Lisa, although it was slightly anti-climactic. In the evening we capped off an immensely enjoyable weekend in France, with a boat ride down the River Seine, managing to see such famous land marks as the Notre Dam cathedral. All that remained was the twelve-hour coach journey home, which was made slightly more bearable by Mr. Pearson's Inaugural Versailles Quiz, in which the Anne Marie Appreciation Project came a respectable second place. Everybody connected with the 2007 visit to Versailles would like to thank the teachers, Mrs. Athis, Ms. Holland, Mrs. Roberts and Mr. Pearson, for making the trip possible and as enjoyable as it was. Merci beaucoup.

*By Benedict McKenna and Paul Hughes*

# Paris Trip

**One thing that has become obvious during my time at the Blue Coat is that no good deed goes unrewarded; so, after a gruelling struggle with coursework, revision and exam stress, it's needless to say that the Art and French students of years ten and twelve were most grateful for a three day trip to Paris, as a repayment for all our efforts.**

On the first day, we met at Liverpool John Lennon Airport at the ludicrous time of 5.55 am. As was expected, conversation was hardly rife, but as the last few members of the party arrived, the atmosphere began to be busy. Even the calmest of people were giddy by the time we boarded the plane.

Following a short plane journey we stepped into the welcoming heat of the Parisian sunshine. On the coach we had received a brief talk on the history of France and the chance to relax before we landed at our first destination: Musee d'Orsay. The art was fabulous, but on the whole this was a little undermined by the fact that we were all so tired out, and for this reason we were relieved to take a trip on a boat along the Seine: a great photo opportunity as it turned out!

The next day, we rose early and swiftly made our way to the Louvre. As everybody was much more alert after a full night's sleep (and some were avid 'DaVinci Code' enthusiasts), the group in general was much more eager to explore this time, and there was definitely a lot to see.

We were given a few hours to wander around of our own accord, which my group used to view the Madonna on the Rocks and, of course, the Mona Lisa, after which we had some lunch and went to explore the shops.

In the afternoon we moved on to the Centre Pompidou. After walking up numerous flights of stairs in stifling heat to get there, to say that the rows of couches facing a beautiful view of the city were not tempting would be a lie, but we managed to muster up enough energy to explore the floor that we were on. The modern art there was intriguing and some more time to view it would have been good, but

we were all in some desperate need of food and had to head off.

There were mixed emotions on the final day: excitement at the prospect of climbing the Eiffel Tower, relief to return home and sadness about leaving. This did not prevent the group from being curious enough to visit the Picasso Gallery, though, which provided both an activity to pass the time before we had to leave and some well needed shelter from the sun!

Eventually, we reached the point that we had all been waiting for: the piece de resistance: the Eiffel Tower. From the bottom it seems quite daunting, and admittedly the journey up was a struggle (not to mention the rust from the banisters making some nasty stains!), but it's all worth it when you reach the top; after five minutes or so, the element of fear is gone and there's nothing you can do but be amazed at the horizon.

By the time we reached the hotel at the end of the day, nobody could say that they were disappointed about the trip, because there really was something for everyone. On the coach, we took our last few photos and said goodbye to Paris, before finally setting off home.

*Liz Lewis 11Bi*



# Year 10 History Conference Trip

**It was a lovely sunny day on July 6th and the young historians of year 10 set off for Manchester in the posh double-decker coach. We arrived at the School of Music and impatiently waited to enter the auditorium with the rest of the schools. After a short break, we entered the huge auditorium, which descended to a huge stage at the front. Once we were settled, two experienced historians entered the stage and started to teach us about modern history. We were each handed a very thick booklet of historical exercises, which we found slightly frightening. We spent the first part of the morning listening to the two presenters talking about America in the 1920's, supported by mini drama sketches acted out by two professionals, including an amusing act in 3which they were the same person, each speaking every other word.**

We were then given a short break in which we explored the school

and nearly got lost! Once we'd found our way back to the auditorium, we started learning about Germany and the rise of Hitler, which was very interesting. Lunch was fairly long: most of us went to the tiny but comfortable café to eat, after finally finding somewhere to sit. The conference continued after lunch when we started to go into more detail about Germany and USA. Also, we learnt some useful exam techniques (for example we learnt how important the four letter word which starts with w and ends in k is), and gave us some fun activities such as when some students were chosen to go up on the stage and attempt to do two things at once, which they found really hard, and everyone else found really funny. We ended the day summarising key points of both countries, and realised how much we had learnt from this conference.

Overall, it was an interesting trip and we enjoyed ourselves.

*Mengxia Sun and Laura Watters*

# Word Search

F	T	R	A	N	W	C	O	X	P	P	Y	N	S	K	G	Z	C
J	A	K	B	I	I	B	Q	F	D	A	W	I	N	K	C	L	T
T	E	E	T	P	M	T	B	F	S	S	A	O	M	X	R	O	I
A	G	A	I	D	W	I	R	U	Y	R	L	Y	E	I	I	W	Y
H	T	T	Q	S	J	M	X	A	S	E	U	T	V	U	G	M	D
R	U	I	O	E	K	A	N	G	M	I	D	F	P	Q	H	B	I
L	A	N	B	T	O	E	V	C	A	U	L	K	I	N	T	D	O
W	X	A	Q	L	H	Q	A	B	L	F	O	H	M	A	O	V	S
A	N	G	D	M	U	G	I	T	O	X	W	G	N	S	N	S	R
A	C	O	O	K	B	N	I	K	I	B	Q	B	F	D	I	E	I
B	G	H	M	E	G	N	D	R	V	N	M	V	H	G	S	P	U
X	H	R	A	H	G	K	F	E	C	A	G	Y	O	H	I	M	M
V	U	A	A	N	E	P	G	L	L	N	E	Z	L	J	O	N	R
S	B	M	W	H	L	I	M	R	E	L	M	X	L	N	H	L	N
A	C	W	Y	O	A	P	H	I	R	I	A	D	A	M	O	F	O
R	I	V	Y	O	R	M	R	I	E	E	J	N	N	L	L	L	S
Q	A	M	E	O	R	T	H	L	G	H	C	A	D	T	E	D	T
T	I	T	T	E	R	S	H	I	L	L	T	J	B	Z	R	D	A
W	H	C	O	L	Q	K	F	T	G	M	N	M	E	O	K	W	W

- BLUNDELL
- BINGHAM
- SHIRLEY
- GRAHAM
- LUDLOW
- KEATING
- COOK
- HOLLAND
- TITTERSHILL
- CRIGHTON
- COX
- WATSON
- YORK
- CAULKIN
- LAMB

# Competition: Caption Quiz



You may be able to recognise the members of staff disguised as Santa in this photograph – but the Quiz question is to write a caption for the photograph. The best caption will receive a prize of £25, generously donated by The Blue Coat Old Blues Association. Entries should be given to Mrs Ludlow, and include your name and form. Closing date 15th June 2007.

# This is your New Teacher...

**A wise man once told me that a moment of madness can lead to a lifetime of memories. This was exactly the case when, during my first visit to the school, I said that I would happily help with the school trip to London.**

"How hard could that be?" I hear you say. After all it is a trip home; back to the comfort of civilisation, colour TV and over inflated prices, my home – The South. So here we are on the fine July morning, full of the joys of spring (only several months too late).

Mr Crighton addresses the crowd " Listen in, year nine, I have an important announcement. This is your new teacher Mr Howell." I slowly turn to the crowd and await my cheers of welcome as a new hero enters the thron... Nothing, not even a ripple of interest. And so begins my career in education, an unsung hero, battling to produce the best whilst at all times being regarded as the lowest form of life by all but the keenest of students.

The coaches arrived and the 45 strong mob, as I have defensively named them, climbed aboard for the short trip to the station. "They're great kids, so full of life," a teacher exclaimed encouragingly. I turned to see 45 sets of walkmans and Discmans and various other space age isolation contraptions. "Mmm," I agreed politely.

A rather tricky 17 across filled the next few hours on the train. An irrational fear (8). A student asking me my favourite football team and addressing me as 'Sir' briefly interrupted me. What a great feeling, being called 'Sir'. All the glory of a knighthood, but with none of the hard work. Maybe the mob wasn't as bad as I had feared.

On arriving in London we split in two - half to go to the Science Museum and half to the Museum of London. I tried to infiltrate the enemy with a general "Are you having a good time?" bracing myself for the tirade of abuse.

"Oh yes sir," she said "I really like the old buildings and hustle and bustle." Lies, I thought, designed to make me drop my guard so that

her follow up insults will be twice as painful, but nothing came. Off she trotted to rejoin her friends as we travelled to the museum.

In the museum I prowled around the exhibitions ready to pounce on any inappropriate behaviour. But again I came up with only intelligent, polite students who seemed genuinely happy to be there. In the end I had to relax and enjoy looking around myself. A 'phone call from my dad informed me that I could find one of my relatives in a display and so Mr Crighton and I trotted off to find an attendant to helpfully point us in the right direction of the display. Wow was she rude. "Are all southerners that friendly?" I heard myself asking, 'Hang on, I'm a southerner!' Or at least I used to be.

The day in London happened to be a week after the 7/7 bombings and so we all piled out for the two minutes' silence. What an eerie place to be, as thousands of termites emerged from their fortresses to stand united as one. A very moving slice of silence elapsed as every walk of life remembered the tragedy and the kids' behaviour was impeccable.

And that was it, the scary mob had emerged as young adults and all of a sudden I was able to talk to them without the fear of abuse.

The remainder of the day was spent in Covent Gardens with the rest of the pupils talking and shopping. The joy of youthful discovery making an adventure of what should have been a tiring day out.

And then it was over and we were back on the train and returning to what was now the safety and security of the friendly North West and my school. As we all departed I could have sworn I heard a ripple of "That Mr Howell, he's alright," and so I was wrong, I must accept that the mob was in fact a great bunch of kids and that my job is far from thankless.

And then 17 across struck me – Paranoia.

Job done.

*Mr M Howell*

## Teacher News

- Congratulations to Mrs Irvine and her husband on their arrival of a baby boy, Cameron.
- Congratulations to Miss Fleming who became Mrs McGain last July – we wish her much happiness.
- Mr Howell was run ragged with a troupe of Father Christmases – see separate report.

## Classic Teacher Comments

"Please do not abuse members of the public outside school."

"I don't know if you're stupid or just thick."

"Just quit this shambolic hullabaloo."

"He's got that 'I might be a blackbelt at karate, or a pervert' look."

*"Steven Gerrard, who's he?"*

## Parents Association Gifts to the School 1969 – 2006

The Parents' Association has donated approximately £280,000 to the school via fundraising during the above period. The largest contributions have been:-

ICT	£32,000
School Sport	£27,000
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.



*Mr Caulfield's Sixth form legacy left a lot to be desired.*



## Beginnings II

**How about this for a culture shock? D.A. Rainbird, B.A., just down from Oxford, September 1968, is due to start teaching in Croxteth Comprehensive School, L11, just across the road from Kirkby.**

And not just Croxteth. The whole city of Liverpool. People used to say that Liverpool was like Newcastle, but it wasn't. It was (and in my view remains), completely different. Nearly 150 ships in the docks from Seaforth to the Dingle and from Birkenhead to Bidston, served by 15000 Liverpool dockers. A buoyant, optimistic place: The Beatles, the football teams, full employment. Incredible when you think of the disasters that were to come.

As for me, I was in the middle of it all. I remember taking the old green municipal bus to my first flat in Princes Park, the street lights still slung on wires and cables over the road, and feeling a greater sense of freedom than I have ever felt before or since. To the right were the old south docks full of ships, shebeens and sailormen (no women on board ship in those days: it was bad luck). The streets looked more dangerous than they were. A few weeks later, one dark night, my girlfriend and I got lost around High Park Street. We were suddenly surrounded by a gang of towering black lads. Timorously we explained our predicament. They insisted on taking us to the bus stop and telling us clearly how to get home.

Only slightly further away was Chinatown, the first I had ever seen. Just next to it again the still incomplete Anglican Cathedral, from

whose steps, on my first Friday night, I watched as the last great trans-Atlantic liner, the Empress of Canada, left for Montreal.

I developed a great affection for Liverpool 8 (or Toxteth as it is now wrongly called).

Teaching was tough, very tough. Many (though by no means all) of the children I taught, whose fathers were dockers, crane drivers and donkey engine men, saw little value in an Oxford education; hardly surprising, really.

The staff, however, were enormously friendly and welcoming. This time it was the Second World War men who mainly set the agenda, amongst the male staff at least. There was Bert Mason (30 operations over Germany-the maximum-with bomber command); Lewis White, who sailed four times on an oil tanker over the North Atlantic, and never saw a ship torpedoed; and Sgt. Bill Mackie, who once told me how he signed on with the Cunard as a deckhand in 1938 to see the New York World's Fair. They were all the salt of the earth, and, with considerable difficulty, they saw me through.

As for now, well, most of the ships have gone, and so have the dockers (ill judged and maligned to the last). But the school is still there, or most of it is, and I still see a few of my friends from those days. I'll be having a drink with some of them over Christmas. And the sense of freedom? Ah, well.

*Mr. D. Rainbird*

## Sports Day Results

### Team Results

#### Year 7

##### Boys

- 1st – Graham 135
- 2nd – Blundell 130
- 3rd – Shirley 127
- 4th – Bingham 108

##### Girls

- 1st – Bingham 117
- 2nd – Shirley 113
- 3rd – Blundell 111
- 4th – Graham 97

#### Year 8

##### Boys

- 1st – Shirley 130
- 2nd – Graham 123
- 3rd – Bingham 122
- 4th – Blundell 108

##### Girls

- 1st – Blundell 134
- 2nd – Graham 113
- 3rd – Shirley 112
- 4th – Bingham 51

#### Year 9

##### Boys

- 1st – Blundell 152
- 2nd – Graham 132
- 3rd – Shirley 125
- 4th – Bingham 78

##### Girls

- 1st – Bingham 116
- 2nd – Graham 113
- 3rd – Blundell 97
- 4th – Shirley 77

#### Year 10

##### Boys

- 1st – Blundell 127
- 2nd – Shirley 107
- 3rd – Bingham 100
- 4th – Graham 92

##### Girls

- 1st – Blundell 67
- 2nd – Shirley 58
- 3rd – Graham 48
- 4th – Bingham 38

### Individual Year Champion Results

#### Year 7

##### Boys

- 1st – Nelson Idama & Jake Cockburn 24pts
- 2nd – Peter Robinson & Andrew Begs 22 pts
- 3rd – Aiden Riley 19 pts
- 4th – Jonathan Riley 18 pts

##### Girls

- 1st – Jessica Dickinson & Charlotte Holmes 24 pts
- 2nd – Sara Edwards & Louise Goodwin 22 pts
- 3rd – Ashley Davies 21 pts
- 4th – Rachel Holgate 20 pts

#### Year 8

##### Boys

- 1st – Jack Stanton & Ben Kelly 24 pts
- 2nd – Danny Roberts 22 pts
- 3rd – Peter Glesson & Louis Marshall 21 pts
- 4th – Luke Williams 20 pts

##### Girls

- 1st – Helen Thompson 24 pts
- 2nd – Laura Caveney 23 pts
- 3rd – Danielle McDonald & Christina Farandos 16 pts
- 4th – Lucy Thompson 14 pts

#### Year 9

##### Boys

- 1st – Dean Rahman & Daniel Bartling & Oliver Kennedy 23 pts
- 2nd – Victor Truong 22 pts
- 3rd – Jack Bedford 21 pts
- 4th – Kieron Koshi 20 pts

##### Girls

- 1st – Sophie Batterton 24 pts
- 2nd – Charlotte Dickenson 23 pts
- 3rd – Eleanor Beggs 22 pts
- 4th – Melody Mak 21 pts

#### Year 10

##### Boys

- 1st – Danny Idama 24 pts
- 2nd – Harry Edwards 23 pts
- 3rd – Josh Batterton 21 pts
- 4th – Jonathan Ward 18 pts

##### Girls

- 1st – Winnie Garr 24 pts
- 2nd – Nathalie Connell 23 pts
- 3rd – Holly Boyes 13 pts
- 4th – Katie Dean 11 pts



Daniel Bartling, Oliver Kennedy



Lucy Thompson 9BL, Laura Caveney 9Gr, Francesca Wai 9SH

# Hockey

**Last Year Results**

**Year 8** Captain Ellie Darby  
 Vice Captain Samantha Dolan  
 Hockey League Result 8th Place

**Year 7** Captain Jessica Dickinson  
 A Team Hockey League Result 2nd Place  
 B Team Hockey League Result 7th Place

**This Year Results**

**Year 9** Captain Ellie Darby/ Sam Dolan  
 Hockey League Result 6th Place

**Year 8** Captain Jessica Dickinson  
 A Team Hockey League Result 2nd Place  
 B Team Hockey League Result 5th Place

This Year County Players – U14 – Sam Dolan  
 Ashley O’Meara  
 Charlotte Holmes  
 U13 – Jessica Dickinson

I would like to thank all the girls who participated in all teams and hope they continue through to next year.

Year 7 Hockey League due to start after half term

Thank you

*Mrs Hornby*

# Annual Cross Country Championship

This year the students of the school once again took part in the school cross-country race at the Wavertree Mystery. As well as using the event for enjoyment and to improve the fitness of the students, hundreds of pounds were raised for charity making this a thoroughly worthwhile experience for all involved.

In the year 7 boys’ race, there was a scintillating finish which saw Nelson Idama hold off Jake Cockburn to take the victory. Andrew Beggs and Anthony Robinson followed them in shortly after to take 3rd and 4th place respectively. The year 7 girls’ race was also very exciting: Ashley O’Meara managed to fight off Louise Goodwin, Alison McNulty and Charlotte Holmes for first place.

Matthew Benton won the race for the year 8 boys ahead of Alex Edwards, Ben Kelly and Shaun Rigby. Ellie Derby won the equivalent girls race by beating Helen Thompson, Laura Caveney and Christina Francis who made up the top 4.

Moving into the year 9 races, Daniel Bartling ran a strong race and took the win, but he was followed closely by Jack Bedford, Kiran Koshie and Michael Tancred. For the girls, Rachael Hodgkinson was the first runner home pursued by Zoe Bond, Melody Mak and Emma Henigan.

In the oldest age group, year 10, the winners were Nick Ford and Nathalie Connell. There were many other good performances though, particularly by Jack Hopley, Andrew Tomlinson and Andrew Troy who were 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the boys’ race. There were also good runs by Holly Boyes, Jade Slocombe and Amy Hawkens who, along with Natalie Connell, made up the top 4.

Blessed with good weather, a lot was achieved; the opportunity to take part in a healthy outdoor activity and raise a lot of money for charity was seized and enjoyed.

*Craig Gundersen U6A2*

# U12 Cricket

Played-13

Won- 4

Lost- 8

Drew-1

The standard of cricket played was of a higher standard and more closely contested than the record shows. The techniques of batting, bowling and fielding were of a good level and improved as the season progressed. There were some excellent performances during the season and if progress continued during the winter at indoor nets then

the summer season promises to be successful. The following players represented the side during the season- T. Jackson (Captain), P. Robinson, J. Rhodes, J. Walsh, A. Beggs, M. Gunson, J. Cockburn, P. Athans, R. Boyle, D. Little, C. Watling, B. Stocker, N. Idama and J. Luscombe.

## Averages

**Batting**

	Innings	(Not outs)	Runs	Average
P. Robinson	12	-	191	15.9
A. Beggs	12	2	123	12.3
T. Jackson	11	1	76	7.6
J. Rhodes	13	2	76	6.9
J. Cockburn	10	3	36	5.2
P. Athans	7	3	20	5.0
C. Watling	4	2	8	4.0
M. Gunson	11	2	25	2.8
J. Walsh	11	1	26	2.6
N. Idama	2	-	4	2.0
R. Boyle	6	1	9	1.8
D. Little	10	2	10	1.3
B. Stoker	3	1	2	1.0

**Bowling**

	Overs	Runs	Wickets	Average
C. Watling	11.3	40	8	5.0
P. Athans	34.0	149	13	11.4
A. Beggs	49.0	207	16	12.9
D. Little	30.0	127	9	14.1
T. Jackson	21.5	124	8	15.5
J. Cockburn	24.5	132	7	18.8
M. Gunson	41.0	204	8	25.5

**Fielding- Catches/ Runouts**

R. Robinson 6+5 stumpings, M. Gunson 7+1, J. Cockburn 6+5, J. Rhodes 6+1, A. Beggs 3+1, P. Athans 3, J. Walsh 2, R. Boyle 2, C. Watling 1 runout

## Girls' P.E.

### Netball Squads 2006/7

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Emma Casey	Alice Haughn	Megan Mariority	Gabi Thompson	Mary Williams
Niamh Lawton	Charlotte Holmes	Fran Wai	Ciara Lenehan	Wini Garr
Velvet Young	Ashley O'Meara ©	Helen Thompson	Ellie Beggs	Steph Chau
Remi Wood	Alison McNulty	Michelle Ariss	Lisa Tighe	Nathalie Connell
Chantelle Wu	Rachel Holgate	Alex Mallon	Sophie Batterton ©	Chloe McDonald
Emma Kelly ©	Jessie Dickinson	Ellie Darby ©	Sharon Koshy	Katie Dean ©
Alice Rudkin	Sara Edwards	Danielle McDonald	Charlie Dickinson	Holly Railes
Sarah Stanford	Amy Lewin	Christina Farandos	Tori Jones	Kaya Melia ©
	Rosie Lane	Beth Leader	Bronica Gumbhir	Kahra Wayland-Larty
	Rachael Hayes	Juman AlMachoor		

### Netball league results 2006/7 to date:

#### Vs Calderstones

Yr 7 – lost 4-9  
Yr 8 – won 7-0  
Yr 9 – lost 2-8  
Yr 10 – won 10-1

#### Vs St Edwards

Yr 7 – lost 2-3  
Yr 8 – won 7-4  
Yr 9 – won 3-0  
Yr 10 – won 8-5  
Yr 11 – won 10-5

#### Vs Belvedere

Yr 7 – lost 1-4  
Yr 8A – won 7-3  
Yr 8B – drew 3-3  
Yr 9 – lost 1-6  
Yr 10 – won 5-5  
Yr 11 – won 11-5

#### Vs St Francis of Assasi

Yr 7 – won 4-1  
Yr 8 – won 13-0

#### Vs. Broadgreen

Yr 7 – won 6-2  
Yr 8 – won 13-0

#### Vs Archbishop Blanche (friendlies)

Yr 8 Drew 4-4  
Yr 11 won 10-4

## County School Netball

The year 10 squad took part in a county schools netball tournament where they played exceptionally well and became winners of their pool. They met Sacred Heart in the semi finals, in an intense game that resulted in a draw at full time. A "golden goal" situation followed, the winning goal was shot by Charlie Dickinson won and led the team into the finals against Rainford. They were out played by this strong team but finished overall runners up and have qualified to compete in the next regional round held on the Wirral. Well done girls.(Miss C)

### Last years Netball achievements (2005/6):

Year 10 squad = U15 City Tournament Champions  
U15 League runners up

Year 9 squad = U14 City Tournament runners up  
U14 league finalists- winners still to be confirmed

## Athletics

The following girls qualified and took part in the City Athletic Finals in 1 or more event:

**Year 7:** Jessie Dickinson, Louise Goodwin, Ashley O'Meara, Alison McNulty, Alice HaughAn, Charlotte Holmes

**Year 8:** Helen Thompson

**Year 9:** Sophie Batterton, Alice McRoe, Charlie Dickinson, Rachael Hodgkinson, Rebecca Warriner, Gabi Thompson, Liz Whitehouse

**Year 10:** Katie Dean, Wini Garr, Mary Williams, Hayley Conboy, Nathalie Connell, Chloe McDonald, Holly Railes.

## Athletic Achievements

**100m City Champion** = Wini Garr

**Year 10 relay team =4 x 100m Relay City Champions**  
(Wini Garr, Mary Williams, Nathalie Connell, Holly Railes)

**Year 9 relay team = 2nd place**  
(Alice McRoe, Charlie Dickinson, Rachael Hodgkinson, Sophie Batterton)

Mary Williams = 2nd in the 200m

Sophie Batterton = 2nd in the Long Jump

Hayley Conboy = 3rd in the 300m

Charlie Dickinson = 3rd in the Discus

Rebecca Warriner = 3rd in the 1500m

Overall Year 9 and 10 finished 4th out of 11 school and Year 7 finished 6th.

## Tennis

It was the first time the girls had been entered into a league and were only given 2 fixtures to play. The following girls represented the school in both singles and doubles fixtures against Belvedere and Liverpool College: with particular success seen from Sharon Koshy who won all her single and doubles matches with ease.

## Rounders

### Year 7 team

Marina Ransome, Ashley O'Meara, Brogan Moss, Sara Edwards, Sarah Zhao, Charlotte Holmes, Jessie Dickinson, Alison McNulty, Ashley Davis, Vanessa Ferguson, Rosie lane, Emma Findlay, Jessica Jung and Georgina Hunt

The Year 7 team won all their games to qualify for the finals but were unable to attend due to Trips Day.

### U15

Sharon Koshy, Ellie Beggs, Melody Mak, Charlie Dickinson, Corinna Milroy

### U13

Jessie Dickinson, Ellie Darby, Beth Leader, Louise Davis, Lara Rimmer, Michelle Ariss, Brogan Moss, Alice Haughan

### Year 10 team

Kaya Melia, Siobahn Christian, Melanie Foo, Charlie Benbow, Rebekah Carney, Hayley Conboy, Chloe McDonald, Mary Williams, Holly Railes, Wini Garr, Katie Dean and Beth Chan

Year 10 won all their games to qualify for the finals but were also unable to play due to Trips day.

*Miss Cornwall*

# Athletics at Blue Coat

The Blue Coat School has a history of producing a lot of great sportspeople and athletics in particular tends to produce many good competitors. Our school has success on the local level at district and city championships but also at regional and national level.

There was a strong Blue Coat team at the central schools district championships at Wavertree. Competing against other local secondary schools, our boys and girls from year 7 to 10 battled well and finished with a respectable school position as well as some great individual placings. This qualified us for the city championships where again, many of our students ran, jumped and threw extremely well.

Possibly our most successful athlete this year was Harry Harper; he represented the school on a blustery day in the Merseyside School's Athletics Championships and against a competitive field he ran strongly to win the race in a sprint finish with a Wirral pupil. This then qualified Harry to run in July of this year, representing the County,

competing at the Sainsbury's English Schools Athletics Championships in Gateshead. After a solid performance in his heat he comfortably made the final and performed superbly to finish in 7th place in a personal best time of 4:00.57.

There are other Blue Coat boys with excellent talent who have performed well this past year; Michael Sweeney, a high jumper, has had a very successful season on the local scene and so has sprinter Alex Hooley, distance runners Laurie Luscombe and Craig Gundersen and steeplechaser Paul Galgey.

With school sports day being a big success with a lot of potential on show, hopefully there will be boys and girls from this school who will go on to further success at either local school level on the regional or national stage.

*Craig Gundersen U6A2*

# Staff Football Match vs Calderstones

In an extraordinary role reversal, 11 members of staff at the Blue Coat School put on their football kit and took to the playing fields to battle against the staff of Calderstones Secondary School in a football match at the start of this school year.

The team consisted of the likes of Mr Ainsworth, Mr Frost, Mr Gettle and Mr Pearson but there was also a return for former teacher Mr Boardman who left us last year. He visibly inspired his compatriots and left a memorable mark in the minds of those who watched with a good left-footed goal. This goal was not enough though as, despite a strong and committed effort from the whole team, they were narrowly defeated by a Calderstones that may have been lacking in the spirit and togetherness of Blue Coat but were superior in natural footballing

ability. The 2-1 score line did not tell the whole story, though, and most would agree that a draw would have been a fair result.

The game was generously refereed by upper 6th student Ian Dixon who was strict but fair and had an overall good performance regardless of some minor errors. Ian was impressed and surprised by the standard of both sides and so was spectator Paul Galgey: "I knew we would lose but we battled well and put up a respectable performance."

This unusual entertainment was enjoyed by all but especially by the staff who took part in the match; hopefully though, next year will bring an opportunity for revenge for our beaten heroes.

# U13 Basketball USA Trip Jan 2007



## U13 Basketball

The year eight boys basketball team have been very successful since it began back in year 7. The squad consists of 11 players: Nelson Idama, Matthew Gunson, Michael McNulty, Peter Robinson, Theo Jackson, Jamie Walsh, James Rhodes, Andrew Beggs, Shakeel Idowu-Alleyne, Aiden Riley and Grant Helm.

The basketball team reached the semi-final of the Liverpool Cup, after being beaten by the local rivals, Childwall, who later on won the cup. We have done much travelling through our one and a half year

span, visiting Manchester, Birkdale, London and finally New Jersey. Whilst in New Jersey, we visited New York and Philadelphia. We played in schools such as Wallkill Valley, High Point, Timber Creek and the "best" team in New York, Riverside Church.

In my opinion Mr Rees, our coach, has put a tremendous amount of work and effort into our basketball team.

*Michael McNulty (8GR)*

## U14 Basketball

Daniel "Robbo" Roberts (Captain), James "Top United Fan" Platt, Jack "Destroyer" Stanton, Luke "Discriminated" Williams, Jo "EFC" Verdin, Shaun "Gentle" Rigby, Ben "Crazy Horse" Kelly, Alex Edwards, Silviu Paraoan, James Rhodes, Matthew Gunson and Andrew Beggs.

Last year finished disappointingly losing by 6 points to S.M.A

(when we were missing Big Luke and Robbo was injured at the start of the fourth quarter, added to some very biased refereeing!) The sight of the delirious celebrations by S.M.A at beating Blue Coat will be motivation enough to reclaim the Liverpool Cup this year. At the time of going to press we are due to play Shenfield (Essex) in the last 16 of the Nationals.

# U19 Basketball

Joe Gaynor (C)  
 Ryan Beeley (Vice C)  
 Drew Marsh  
 Michael Sweeney  
 Magnus Rannala  
 Daniel Idama  
 Matthew Saxton  
 Jack Bedford

This season was always going to be a tough one, with the news that we had been grouped with our two main rivals: Ellesmere Port and Helsby, in the English schools competition. Our first game was at home to Ellesmere. We knew that it was important to get off to a good start, but with Ellesmere being boosted by the fact that their star player had returned from the States, it was not going to be easy.

We started the match poorly and, with our important players under-performing, we went into half time down by 23. The second half, however, was a different story. We got in amongst the opposition early on in the third quarter and, thanks to valuable scoring from Drew Marsh and Joe Gaynor and 24 second half points from myself, we ended up winning the game by 5.

We then had to go to Ellesmere Port for our second game, knowing that a win would virtually guarantee our progression into the next round of the competition. Again we started poorly, and early in the first

quarter I injured my ankle and couldn't carry on. This disrupted the team seriously, and we lost the game by a comfortable 29 points.

My injury turned out to be quite a serious one and it put me out of action for four months. The team would now have to beat Helsby twice in order to progress. The fact that I was unavailable for both of these games made the task even more difficult, as I usually top score. We unluckily lost both Helsby games and were knocked out of the competition. Hopefully, next year, with a bit more luck, we can go further in the competition that we are so desperate to win.

*Ryan Beeley L6Sc2*

## From The Manager

An unfortunate injury to Ryan Beeley was to cost us the chance of getting out of the North West area in the National Finals. Drawn in a pool with Helsby and Ellesmere Port it represented the three teams who finished in the top 4 nationally at U16 in 2006. We beat Ellesmere Port by 5 points in the opening game, having been 25 points down at half time. In the return fixture Ryan Beeley was injured in the opening minutes and was to play no further part in the pool games. Needing to beat Helsby in the last game, we lost narrowly. At the time of going to press we were awaiting to find out who we would play in the Liverpool final. Good luck to JoE Gaynor who leaves this year and we wish him all the best at University.

# U12 Football

Lee Smith (Captain), Matthew Hodgkinson, Matthew Shore, Jo Moorcroft-Moran, Callum Taylor, Jo Hunt, Mark Smyth, Jame Mackreth, Sam Batterton, Robert Fiske, Danny, Edward Lynch, John Ogundele, Harry Bleasdale, Mark Sung and Adam Gaffney

**Team Manager** - P. Phelan

A promising start to life at The Blue Coat by this young team. The only defeats were in the opening game at S.M.A and a Merseyside Cup replay at Birkdale (4-3), a game we should have won! Other than that the boys have entertained and played some great football. Thanks to all the parents who have supported the team to date.

# U13 Football

Life can be hard playing for the year eight football team sometimes. We only have three ex-academy players and not one actual academy player. However, games and results have been getting slightly better. Throughout the whole of last season, we only managed to win two competitive games and got knocked out of the cup in the second round, which is slightly embarrassing. However, we have started to get a bit of good luck this season. We had been managed by Mr Boardman last year, and due to his departure, we acquired a new manager in Mr Adamson, who has changed the team around.

This season, we have won a total of five games, more than double the number of games we won last year, which we should be pleased with, but we were disappointed in the cup yet again. This year, we did not even manage to get past the first round. We were knocked out by De La Salle, who we had beaten in the leaguer the week before our cup exit.

However, we need to forget about the past and concentrate on winning games in the future.

*Jamie Walsh (8GR)*

# U14 Football

Alex Edwards (GK), James McGowan, Andrew Brearton, Daniel Roberts, Jack Stanton, Craig Morrow, James Platt (Captain), Matthew Benton, Sean Furlong, James Power, Luke Williams and Joe Verdin

*Also played:* Matthew Gunson (Yr 8), Nelson Idama (Yr 8), Aidan Riley (Yr 8)

**Team Manager** – Mr “Slimming World” Ainsworth

After the depths of the Boardman Era this team has finally turned the corner and is no longer a “banker” for the other schools in the city. Driven by Ainsy and Clarky the boys have reached the Liverpool Cup Quarter Finals where they face Cardinal Heenan. The future looks bright!

# U16 Football

Harris Edwards (Captain), Matthew Saxton, Michael Daly, Daniel Bruce, Josh Batterton, Andrew Tomlinson, Magnus Rannala, Scully, Gregg Stuart, James Blackburn, Tim Haggis, Phil Murphy, Nick Ford and Daniel Idama

**Team Manager** - P. Phelan

We lost in the Merseyside Cup to the Liverpool Academy 3-2, the highlight being the spectacular goal by Gregg Stuart. In the Liverpool cup we are due to play S.M.A. Hopefully we will continue our unbeaten run against S.M.A and progress into the Quarter Finals.



*Michael Orland*

## Winners of The Peter Arnold Craft Prize for Creative Writing 2006

### Key Stage 3

#### Garry Wilson

What is Love?  
I hear you say.  
Love can take many forms  
All of them unique.  
Love surges through your veins  
Beginning as a rivulet,  
Cascading through your body  
Eventually reaching a bottomless sea of emotions  
Deep in your heart.  
Though love

May not be tangible to  
Sight, or taste,  
But it is felt by all inside.  
The battered stereotypes  
Of roses, chocolates and sloppy films  
Do not replicate or excite,  
Or ignite  
The feeling of true, true love.

### Key Stage 4

#### Amy Hawkens

In the land of forgotten things  
There lived a fair haired boy  
Who painted the skies  
And sang to the moon  
All with lachrymose glee.

Some days, he was kind  
And he taught people how to care for one another  
But on other days, he was cruel  
- did it matter if he was hurtful?  
To hurt was to feel; to feel was to live.

Wild, gentle blue eyes inspired  
Tenderness and fury,  
Skipping with joy  
And crying with rage -  
He smiled when he was happy and smiled when  
he was sad

And the people could not do without him  
Much as they hated depending on him.  
His volable nature favoured some  
And isolated others  
But, they all knew, the reason why lay inside them.

And this ambivalent boy  
With his cruel kindness,  
Was often found hand in hand  
With his complement and his contrast:  
The black haired Hate, and him, Love.

### Key Stage 5

#### David Sheehan

Silence. The sweet, gentle sound of nothing  
It oozes over everything, and then  
Lingering, it waits to be broken, by  
The beautiful flavour of your words.

Darkness. The delirious feeling of  
Sightlessness, with which I mask my world. Yet,  
Strangely, you remain, calm. A dancing flame  
Scintillatingly lighting up my life.

Redolence. Polluted lives with an odour  
That suffocates my soul. But you stay pure.  
Undefeated, the aroma of your  
Beauty engulfs my senses. Heavenly.

Insensate. A bitter winter breeze blows  
Gratingly, through the weeds. But there you stand  
A lone orchid, unwavering in the  
Cold and filling me with alluring warmth.

Inspid. These unsavoury words just  
Restrain my feelings. Above, endless sky.  
The delicate clouds and the eternal blue  
I close my eyes, and feel your tender kiss.

Infatuation. This intense feeling,  
It shrouds my senses, yet makes them more clear.  
And when they're stripped away, all that's left, is  
Love.

## Rain

The feeling is one of rebirth. A tempest reflecting that inner turbulence torments me every day. Rain falling from the sky washes my problems away. A smell of wet earth, moist soil that was once thirsty for water: I thirst for tranquillity amidst this chaos.

Strange how one brief moment of turmoil results in something as beautiful as the sight of water-laden flowers with moisture dripping off their petals with the silent delicacy of an angel's breath. How sweet, the scent of overjoyed grass, freshly cleansed by a purifying wind...

The rushing wind, howling in its angry despondency, the raindrops drumming their maddening rage on the ground like some primeval drummer...now a mere memory. And as the sun breaks amongst the clouds, its warmth shining straight onto a new world, even the earthworms feel joy, accompanied by the jovial fluttering of butterfly wings.

And then, as I walk under a tree and breathe in the humid, earthy smell, I feel a raindrop plop gently onto my head, feel it trickle through my hair until it reaches my scalp, and feel its cool warmth winding its way through my hair roots like some embrace. Finally, it finds its way and rolls down my face to drop into freedom.

Mohammed Ali  
L653

## A Park in the Rain

The bright sun glows, warming up this derelict park. I don't know who the last visitor was, but judging from the umbrella floating in the pond it was probably an elderly man. The umbrella is dark, but nevertheless easy to distinguish from the pond, overgrown and dank.

The smell is a vast improvement on the view, since the fresh drops are covering the area, but the advantage of the gushing wind is that the chocolate factory on the modern side of the village can be smelt from where I'm standing. The rich, indulgent aroma of dark and creamy chocolate more than compensates for the less than satisfactory weather.

By now the rain has increased dramatically and it feels like an army of miniature soldiers are landing on my head, and even when I wear my stale, navy blue anorak, a few less capable or possibly mischievous soldiers are landing on my nose or hands. I shut my eyes to avoid the troops and my eyes become more attentive and increasingly alert. I can hear the noise of the cars rushing past. They've probably never visited the park, probably too high profile, too important, and so they probably never will.

Zoë Bond  
10 Bingham

## Rain

I stood at the pond, staring out at the beautiful view. My eyes scanned the pond, following every ripple of water that the wind had created. I could feel the gentle rain falling slowly but surely, disturbing the calm surface of the pond. As the wind built up in strength it began to torment the trees, and shafts of golden sunlight cast long shadows on the nourished grass. The leaves began to ride the wind, rising up towards the solemn clouds and then suddenly dropping into the pond below. When it hit the water, the scarcely visible fish swam in terror, darting down into the murky depths of the water. Now I looked up at the trees. They seemed to be swaying to a rhythm, dancing with the wind to nature's waltz. I could smell a fresh scent from the saturated grass and I could feel a tickling sensation as my skin absorbed the rainwater. A relaxing noise was coming from the pebbled shore as the water charged up the bank and then ran back among the stones. Already a moist atmosphere had been created and I could taste the moisture in the air in one single breath.

Thomas Hessom  
7 Bingham

## The park in the Rain

It was like a surreal dream, I seemed to be floating, not walking, just floating about from one thing to another. The park glimmered. It had a life of its own. The steep sloping hills stood still, pretending they were going to fall down any second. The wind whispered, it whispered words, soothing words. The morning dew splashed silently as a jogger flew past without a care in the world. Dogs barked excitedly as they followed a few raindrops. Little taps on your head, tapping you and reminding you that the glorious weather won't last for ever. The quiet chattering increased as more people entered the park that morning. The leaves on the trees swayed softly in the cool breeze, occasionally breaking off and floating onto the soft grass. Children ran screaming down the hill, screaming but smiling as their little feet pattered against the ground.

A squirrel ran past with its bushy tail shaking, most likely thinking about our nuts without the burden or complexity of human thoughts, wishes, dreams and sadness. It would not last forever, this glorious weather, but I could enjoy it while it did.

Luke Mintz  
7 Bingham

I sit, a cocoon in the dark  
A thick sheet wrap from head to toe  
The steady throb of light  
Squares before my eyes  
Holding the shiny black form  
Between my palms  
Silence  
Apart from a steady 'tap' on the control.

I pull my shell closer, tighter  
Ears alert to the sounds outside  
My door and footsteps on the landing.  
An uneasy shift as the mind flickers  
And the steady taps become rapid  
A red ache bleeds  
Moments later from the screen  
And I utter a silent curse.

A click and a light fades  
Then a second  
My shell, now shed  
Flung hastily on the bed.  
I dive on, curl up  
Polar bear in arm  
And my last thoughts:  
"I'll beat him tomorrow."

Jade Slocombe  
11 Shirley

## Bonfire Night

Colours bloom in the dark sky,  
Bringing flashes of green light  
The evening no longer black nor lonely  
Sparkles fill up everyone's night.

Once so peaceful, now loud with bangs  
Catherine wheels whiz. Rockets explode.  
The deafening noise wakes the night  
Like a spell the fireworks take over.

Crackling, smokey, blazing bonfire  
Orange flames towering high  
Intense heat radiates though the road  
Then rises to be cooled by the midnight sky.

Holly Railes  
11 Shirley

## I Sit and See

I sit and see the land around me,  
I sit and see the different people,  
I sit and see the different traditions,  
I sit and see the different religions.

I sit and taste the different food,  
I sit and hear the different music.  
I sit and smell the different scents,  
I sit and touch the different textures.

I get up and wonder what would happen.  
What would happen if we were all the same?  
If we were all the same and nothing was  
different?  
If nothing was different, would I sit and see?  
Would I sit and see the land around me?

Anonymous

## Monsoon Season

"Grandmother", the young girl said. "Tell me a story!"

The grandmother sighed. "Very well." Then she smiled. "I will tell you my favourite story from when I was a girl, which my grandmother told me, passed down for generations.. Listen well - it is our family's history. If you ever forget, don't worry - sometimes the monsoon's winds will sing it softly to you, if you listen."

\* \* \* \* \*

Heavy clouds stirred, and one drop of rain fell and hit the ground, still cooling from the lazy summer ambling over the horizon. It sunk into the dry earth, soothing its cracks and yielding a little comfort, a little life. The sky darkened, and the jealous storm prevented the sun from seeing the earth out of spite. Too long have you reigned, the storm told the sun, and left me forgotten. A faint whisper stole around the village, and all was silent.

One raindrop was all she needed to see; it was a signal, the herald of the monsoon season. She loved the monsoon season, even though all about her panicked and prayed for protection. Do not let the floods take my family or my home!, she had heard her mother sob, kneeling before miniature idols. Rahini had always thought it pointless. Gods were powerless against nature in all its might; the wonder of the divine was no match for the majesty of the floods and rainfall.

She watched as the slate tones of the early evening washed over the village, deepened by the incumbent monsoon's thick clouds. Perhaps they were made of smoke, risen up from the burned land. The hot, languid summer had nurtured the fat insects and scorched the ground, and the insects buzzed listlessly at everything that moved. Ripe mangoes hung swollen on trees, straining the branches. Flies swarmed the trees, cloistering the mangoes and chewing them, scarring them. The flies did not recognise the warnings the sky was giving them, and they remained by the fruit. They were doomed, but in their reckless bliss they were unaware of their fate. Such bliss fooled them.

The winds came, then. A sudden howl tore through the silence, squealing and wailing; razor-sharp whistles pierced the uneasy peace and gave voice to the storm's spirit. The mango trees were stripped of their insect tenants, bare and unfettered in the wake of the tempest. Follow, the winds cried, sweeping everything they could along with them. She heard, she heard - Rahini was outside. There, as she stood, the clouds parted and the veil descended; water fell in little diamond pieces that the wind snatched and blasted like they were worthless.

The monsoon had arrived. The lifegiver, the destroyer - Earth cried out in joy and in sorrow.

I am burned; heal me.

Proud Sun came crashing down from his pedestal; water flowed once more. Plants everywhere began to dance with the rain, shuddering in delight, and the winds cooled the baked lands, singing a banshee's song as they went. They tore down the hot season's monuments, paving the way for the true Indian summer, cold and beautiful. In the vacuous absence of sentience, the world rejoiced. There was no need for reason here. Rahini was as the storm: wild and free, restrained no more.

Here was where she could truly forget everything. She wasn't Rahini any longer, quiet and resigned - she was something else, something much more primal - but not savage. She had simply discarded the conditioned parts of her being, the imprinted mind, and let them loose to fly through the wind, whipped about like ribbons. Little ribbons which fluttered into an open window, where he was waiting.

He watched her standing there, small and indistinct, dark hair rising like a flame in the wind. Madness, they said, it can only be madness. He didn't know who they were talking about - himself, or her - but he didn't much care. He reached out, fingers leaving silver trails in the windswept veil, and caught something - a little ribbon, woven from grief. He held his hand closed for a minute or two, before leaping out of the open window and finding his way through the ghost-white rainfall, the heart requiring no map.

He ran, winds not slowing him, until he stood before her. She turned to him, looking something like a rain spirit herself, and peered at him through wet eyelashes. She spoke no word, but something in her breath curling in the cold air - or perhaps it was the rain sparkling in her hair - made him understand. It was a startling feeling, to suddenly be aware. Realisation flooded through him like the burst rivers of the monsoon, and he felt both happy and guilty at once. He could vaguely hear his mother chanting disapproval in the back of his mind, but he didn't care. Bride prices - dowries - what were they to him? To her? What were his family's plans, when he stood here before her?

They had said that she would destroy his world; that she would be the end of him. He had hesitated, and like a fool obeyed their commands. He had been afraid that there was truth in their words, even though in his heart he knew there was none.

But now, he understood. She was a world in her own, a perfect microcosm yet to be discovered. One world for another - and perhaps one without oppression, without threats made with sari silk that was sharp as a blade.

Follow, the winds cried to anyone who would listen.

The rain continued to fall; the winds screamed in laughter, scattering cascades of petals where they flew. Trees danced, and rivers rushed forward in proud defiance. It was nature's will - by the time the open window was discovered, and a bedroom left empty, it was too late. They were long gone.

Amy Hawkens 11SH

## Poetry inspired by Benjamin Zephania's 'City Friend's Advice'

### A Player's Advice

Beware of the chipshot  
And beware of the cross  
Beware of the nutmeg  
As it could be your loss  
Beware of those who have lots  
of pace  
Ever in your half  
Stay on the case.

Beware of the striders  
Who shoot at goal  
Beware of the shot  
As it sails past the pole.  
Beware of the defender  
As he starts to tackle  
Beware  
In extra time  
The goalward battle.

Beware of the volley  
As it powers past  
Try to save it:  
Or is it too fast?  
Beware of yourself  
And you do not know me  
I hope you win  
But we shall see.

Benji Stanley 8BL

### Liverpool Fan's Advice

Beware when you tread  
Fields of Anfield Road  
Great scenes of terror  
It can behold  
Take care of your children  
Take care of your wife  
Take care of your brothers  
Take care of your life.

Beware of the replica  
Shirt sales outside  
They could all be fake  
And it will dent your pride  
Beware of the cheering  
And hell of the crowd  
Beware  
Gerrard's strikes  
Can make fans overproud.

Beware of the Mancs  
And beware of the pies  
Beware of fake tickets  
Beware of the lies.  
At the end of the day  
When all work is done  
Drive home very safely  
And don't spoil your fun.

M. Allen 8Sh

## Shopping Friend's Advice

Beware of the muggers  
For they are very bad  
Beware of the sellers  
They will drive you mad.  
Beware of temptations  
They are the wrong choice  
Beware: in your mind  
Of that little annoying voice.

Beware of the beggars  
They won't leave you alone  
Beware of the prices  
They aren't always as shown.  
Beware of security  
Sometimes they're wrong  
Try to be quick  
And not too long.

Beware of the cameras  
Sometimes they're against you  
Beware of the toilets  
They're disgusting too.  
Beware of everyone  
Even including me  
And just be careful  
On your 'little' shopping spree.

Jack Marshall 8BL

## School Friend's Advice

Beware of the snarls  
And beware of the grins  
Beware of the giggles  
And beware of the bins  
Beware of all those  
Who give you sly looks  
Even those  
Who live in books.

Beware of the bull  
For he is quite tough  
Beware of the girls  
Who go 'woof woof'.  
Beware of all food  
That may fall on the floor  
Beware  
You may be laughed at  
By one and all.

Beware of the teachers  
For they want you in  
Don't get a detention  
Because of your din.  
Beware of yourself  
If you don't know you  
You'll forget your friends  
And it'll be only you.

Carlos Walker-Ravina 8Sh

## School Friend's Advice

Beware of the teachers  
And beware of the kids  
Beware of the homework  
Revise for your mids.  
Beware of the dinners  
Beware of the Head  
Cameras all over  
Best watch what's being said.

Beware of the bullies  
Beware of the lies  
Beware of the rumours  
Don't whimper small cries  
Beware of the exams  
That torment your mind  
Beware of the planner  
That hasn't been signed.

Beware of the sports teams  
Will you be picked?  
Watch out in football  
Or you will get kicked  
Beware of the trips  
Beware of the rules  
Beware of school life  
Don't act like fools.

Anonymous

## School Friend's Advice

Beware of the food  
Oh, beware of those leaks!  
Beware of those books  
And beware of the geeks.  
Beware of all those  
Who do homework on time  
And take care with the poems  
That don't even rhyme!

Beware of the cupboards  
That may store teacher's files  
Oh beware of cross country  
And running for miles.  
Beware of the puns  
That are in the wrong place.  
Beware:  
On your page could be  
grammatical waste!

Beware of the rulers  
That aren't good to fling;  
Beware of the prefects  
Whose angry words sting!  
Oh, beware of reports  
That may say you are bad  
But most of all...  
Please beware of those spellings  
That make teachers mad!

Katy Sayer 8h

## Shopping Friend's Advice

Beware of the offers  
That may seem quite sunny  
Beware of the muggers  
That could take your money.  
Beware of the bargains  
That may seem good  
For all those numbers  
Could be misunderstood.

Beware of the checkout  
And beware of the tills  
Because you could end up  
With a handful of bills.  
Beware of the prices  
That seem very low  
Beware  
As they could be  
Quite high, you know.

Beware of the sales  
All those clothes on a rack  
People all pushing  
In a crowded pack  
Beware of everyone  
When you go out to shop  
But enjoy yourself  
Just know when to stop.

Emily Whitaker 8Sh

## School Friend's Advice

Beware of the journey  
It could give you a scare  
Be cautious of the driver  
He may go anywhere.  
Beware if you're walking  
Beware of the lanes  
The cars may come hurtling  
And cause you great pain.

Beware of the playground  
Footballs flying around  
The skitting, the insults  
Or being pushed to the ground.  
Beware of the teacher  
She may seem quite fun  
But after a while  
Her friendliness is gone.

Beware as you leave  
Look after your neck  
Criminals are lurking  
So make sure you check.  
At home you are safe  
From deceit and all lies  
But if someone has stalked you  
They could spark your demise.

Jonathan Woodward 8BL

## Nintendo Fan's Advice

Rejoice for the Wii  
And say your farewell  
To your fair Gamecube  
For it has served you well.  
Bring on the Goombas  
I say and rejoice  
As Mario stomps on each one  
They give you no choice!

Hear the clash of sword  
And think of a shield  
As you strike Gannon down  
Mighty weapons you wield  
Ride forth as link  
On fair Hypona's back  
Once more Hyrale Castle  
Is safe from attack.

Down in the caverns  
Of Zebes lies your fight  
With missiles and bombs  
Great enemies you'll smite  
Great tests you will face  
And great powers you'll gain  
On Samuses' Quest  
To defeat Mother Brain.

By Poltergeist

## Travelling Friend's Advice

Beware of the countries  
Who speak different tongues  
Beware of the pollution  
Which can harm your lungs.  
Beware of the airports  
And their delays  
Beware  
Your luggage may get  
Lost in the maze.

Beware of the reps  
They can smile too much  
Beware of the people  
From the Welsh to the Dutch.  
Beware of the pool -  
It's not as clean as you think  
Beware of the bar  
And especially your drink.

Beware of your hotel-  
Did you book early enough?  
I know getting that room  
Was quite tough.  
Beware of travelling  
You've rolled your dice  
As this is some  
Travelling Friend's Advice.

Charlotte Quinn 9Sh

## Video Gamer's Advice

Dodge all the enemies  
Get the best cars to drive  
Get the high score  
And keep all your lives.  
Beware of those  
That may steal your coins  
And in later levels  
Kill all that makes noise.

Beware of the Chain-Chomps  
For they are highly trained  
Beware of the Covenant  
For they are not tamed.  
Beware of all space ships  
That fly above you  
Beware  
From above they all shoot  
Lasers at you.

With enemies like Cackletta  
(Who stole Pirdo's voice).  
If you want to complete it  
You'll have no choice.  
From drinking living coke  
To having great enemies to rend  
You will have to keep on  
fighting  
If you want to reach the end.

Anonymous

## Dog Owner's Advice

Beware of the dogs  
And beware of the fun  
Beware of the parks  
And make sure they don't run.  
Beware of the cats  
Beware of the mud  
Don't think they won't splash  
you  
They definitely would.

Beware of the mess  
Beware of the bark  
Keep your dog quiet  
Your neighbour might nark.  
Beware of the meals  
The roast dinners and lamb  
One day he'll scavenge  
Your chicken and ham.

Beware of the vets  
Your dog may get fleas  
But once he's treated  
You're sure to be pleased.  
At the end of the day  
Your dog's sure to be  
Your best friend for life  
Part of your family!

Megan Welsh 8BL

## Birthday Girl's Advice

Beware of the presents  
They may contain socks  
Beware of the brothers  
They may give you rocks.  
Beware of your nan  
She may give you hugs  
Beware of the cousin  
He may give you bugs.

Beware of the cards  
They may contain jokes  
Beware of the smiles  
They may be a hoax.  
Beware of the candles  
That sit on the cake  
Beware of the cash  
For it might be fake.

Beware of the singing  
That rings in your ears.  
Beware of the photos  
They'll haunt you for years.  
Beware of yourself  
Don't try to run.  
Stay nice and calm  
And enjoy the fun.

Hollie Ackers 8BL



*Amy Hawkens, runner-up in the Athenaeum Writer in Residence Award*

I get the bus from home at dawn,  
 Just to get to school in the morn,  
 Up the ramp and  
 Down the steps,  
 All so I can get to the lesson I have next.

I head to the locker to get my books.  
 As they all fall out, everyone looks.  
 From the locker they tumble  
 To the floor with a rumble.  
 "What a dreadful start to the day," I add with a  
 mumble.

"Finally it's lunch time,"  
 I think as the dinner bell gives a chime.  
 I queue up outside  
 Behind the rest of the pupils I hide.  
 I see a student get sent to the back as he cried.

It seems 5 minutes since the end of dinner,  
 But the end of the day is oh so near.  
 I watch the clock,  
 Tick tock tick tock tick tock.  
 Finally the end comes so fast, I barely have time  
 to write my last full stop.

Heather Stock  
 11 Blundell

## Culture at Home

You're always confused when you have two  
 cultures to choose from.  
 When your Mum's bringing you up as a  
 Liverpudlian and  
 When your Dad's bringing you up as a Yorkshire  
 man.  
 Then when you try to have a coherent sentence  
 Well...  
 All hell breaks loose.

"Ya alrite ma, I ad a sound day today"

"Ey dad ave I gotten a football match this  
 satday?"

Then dinner comes along with the futile  
 arguments.

"Arrr, come on can't we jus geta chippy lyk?"

"Wha, are you takin miky? No Yorkshire puds at  
 dinner time?"

Well I guess I just gotta accept it.  
 I'm a Yorkshirepudlian

Matthew Saxton, 11Sh

## Tradition

Every Sunday.  
 5:00pm  
 My Grandma's House.  
 It's our tradition, always has been.  
 We settle down and eat and talk, just like that  
 aaa...ah Bisto advert.  
 All the family gather round.  
 Sometimes we do the Pub Quiz from the Daily  
 Express; Grandma is the quiz mistress. Most  
 of the time I don't know the answers; I  
 suppose you need experience for that sort of  
 thing.  
 Experience, that's a funny thing, goes hand in  
 hand with Tradition.  
 Both are dependent on each other. It's a  
 shame they can fade away...  
 Old people die, modern life pushes ceremony  
 aside and all we have are our memories.  
 Soon enough even my traditions will fade away.  
 Soon enough,  
 Every Sunday,  
 5:00pm,  
 My Grandma's House,  
 will be gone,  
 no longer Tradition.  
 Holly Boyes 11 Sh

# Post Mortem....

With a somewhat exponential increase in meetings this year (not in proportion to productivity), the Squirrel powered ahead with a level of monitoring unheard of in the school, except in the Sixth Form Common Room. The new Squirrel format, crafted like an Ofsted lesson, continues this year. Special thanks must go to the punctual handing in of articles by the PE Department, who sadly, despite their efforts, could not find their way into a position closer to the front of the magazine.

Once again the Editorial team has exhausted itself with grammatical editing, though some semantic editing has proved necessary with recent comments by certain members of staff being too abstract for the consumption of the general public; an excellent example of this erudite learning is this recent comment: "10 miles from Glasgow to Aberdeen? What were you going by? Plane?" Surprisingly then communication has rarely proved to be a problem with members of staff (generally because we've avoided them).

The Squirrel cum Careers office has predictably remained abandoned owing to a general fear of what lurks within (reports of what can only be described as ape noises are commonly passed on by residents of the Prefect Office and frequenters of the Library).

Thanks must go to Mrs Ludlow for her constant notices, reminders and meetings, which ensured that we all knew how much of a struggle it was going to be when we decided to finish our tasks a week before the deadline. Apologies to her for the occasional crises and the failure to acknowledge the existence of deadlines. Finally here is the Editorial Team in its entirety:

**James Taylor**

A master of delegation who, despite being in charge of interviews and farewells, managed to interview no-one. With such skills and a strange taste for those triangular hospitality sandwiches, he is currently searching for a high-powered job in politics or the public sector. Suggestions on a postcard.

**Liam O'Brien**

Our thoughts are with his family at this difficult time as the pressure of avoiding deadlines, notices, e-mails, meetings and most tasks almost forced Liam into a nervous breakdown; sadly, the outstanding work he then discovered in his inbox caused a nervous breakdown.

**Craig Gundersen**

Our stalwart correspondent in the PE department who went hence only a few days ago to demand the final outstanding articles.....word has not yet reached my ear of his fate....

**Ashley Gavin**

Currently battling away to complete that Music Report with copious supplies of coffee.

**Nick Miller**

The phantom of the group who shimmered in and out of meetings, the only proof of his existence being the notes and work he left behind.

It remains necessary only to finish with a line from our favourite contribution of the past two years in the hope that this specific piper will pipe that song again:

"Back in da Hood, 'cos that's where it's at."

We wept with joy to hear.

## Word Search Solution

F	T	R	A	N	W	C	O	X	P	P	Y	N	S	K	G	Z	C
J	A	K	B	I	I	B	Q	F	D	A	W	I	N	K	C	L	T
T	E	E	T	P	M	T	B	F	S	S	A	O	M	X	R	O	I
A	G	A	I	D	W	I	R	U	Y	R	L	Y	E	I		W	Y
H	T	T	Q	S	J	M	X	A	S	E	U	T	V	U	G	M	D
R	U	I	O	E	Y	A	N	G	M	I	D	F	P	Q	H	B	I
L	A	N	B	T	O	E	V	C	A	U	L	K	I	N	T	D	O
W	X	A	Q	L	H	Q	A	B	L	F	O	H	M	A	O	V	S
A	N	G	D	M	U	G	I	T	O	X	W	G	N	S	N	S	R
A	C	O	O	K	B	X	I	K	I	B	Q	B	F	D	I	E	I
B	G	H	M	E	G	N	D	R	V	N	M	V	H	G	S	P	U
X	H	R	A	H	G	K	F	E	C	A	G	Y	O	H	I	M	M
V	U	A	X	N	E	P	G	L	L	N	E	Z	L	J	O	N	R
S	B	M	W	H	L	I	M	R	E	X	M	X	L	N	H	L	N
A	C	W	Y	O	A	P	H	I	R	I	A	D	A	M	O	F	O
R	I	V	Y	O	R	M	R	I	E	E	J	N	N	L	L	L	S
Q	A	M	E	O	R	T	H	L	G	H	C	A	D	T	E	D	T
T	I	T	T	E	R	S	H	I	L	L	T	J	B	Z	R	D	A
W	H	C	O	L	Q	K	F	T	G	M	N	M	E	O	K	W	W

- BLUNDELL
- BINGHAM
- SHIRLEY
- GRAHAM
- LUDLOW
- KEATING
- COOK
- HOLLAND
- TITTERSHILL
- CRIGHTON
- COX
- WATSON
- YORK
- CAULKIN
- LAMB

# **Blue Coat Parents' Association**

**Ged Jolliffe Chairman**

**Jim Williams Vice Chair**

**Kate Rosenthal Secretary**

**Sandra Connell Treasurer**

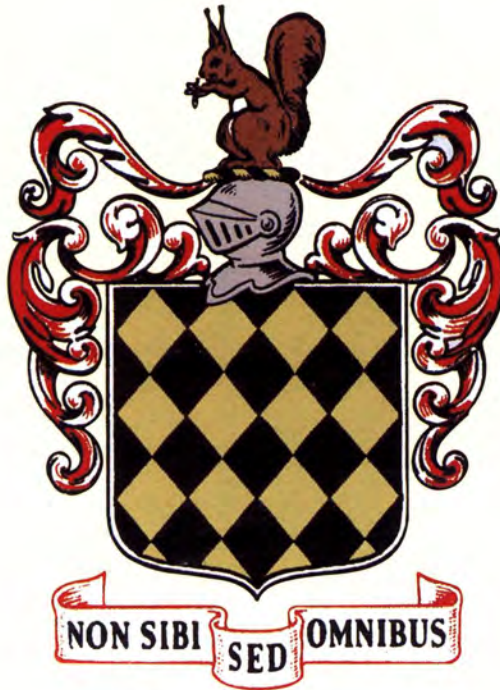
Our aim is to raise funds, have fun and allocate monies to the School and its variety of Clubs and associations.

The events we have each year include : Summer Fayre; Christmas Fayre; Murder Mystery; Multi-media Quiz and Race Night, to name but a few.

Please support us in our effort to raise funds by attending as many functions as you possibly can. We are always grateful for the many donations we receive, please be as generous as you can... money, bottles, books, gifts etc can be sent in at any time during the year. Cheques made payable to "Blue Coat School Parents' Association"; other gifts to be marked the same and sent to the School Office.

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

**Ged Jolliffe**  
*Chairman*



SQUIRREL 2006/07