

SQUIRREL

2004/2005



THE MAGAZINE OF THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL

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 contribution present in 2008. The Parents' Association has already contributed £2,008 and has promised to match this sum.

WE HOPE YOU

APPEAL

Please

for the

**THIS CAMPAIGN
TO BE LAUNCHED
SOON**

WE ARE,

, LEAST HALF A MILLION POUNDS

LIVERPOOL BLUE COAT SCHOOL



SQUIRREL

2004/05

Editor – Mrs K. Bennett

Editorial Team – Ben Bowman, David Fiske, Matthew Gibson, James McKenna, James Pope

The Magazine Committee acknowledges the contributions of:

Mr T. Kershaw, Mr A.R. Gleave, Mr K.G. Caulkin, Mr N. Barends, Mr P. Phelan,
Mr S. Shipgood, Mr N. Cowan, Mr E.J. Crighton, Mr M. Jolliffe, Mr M.G. Tittershill

The Art Department and the many students from Years 7-13
who have contributed to this magazine.

First published 2005 by The Blue Coat School
“Squirrel 2004/05” © Blue Coat School MMV
Designed and produced by Crown Printing, Liverpool
0151 494 9008

Contents

Editorial	3	Drama	
Headmasters Report	5	Romeo and Juliet	32
Avete	8	A Midsummer Night's Dream	33
Valete	9	Music	
		Music Report 2004-05	34
Pupil Achievements		Society Reports	
Entry into Higher Education	11	The Social Services Committee 2003-04	36
Prize List	13	Chess Club	36
Special Prizes	14	The Bridge Club 2004	37
Colour Awards and Distinctions	14	Art Club	38
Music Examinations	16	Craft Club	38
GCSE Results	17	Creative Writing Club	38
A/S Level Results	17	IT Club	39
A Level Results	18	Scripture Union	39
		Christian Union	39
School Events		Original Writing	
Winged Words	19	Poetry and Prose	40-46
Model United Nations	19	Puzzle Pages	47
Medlink 04	20	School Sports	
Springtime in Oxford	21	Sports Day	49
UK Lego Robotics Championships	22	Athletics	50
Year 7 Social	22	Cricket	51
British Physics Olympiad	23	Hockey	53
NAGTY 2004 Mission: Mars	23	Netball	54
School Trips		Football	55
Ludlow Castle Trip 2004	24	Basketball	59
France Trip	24	House Sports Results	59
Spain Trip 2004	25	Puzzle Page Answers	60
Year 7 Kingswood Trip 2004	26	Aftershock	60
Malham	26		
Helmshore Mill	27		
Gifted and Talented France Trip 2004	27		
Versailles, January 2005	28		
Mera	29		
Visit to Krakow and Auschwitz	30		
The Poland Exchange Trip	31		



Editorial

For Sale: one grammar school; several careful owners. No reserve

Ah, the modern world and its electronic objects of desire: flip-top phones with polyphonic ring tones and video streaming; Bluetooths (or is it teeth?) to nibble our ears. Then there are iPods and MP3 players with which to download Gilbert O'Sullivan's back catalogue. We enjoy a seemingly endless variety of up to date gadgetry. But soon our hard drives are full or we tire of our phone and become embarrassed by its size. No matter! We can launch our plaything into cyberspace and sell it on eBay. In fact, every item we might wish to trade has its category on this electronic auction site because, at heart, eBay is only a hi-tech way of conducting a very low-tech activity: it enables us to buy and sell, something we've been up to since Dick docked.

Founded by Pierre Omidyar in 1995 as a website to sell his broken laser printer, eBay quickly grew in popularity and now features nearly 200 million items put up for auction annually. The idea is simple. A seller takes a photo of the item for sale and posts it on the eBay website for a week or two. Prospective buyers bid on the item from their own computers until the auction ends and the successful purchaser is notified. Touchingly, in a world where trust is a rare commodity, eBay succeeds on plentiful supplies of that alone: we bid in the sure and certain hope that the pair of Jimmy Choos, the stuffed parrot or the real hair extensions will walk, wing or weave their way to our door from hundreds or even thousands of miles away. The Doubting Thomas can test a seller's moral rectitude by examining his star rating based on previous deals. Five out of five stars or four and a half – fine. But three? Caveat emptor! If the answer cannot be found in the stars then perhaps previous buyers' comments will be more illuminating

"AAAAAAA+++++ great ebayer!"

"Thanxxx! Highly recommended."

or, horror of horrors for a seller's e-reputation:

*"When the sieve arrived I found it was full of holes!
Where's my refund?"*

and...

"That piece of chewing gum you said was spat out by Daniel Bedingfield at his last gig was sooo FAKE! I have access to his dental records and I can tell you that a left molar is missing and..."

And so on.

None of this ethereal trading would raise much media interest were it not for the fact that eBay has taken our love of the bizarre to new heights – or widths if you have Broadband. We have always bargained and bartered the unusual: think of Jack's apparently misguided purchase of some magic beans; Shylock's demand for a pound of Antonio's flesh in payment of a debt; and Michael Henchard's auctioning of his wife and daughter in "The Mayor of Casterbridge". Now, however, our oddities are presented on shelves in the global shop. Over the last few years, eBay has hosted many notorious auctions about which the tabloids have marvelled and the broadsheets sneered. A piece of half-eaten French toast, chewed by Justin Timberlake, fetched \$3,154 (for charity) in 2000. Whole towns have been offered for sale: Bridgeville in California spent more than a year for sale on the website and finally "sold" for \$1.78 million. More recently, the country of Iraq has been offered for sale by an anonymous party with a starting price of just 99 cents. Bidding reached \$99 million before eBay terminated the auction.

An hour or two spent browsing the site at the time of writing in February 2005 turns up the following items for sale. (And before you complain about being made to feel sic, let me tell you that I have retained the spelling and phrasing of the original adverts.)

For the discerning collector of glass ornaments:

"hello there, this beautiful murano dolphin sadly his tail has broken off it can be glued if you want its such a shame, it still has the original sticker and would have made a super addition to any collection, if you position him right no one will see it, thanks for looking and have a great week."

Smog-bound city dwellers might enjoy:

"pure clean fresh air from the heart of the Cotswolds. Simply open the cap and breathe in, or open the top to let the unpolluted air filter into your room. Supplied in 3

litre containers. Bulk buyers please enquire cost per crate. Enjoy!"

Those intending to correspond with people they don't like might wish to buy:

"Elephant dung writing paper – doesn't smell honest!!"

Now, what would you use as ink? My own attempts to purchase a sailing dinghy resulted in the discovery of this desirable craft:

"The boat is in good condition except for the large hole some idiot put in it. All sails and equipment are present but buyers should note that the same fool has chopped the mast in half."

Elsewhere on eBay you can currently find a DFS sofa belonging to Damon Albarn, lead singer of the pop group, Blur. No bids yet received. Some bloke is trying to sell a pair of his girlfriend's unwashed socks and, if you wanted another skull to complement your own, there's one for sale with a starting price of £175. Elvis memorabilia is big business, particularly items that he once touched or was physically attached to in the case of this next item. Many people, it seems, want a piece of the King, even if that amounts to just bodily fluids:

"Scarf has been folded for 33 years in plastic to preserve it. One large sweat mark and ten smaller ones ...[and then a bit of provenance]... after grabbing the scarf some woman from the back came and grabbed the other side and the tug of war began. Elvis had to lower his head so that we wouldn't pull him off the stage. Security had to come over as it was a fight. They had to pry her fingers off and take her back to her seat. It was such a scene that he never came back to that side of the stage that night. But I got the scarf!" Starting price: \$15,000.

But once we have the skull, the socks, the town or the scarf will we really be happy? Do we really need any of it? Is our desire for many of these objects down to the simple fact that we always want what we do not have? Clearly, as one person empties his box room and takes digital photos of the heap of junk for display on the web, another similar individual is opening the door of his attic to receive it all. Psychologists talk of the burst of

adrenalin and endorphins that buying something on eBay provides. Because auctions are "won", success turns us, however briefly, into winners.

And, as I pointed out at the beginning of this editorial, everything has its place amongst the subdivided categories of eBay. So, what if under "businesses for sale", the Blue Coat School were to appear? The solid white fence cladding part of our building bears witness to the fact that a portion of what was once the Blue Coat School has already been sold – albeit by more traditional means. If, however, we were to post the remainder of this venerable school on eBay, what parts of it would we auction? Well, there is a ready market for old lockers, desks, chairs, books, computers and stationery. Then for the salvage market there are many surviving late Victorian features: the ornate plasterwork in the Shirley Hall or the fixtures and fittings from the chapel which would grace any wine bar. If fresh air can be sold then perhaps we ought to list our elusive ghost. During the weeks of the auction our excitement would intensify as, glued to the remaining screens in the I.C.T. suite, we watched the number of bids increase. What! £100 for a school sandwich? A fiver for the trophies in the foyer cabinet! Who'd have thought they could fetch so much! And when it was all over, the thrill of the sale would quickly pass. And what would we be left with? More, perhaps, than we might think. For it is not the physical possessions a school can boast that create its true essence. Instead it is the talent of the individuals within it that would attract the highest bidders - talent, the like of which you may read about in the pages of this edition of "The Squirrel": priceless abilities to scale the heights of academia; to excel at sport; or to delight with music and drama. Unlike the weighty mobile phone or crashed palm-pilot, there are no categories for talents like these on eBay. Yet, it is the ownership of these talents that brings enduring happiness and for which the individual will be remembered, not for the accumulation of things no matter how brightly they may shine on the computer screen.

Mr T Kershaw



Headmaster's Report

Prizegiving

Tuesday 14th December 2004

Lord Rennard, Lord Mayor, 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.

The last academic year has been one of the most successful and memorable in the school's long history. The highlights of the year were undoubtedly:-

1. The taking over of the new school building and its first class facilities.
2. Better external examination results overall than ever before
3. A good and rewarding third School Inspection
4. An outstanding year for School Music
5. A variety of exciting residential experiences and school trips
6. The continued development of School Drama and School Poetry and new sporting opportunities in a co-educational school.
7. Consultation and communication with the students of the school via the School Councils, Student Survey and Parental Survey

School Improvement was very definitely the theme of the HMI inspection last June. This inspection was a pilot of the new arrangements for inspection announced by Ofsted in the consultation paper of February 2004 and the Blue Coat School thus became one of the first secondary schools in England to experience such an inspection. The inspectors reported that

"The Blue Coat School is a good and improving school. Most students make good progress and their personal development is good. High standards are achieved through effective teaching and the very good attitudes and good behaviour of the vast majority of students. Some departments are doing a very good job. Students are safe and adequately cared for. The school's leadership and management are good: the school has been brought through a difficult period of change and disruption associated with a three year building programme. In that time the school has become co-educational and standards have continued to rise. Parents are pleased with the provision offered. The school provides good value for money."

There were five inspectors in school for a total of three days. On the fourth day the lead Inspector returned to school to present to me his final report. The speed and efficiency of the inspection was remarkable and it was also essentially free of hassle and stress. Overall we enjoyed the experience, and were pleased with the report and our relationship with the HMI team was built around trust and respect. I am, of course, mindful of all the hard work and commitment of colleagues and students, especially over the last three years, which brought us to this position of strength. There is nothing quite like leading a school through an inspection: it was absorbing,

challenging and testing, yet in the end immensely fulfilling and successful.

The inspectors referred to a difficult period of disruption during the building work. Looking back it is easy to minimise the problems. Last September the new building was not quite ready but, nonetheless, we moved in. There were some who supported a further delay but had we stayed put there is no knowing how long the contractors would have remained on site. As it was, however, the roofs leaked, we dodged the puddles, and the roofs leaked again. For the staff and students this was the first of three decantings and this really did test everyone's flexibility and tolerance. Amazingly, no teaching time was lost during any of this movement although the Design Technology department did have to wait several weeks before their accommodation was completed. It is easy to forget that it was another term before we took over C block and yet another before we moved into the West Wing. Indeed, our new playground only became available at Easter time. Overall, this was quite a year, and in terms of day to day management of the school, and given the lack of recreational areas throughout the winter terms, these were mightily challenging circumstances.

It is therefore quite miraculous that the school was able to do so well in the public examinations in the summer of 2004. At Advanced Level our results were particularly strong. The percentage of A and B grades rose from 56.5% in 2003 to 64.4% in 2004, a remarkable increase and one which lifts the school into a higher band in the league tables. Indeed, in the Sunday Times Newspaper the Blue Coat School is listed as the 101st school in the top 500 state schools in the United Kingdom. Additionally, our average UCAS points score per student has risen from 355 in 2002, to 373 in 2003 and now to 382 in 2004. This considerable improvement at Advanced Level has not come about by accident and I congratulate all my colleagues who have made a special contribution. My annual report from Dr. Kevin Conway, who produces value added data for all sixth forms in the Greater Merseyside area, tells me that in 2004 40% of all our A level teaching was outstanding or very good and a further 49% of teaching was between good and satisfactory. The top subjects at Advanced Level in 2004 were English Literature, History, Art, Biology, Chemistry and Geography. Other subjects which showed up well were Computing, Music, Physics, Psychology and Spanish.

Turning to Key Stage 3 I am delighted to report another record for our Year 9 students. In English the number of level 7 students has risen from 47 in 2002, to 77 in 2003 and now to 92 in 2004. In Maths we have 116 at level 7 and in Science 85 students at level 7. The school's work in Key Stage 3 is truly remarkable and the value added by the Blue Coat School from KS2 to KS3 is very high indeed. Again, I offer my special congratulations to all colleagues in English, Maths and Science for pulling off these excellent results.

Last year I spoke about my concern for the worrying trend in the rising number of B grades at GCSE level and this year I am pleased to report a significant shift. In 2003 grades A* plus A represented 42% of all our GCSE grades. This year grades A* plus A equalled 49%. This is a much better figure and our

aim for 2005 is to have at least 50% of all GCSE grades at A* or A. In 2004 some departments did really well at GCSE level and I am pleased to offer special praise to ICT, English language, History, Art, Music, Latin and Mathematics.

I am, of course, pleased to report so much academic success and so much participation in Higher Education and Oxbridge. This evening, of course, 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 Prizegivings 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 Evan Harris MP, Dr. Rodney Stables and Davide de Maestri and this year I am delighted to welcome Chris Rennard as our special guest. Chris was a Blue Coat boy between 1971 and 1978 and he is very well remembered for his intellectual skills and contributions, especially in his Advanced level Politics lessons and in the school's Debating Society.

It didn't matter very much what we were debating, it might have been the quality of paint or capital punishment in the UK, Chris would always end up even at the age of 17 with "The Liberal position is" I am delighted that Chris has kept in touch with the Blue Coat School and pleased that he is with us today as our special friend. Chris, it's no surprise to us that you have personally done so well and I extend to you the warmest of welcomes.

Last year the school's Musical Society had a string of outstanding successes. We began by hosting a Yamaha Concert in the Shirley Hall, there was a special St. Lukes concert at Sefton Parish Church, the usual Carol Service and Christmas Concert, followed by the Spring Concert, the Summer Recital and the Merseyside Young Singer of the Year Competition starring Michael Davies and Jane Shaw. The School Choir won three first places at the Liverpool Music Festival and the School Orchestra was also placed first. And in between and among all these items, the Director of Music and his team found time to present "The Sound of Music", and the Shirley Hall stage, rig and lighting were once again fully tested. The overall quality of this production was remarkably good and I do congratulate the actors, actresses, those behind the scenes, the members of the band as well as my colleagues who helped to make this musical such an exciting event. 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 quite breathtaking and I do thank the Director of Music, and his colleagues, for leading our young and talented musicians so very well.

In School Sport I am delighted to report that we still participate in a full programme of fixtures in both Association Football and Basketball and these extend from U12 to U19 level. I am also pleased to say that Blue Coat girls' teams compete regularly in Athletics, Hockey, Netball and Rounders whilst the boys are still able to play Cricket up to U15 level. Last year's most notable team success occurred in Basketball when our U14 team clinched third place in the National Final a fine achievement. Ryan Beeley was also selected to represent the England U14 team. In Association Football Craig Curran and Michael Deakin represented the Liverpool City U15 Team while James Hopkins and Mark Nicholson were chosen for the Merseyside County U19 team. Perhaps the most outstanding individual performance was that of Craig

Gunderson who was able to compete at National level in both Athletics and Cross Country. Again, many thanks to all my colleagues who assisted in any way in the development of Blue Coat sport.

Fifteen months ago the Blue Coat School Shakespeare Company was established with the purpose of encouraging an interest in Shakespeare's work and giving students the opportunity of contributing towards a production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream". Several theatre visits were made, including one to the Globe Theatre in London, and most rehearsals and meetings took place on Saturday mornings. In the February half term the Company appeared on stage in Bootle and then broke new ground by presenting an Open Air production for three days in July.

The school's Shakespeare Company involved a great many Blue Coat students and I am absolutely certain of its potential value and place in the school. Accordingly, I am very grateful for the considerable efforts of Suzanne Scott and Janette Bonar Law in setting up and leading the Shakespeare Company in its first year. I congratulate, too, all the students who took a part in "A Midsummer Night's Dream".

Spring has always brought the best out of poets, and last April it brought at least one very good thing out of the Blue Coat School: Winged Words, an evening of poetry and drama to which the whole Blue Coat family is invited each year. Students, both senior and junior, colleagues and at least one Governor, combined to present famous highlights from "Hamlet", "Macbeth" and "The Merchant of Venice", together with a range of heart warming and witty poems from Kipling's inspirational "If" to Hilaire Belloc's outrageous "Matilda" (who told such enormous lies, it made one stare and stretch one's eyes). The simple truth, however, was that this thoroughly entertaining evening was enjoyed by all, and will live in the memory as another prime example of the talent, daring and achievement of Blue Coat scholars.

I am also pleased to report on several other special events and school visits which have occurred during the past year. These residential experiences are so important to the personal development of our students and it is really encouraging for me to see an expansion of these school trips.

In October six sixth form students visited Krakow in Poland for a cultural and historical tour of the city. They visited the Salt Mines and followed the "Schindler's List" tour of Krakow including a visit to Auschwitz, an experience which was unforgettable. In February fifty three students enjoyed their skiing in Italy, in May a further forty two students visited Brittany, in July thirty eight students enjoyed a week in Barcelona and a further forty three students travelled to St. Petersburg and Moscow. Furthermore, the Blue Coat School Basketball Club hosted thirty eight students from Wallkill Valley High School in New Jersey as a part of our annual exchange with our American friends and I am delighted that last year was the 25th year of such activity between the two schools. Finally, I am pleased to report that almost all our Year 7 students visited Kingswood in North Wales for a residential weekend of activities. You can see how this considerable programme of educational opportunities adds to the richness of life at the Blue Coat School and I am grateful for all the tireless support of my colleagues.

The school's culture is also enriched by many other activities which are based at school. I do thank all those involved in the Annual Careers Fair, in Work Experience placements and visits, the Squirrel Magazine, Sir Alan Tod

Scholarships, the Holy Communion Services, Excellence in Cities events, the Art Club, Craft Club, Chess Club, Computer Club, Christian Union, Bridge Club, the School Web Site, the Creative Writing Club, the Maths Games Club and the Social Services Committee. It's good, too, to see the Duke of Edinburgh Awards coming back on stream and the details of these are printed in your programme. Last year almost £8,000 was raised for thirty two separate charities, a really splendid achievement. Virtually the same amount, £8,000, was raised for the school by the Parents' Association Committee and the Annual Christmas Fair and the Summer Fair are regular features in the school calendar. The PA Committee gave the school £20,000 two years ago as a contribution towards the building programme. I am delighted to report that a further £20,000 has been promised as a part of the tricentenary celebrations in 2008. I am very grateful for all the help and support which the school receives from the Parents' Association and I do appreciate the efforts of those individuals who serve tirelessly on the Committee. In particular I do thank the PA Chairman Ged Jolliffe for his outstanding leadership.

Last year was also renowned for the introduction of the student Council, the Student Survey and the Parental Survey. I am absolutely convinced of the need to consult students and when we launched the student survey we received in return 494 completed questionnaires which were sealed and passed on to the Marketing Company in North Shields. This represents a response rate of 57% which is ample in terms of establishing the genuine views of the students. We now have a mass of data and statistics which will help to inform our planning and the parental survey was similarly useful. There are some who believe that student questionnaires are high risk, unreliable or misleading but if the process is built around trust and a sincere attempt to improve the school, my view is that the students will respond accordingly. The Student Council of course is an excellent forum for debate and I am pleased to see this structure properly in place and embedded into the culture of the school.

Other innovations during the year included our relationship with our twin school, Makhande High School, near Durban, South Africa, and I am very hopeful that a Blue Coat party will soon be able to fly out to South Africa to cement this friendship. I am also pleased to report that the school's Investor in People Status has been reconfirmed, and reflects our commitment in the community, and last October the school

held a very special reunion. In 1978 seventy Blue Coat boys left the upper sixth and twenty five years later, on 25th October 2003, thirty three of them returned for an emotional and memorable meeting. I was pleased to be a part of this celebration and there is absolutely no doubt that Blue Coat students, and former students, have a great affection for this school.

During the past year we have experienced the loss of four colleagues through retirement, and three of them were long serving stalwarts of the school. David Sleight (Physics), Paul Schofield (Geography) and David Wood (Economics) served the school for almost ninety years between them and their collective experience and wisdom will be extremely difficult to replace. Kate Starling (Physics) has also left the Blue Coat School following a much shorter stay but, nevertheless, we do wish her and all our leavers a very long and healthy retirement. Of course, this gives the school the opportunity to welcome fresh colleagues and we are very pleased to have appointed Karen Hill, John Lamb, Chris Gettel and Steven Jamieson. I am absolutely certain we have chosen the right people and I do wish our new appointees a very happy and profitable stay at the Blue Coat School.

As I come towards the end of this report I am mindful that we need to modernise where we can whilst at the same time preserving the school's ethos and the great traditions of the past. Her Majesty's Inspectors have found that we are an improving school with the capacity to improve even further. That is good. We are clearly moving forward. We are also delighted to have our new school, adapted and extended to create first class educational facilities. As we head towards our three hundredth birthday in 2008, and the tricentenary celebrations, my hope is that we can continue to transform the Blue Coat School into one of this country's finest and most splendid co-educational secondary schools. My thanks to all the school's Governors for their commitment and concern, to all my colleagues for their leadership and loyalty, to the school's parents for their support and solidity but, more than anything, my special congratulations go to the students of this school. It is the students who make the Blue Coat School such a grand, dynamic and enviable institution. It is the students who uphold our reputation and they do this very well indeed.

Ladies and Gentleman, I conclude my report.



Joe Maryanji, Year 10



Mr C Gettel



Mr Gettel was born and bred in our very own city of Liverpool and apart from a brief period where he lived in Southport for three years, has remained. He was brought up in Garston and attended Seal Road primary school formally known as Huyton Hay. He then went on to Birkdale High, then KGV and following that he completed various courses at The

University of Liverpool and John Moores University. His employment career began as a cocktail bar man, and progressed to the dizzy heights of bar manager.

A little known fact is that Mr Gettel was head hunted as a civil engineer before he came to the Blue Coat School, a fact he is very proud of and will definitely disclose more detail on if asked. When asked about his first impressions of the school he said he has been shocked by how open the school is and how the stereotypes of the school are extremely inaccurate.

Outside of school he plays for two football teams, and can be seen racing down the left flank as either a left back, or in a left midfield role. Finally when asked his interesting facts, he replied that there were plenty but all were unsuitable for publication. When pushed, "I once collected eggs on a battery chicken farm", "and I was only 13 so it was illegal as well."

David Fiske

Dr K Hill



We welcome Dr. Hill to the Physics department. Originally hailing from Watford, she spent eight years at Imperial College, earning a BSc degree and a PhD in Physics. After further research into Laser Physics, she spent five years as a lecturer for the Open University.

Moving to Chester, she taught at Queen's Independent School for girls before finally

arriving at the Blue Coat School this September. She still resides in Chester, however, where she is actively involved in Christian youth work. With three children of her own, this doesn't leave much spare time!

In her life, she's met the famous physicists Bill Philips and Jocelyn Bell and the perhaps-more-well-known Princess Anne. Her first impressions of this school are good, particularly the helpful staff (and students, we hope!) and the many sixth formers with an avid interest in the subject. We warmly welcome her to the Blue Coat School, having doubled the number of doctors on the premises!

J Pope

Mr J Lamb



Returning to the school this year after four years away teaching at Liverpool College, Mr Lamb will be well remembered by the older students amongst us. Most famous for being the inventor of the now-legendary 'World Bingo', he has returned to the new and improved Blue Coat to take up the post of Head of Geography from the departed

Mr. Schofield. We wish him every success and many more happy years at the school.

P.S.- Mr. Lamb asked us to apologize on his behalf to anybody still owed chocolate from Christmas 1999.

B Bowman

Mr S P Jamieson



Mr Jamieson is the newest old-boy to join the teaching staff in The Blue Coat School's Business Studies Department. After graduating from Leeds University and earning himself the 'Speight Prize' for being the only person to receive a 1st Class Honours in the whole of the Business Studies class, he worked in industry for 12 months. However, he soon realised interaction with

people, rather than a computer screen, was a far more rewarding career, and what he wanted to do. Although Mr Jamieson studied at the school for 7 years, he has found it to be a rather different place to how he remembered it – now building work is completed. When he is not teaching, Mr Jamieson has a keen interest in the shape of a season ticket for his favourite team – Liverpool. He also enjoys playing, and watching cricket, and got the chance to meet cricketing legend, and one of his idols; Sir Garfield Sobers.

He has settled in well and is enjoying working with his old teachers, and hopes for just as much success in the years to come.

J McKenna



David Sleight

After 32 years what seemed like a permanent solid piece of furniture at the Blue Coat School moved of its own accord and retired. This was Mr. David Sleight, whose loyalty and longevity in service to the Blue Coat School was second to none.

A native of Hull, Dave studied at York University and gained a good Physics Degree. Dave commenced his teaching career in the white rose county then decided that a change to red roses might be the break he was looking for.

At Blue Coat Dave's common sense approach soon established him as a reliable and effective teacher. He progressed steadily from assistant teacher of Physics, to Head of Physics, to Head of Science and eventually Assistant Head, responsible for the curriculum. During this time he managed the U12 football team over a period of twenty years and ran the MICA science competition for small teams of students for numerous years. Dave was popular in the staff room with many colleagues enjoying, and being on the receiving end of his dry sense of humour!

In style Dave was a traditional teacher who had an excellent attendance record. Both of Dave's children, Stuart and Clare were students at Blue Coat and both now have successful careers.

Throughout Dave's career he has been amply supported by his wife Gwyn, his youth club sweetheart. We wish them both many happy years of retirement to pursue their gardening interests on Dave's newly acquired allotment and to make many visits to Sweden to stay with their grandchildren.

Mr K Caulkin

Mrs Kate Starling

Mrs Kate Starling arrived at Blue Coat in 2001 to teach Physics and a little Chemistry. She settled in quickly finding the staff room a most friendly place and the students manageable.

Kate is a graduate physicist and has had a varied teaching career, mainly following her husband's change of jobs. David is also a graduate physicist! Kate's first teaching post was at James Gillespie High School in Edinburgh where "Jean Brodie" taught her "crème de la crème"!

After taking a seven year career break to bring up two children she returned to teaching in Birmingham. Then in 1985 Kate moved to the Wirral and taught Physics at Bishop Challoner's, Bebington High, then eleven years at Birkenhead School before completing her career "over the water" at Blue Coat. Kate made a quiet, effective contribution to Blue Coat life over the short period of her sojourn with us.

We wish her well in her retirement with husband David. She wants to reorganise the house and garden and visit numerous friends around the globe, notably in Mississippi and Singapore. They will be able to travel out of season, enjoying reduced rates and an absence of pupils!

Mr K Caulkin

Paul Schofield

It was at an end of term social event, probably in the early 80s and staff had met for pre dinner drinks on the Albert Dock. I returned to the table after purchasing some drinks to find Paul in deep conversation with Gemma, the then Spanish assistant. I listened in admiration as he discussed Moorish influences in Southern Spain and then in amazement as the discussion was broadened to Moorish links to Paul's hometown of Bradford. Links between Granada and Bradford? Both places had Alhambra palaces! This is typical 'Schoey', he can hold a rational conversation on a wide variety of topics but you can never be quite sure if he is being entirely serious.

His Yorkshire upbringing has given rise to life-long personality traits such as being careful with money, having a certainty about the role of women in the home and a passion for Rugby League and Cricket.

Paul studied at Goldsmiths College, University of London and despite the obvious distractions of the 1960s, he left with an Honours degree in Geography and Geology and a Post Graduate Certificate of Education. After teaching experience in St Albans and Leeds, he joined The Blue Coat School in 1973 and countless students have since studied Geography under Paul's direction and it was rare for a year to pass without successful graduate geographers dropping into school to have a chat with Paul and update him on their progress. Past students keep in touch by e-mail from around the globe and he is often hailed by those still in Liverpool when out drinking in the town centre. This is a measure of the respect in which he is held by so many of the students he has taught over the years.

Although his teaching career has spanned many years, Paul has always been willing to take steps to extend his experience. This is evident in him being in the first cohort of teachers to obtain an IT certificate through the New Opportunities Funding Scheme. He has not yet had time to mount this on the living room wall but there is still a space available next to both his Threshold and use of slide projection Certificates.

Paul was actively involved in the extracurricular activities and over the years has participated in the Rambling Club, trips to the school farmhouse at Betws-y-Coed and skiing holidays to Italy. He was also a frequent user of the school squash courts; their recent demolition probably saved his knees!

He has decided to retire early in order to have time to travel, hike in the mountains and sample real ale. There is no doubt that students and colleagues alike will definitely miss Paul. Of equal concern is how the staff cricket team will cope without his mesmeric spin bowling, ferocious hitting and rabbit-like running between the wickets.

Best of luck in the future Paul.

B Carling

Dave Wood

Born and raised in Liverpool, Dave began his teaching career at West Derby Comprehensive, which he had attended as a pupil. Then, in 1976, he decided to apply for the vacant position of Head of Economics at Blue Coat. He survived the heat of that famously long summer and the equally searing grilling at interview by Peter Arnold Craft, and thus began almost three decades of commitment to this school. During this time, he taught Politics and History, as well as Economics, and was later given additional responsibility as Head of General Studies.

Dave quickly established himself as a most affable colleague: good natured, sociable and “a bit of a gossip.” Quick-witted and incisive, he was rarely lost for words or flummoxed, except perhaps when asked by the Head, during a staff meeting, to “speak to the banda.” He earned a reputation as something of a cynic (or political realist, as he prefers), never more apparent than in his approach to Ofsted inspections, instructing senior pupils to display enthusiasm and knowledge, by all raising their hands in response to his questions, adding “right hand if you know the answer, left if you don’t.”

During his time here, he has had both his children educated at Blue Coat. His son Daniel became Head Boy and later moved on to become a barrister; his daughter Alison, who contributed so much to school productions (when she was not being stalked by admiring junior boys), is now managing Waterstones.

Over the past twenty nine years, not everything has gone swimmingly: in a moment of impetuosity, Mr Edwards disposed of all of Dave’s Economics notes, garnered over years of painstaking research; Dave’s red beard turned steadily more grey (perhaps also down to Mr Edwards) and was finally discarded.

Academically and professionally Dave has maintained high standards and, indeed, ended his full-time career here with some outstanding A Level results. It is a testament to his expertise and teaching style that an ex-pupil of his, Mr Jamieson, has been appointed to replace him. Fortunately, we do not miss Dave in “retirement”, as he has now returned to teach part-time and thus remains one of our longest serving members of staff.

Mr P Watson



Tim Reeves, Year 10



Pupils' Achievements

Entry into Higher Education 2004

Baker, Darren Thomas	University of Oxford	Geography
Brown, Richard Eric	University of Cambridge	Modern and Medieval Languages
Hogg, Sarah Elizabeth	University of Cambridge	Veterinary Medicine
Leyden, Michael John	University of Oxford	Theology
Orlans, Harry	University of Cambridge	Medical Sciences
Thompson, Martin John	University of Cambridge	Natural Sciences
Abraham, James David	University of York	Theoretical Physics
Ahmed, Tareq	University of Liverpool	Architecture
Aliman, Ahmed Mohamed	University of Liverpool	Medicine
Banks, Michael James	University of York	Computer Science
Barber, James	University of Liverpool	Architecture
Bazzaz, Suzanne	Kings College University of London	Medicine
Bennett, James George	University of Liverpool	Latin American Studies
Benton, Andrew James	University of Leeds	Chemical Engineering
Beynon, Jeffrey Raymond Paul	Liverpool John Moores University	Medicinal Chemistry
Boyd, James	Queen Mary College University of London	Mathematics
Bradley, Michael Joseph	University of Liverpool	Mathematics with Management
Busgeet, Jayesh Sharma	University of Liverpool	Life Sciences applicable to Medicine
Carr, Sergei	University of Salford	Aviation Technology with Pilot Studies
Chitty, Martin Lloyd	University of Lancaster	Music Technology
Clein, Edward	University of Sheffield	Mathematics
Crowe, Patrick John	Kings College University of London	Ancient History
Davies, Michael John	University of Edinburgh	Structural Engineering with Architecture
Derringer, Andrew	Liverpool John Moores University	Forensic Science
Doyle, Jonathon Keith	University of Liverpool	General Engineering
Drummond, Colin Michael	Liverpool John Moores University	English Literature and Creative Technology
Dundas, Andrew James	University of Aberystwyth	Fine Art
Evans, Steven Michael	University of Liverpool	English Language and Literature
Farrow, Lucy Corinne	University of Liverpool	Philosophy and Politics
Fielding, Liam Frank	University of Central Lancashire	Journalism and English Literature
Flynn, Adam James	University of Cardiff	Optometry
Foote, Ryan	University of Bangor	Psychology
Freeman, Rebecca Lauren	London School of Economics	Social Policy with Government
Goudie, Alexander	University of Liverpool	Modern History and Politics
Gray, Liam	University of Liverpool	Accounting
Grenside, James Alexander	University of Liverpool	Computer and Multimedia Systems
Hall, Adam Patrick	University of West of England, Bristol	Accounting and Finance
Harvey, Lucille Bernadette	University of Glasgow	Politics
Haydon, Liam David	Queens College, Belfast	English/Modern History
Hewson, Paul Joseph	University of Liverpool	Physics
Hughes, Mark Justin	University of Liverpool	Aeronautics
Hughes, Natalie	University of Bradford	Pharmacology
Jackson, Christopher Alexander	Nottingham University	History
James, Benjamin Matthew	University College London	Physics
Jones, Christopher David	Manchester University	Environmental Science
Kattou, Stephen	University of Liverpool	Accounting
Keegan, Mark Anthony	University of Liverpool	E-Business
Kelly, Sarah Isabel	University of Liverpool	Geography-Mathematics
Kenny, Matthew Joseph	University of Warwick	Computer Science
King, Steven Anthony	University of Liverpool	Physics
Lacey, Graeme Ian	University of Liverpool	Aerospace Engineering
Leggett, Terina Jayne	University of Liverpool	Applied Biochemistry
Lewis, Alexandra Sara	Hull York Medical School	Medicine
Li, Yuandi	University of Liverpool	Chemistry

Long, Jamie Martin	University of Liverpool	Computer and Multimedia Systems
Lunt, David Luke	University of Newcastle	Medicine
Ma, Alexander Szelon	University College London	Medicine
Machin, Adam	University of Liverpool	Economics
MacLeod, Euan	University of Liverpool	Law
Mahamy, Nassim	University of Liverpool	Medicinal Chemistry with Pharmacology
Malik, Abid	University of Liverpool	Medicine
Mason, Gregg John	University of Liverpool	Dentistry
Mathews, Leah Victoria	University of Liverpool	Medicine
Matthews, Clive Philip	University of St. Andrews	Economics
McKenzie, Paul Joseph Kieran	University of Liverpool	Latin American Studies
McNaught, James David	University of Liverpool	Management Studies-Spanish
Mohsen, Haitham Saleh	Liverpool John Moores University	Pharmacy
Mullin, Ian Paul	University of Liverpool	Physics
Mullin, Joseph James	University of Liverpool	Zoology with Evolutionary Psychology
Murphy, Helen	University of Liverpool	Dentistry
Nicholson, Mark Robert	Liverpool John Moores University	Natural Sciences
O'Brien, Carrie Ann	University of Liverpool	Mathematics
O'Sullivan, Robert Matthew	University of Liverpool	Criminology and Sociology
Owens, Liam Paul	Liverpool John Moores University	Sports Science
Owens, Sarah	University of Liverpool	Mathematics
Parr, Elizabeth Frances	University of Liverpool	English Language and Literature
Lewis, Pendleton	University of Liverpool	Mathematics with Finance
Percival, Joseph David	University of Manchester	Physics with Theoretical Physics
Pinsent, Benjamin John	University of Liverpool	Politics
Radford, Amy Elizabeth	University of Liverpool	Biomedical Science
Rice, Gavin	University of Liverpool	Modern European Languages
Richards, Michael Grayson	University of Newcastle	Law
Roberts, Matthew Lloyd	University of Liverpool	Mathematics with Study in Continental Europe
Roberts, Paul Stephen	University of Manchester	Mathematics
Robinson, Adam Edward	University of Liverpool	Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Rush, Daniel John	University of Liverpool	Applied Genetics
Ryan, Andrew Mohring	University of Liverpool	Automotive Design
Sampson, Thomas Adam	Liverpool Hope University	Education Studies/Sports Studies
Sayer, James Michael	University of Liverpool	Modern History and Politics
Scamp, George Mathew	University of Liverpool	Mechanical Engineering
Scott, Andrew Mark	Liverpool John Moores University	Accounting and Finance
Sen, Diptasri	University of Liverpool	Medicine
Shaw, Jane Elizabeth	University of Liverpool	Medicine
Shone, Christopher Barry	Imperial College London	Aeronautical Engineering
Siddall, Louise Ann	University of Liverpool	Physiotherapy
Simpson, Phillip Andrew	University of Liverpool	Biochemistry
Skeete, Anthony James	University of Northumbria	Business and Economics
Smallwood, Anthony John	University of Liverpool	Electrical & Electronic Engineering
Sultan, Ziyaad Nabil	University of Liverpool	Pharmacology
Szeto, Jimmy	University of Liverpool	Accounting & Financial Management
Teasdale, Peter David	University of Lancaster	Religious Studies
Walker, Matthew Iain	University of Liverpool	Japanese
Wall, Christopher Stephen	University of Liverpool	Microbiology
Walton, Ben Paul	University of Liverpool	E-Business
Williams, Daniel	University of Nottingham	Electrical Engineering
Wilson, Emma Louise	University College London	French
Wilson, Ian Richard	Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts	Theatre and Performance Technology
Wilson, Liam John	University of Liverpool	Medicine
Wong, Jennifer Man Ting	The School of Pharmacy	Master of Pharmacy
Zack-Williams, Shomari	University of Manchester	Medicine
Zhou, Yiqian	University of Liverpool	International Business

FORM PRIZES

Year 7

Zoe Bond, Alex Hacillo
Gannah Hadi, Charlotte Lamb
Shalini Kandasamy, Michael Higham
Sarah Gannon, Eleanor Chisnall

Year 8

Eleanor Lewis, Matthew Lo
Katherine Hughes, James Killick
Natasha Bradley, Gregg Gaffney
Alex Leece, Amy Hawken

Year 9

Stratios Koyzoumis, Paul Hughes
Francis Banwell, Sam Hardy
Josh Chisnall, Gary Stanton
Jonathan Shields, Craig Cavanagh

Year 10

Shaun Hurst, Michael Stannard
David Hughes, Michael Green
Ross Leader, Jonathan Jackson
James Boughey, Michael Phillips

ACADEMIC PRIZES

Year 11*

Peter Davey
Kin Yau Liu
Gerard Cole
Neil Grisedale
Christopher How
Robert Kerr
Qian Song
Ivan Yip
James Garvey

Year 11*

Joe Grosart
Matthew Daley
Alan Jones
Paul Cannon
Robert Gillespie
Duncan Hughes
Ricky Rimmer
James Robinson
Peter Lally

Year 11*

Antony Neill
Carl Gaffney
David Harris
Thomas Liu
Paul Macaulay
Craig McFarlane
Stephen Menzie
Peter Shone

*The Margaret Bryce Smith School Scholarships

Year 12

Christopher Flanagan
James Fong
Mark Gallears
Ben Gaston
David Marsh
James Pope
Ye Xiao

Year 12

John Beesley
Kathy Callaghan
Andrew Yu
Thomas Wolstenholme
Tom Betts
Michael Ambler
Holly Buckard
David Wong

Year 12

Gary Faraday
Stephen Nkansah
Matthew Bernard
Andrew Blackmore
David Fiske
Matthew Gibson
Valanti Koyzoumis

Year 13

Michael Banks
Sarah Hogg
Steven King
Harry Orlans
Michael Leyden
Yuandi Li
Matthew Roberts
Paul Hewson
Adam Robinson

Year 13

Richard Brown
Gregg Mason
Sean Bradbury
Christopher Jackson
Adam Machin
Lucy Farrow
Adam Flynn
Martin Thompson
Liam Wilson

Year 13

Andrew Benton
Andrew Dundas
Abid Malik
Christopher Wall
Helen Murphy
James Abraham
Muhammad Khan
Diptasri Sen
Yiqian Zhou

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)

Verse Speaking :
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 :
Friends of the Blue Coat School Prize: (Attendance)
Lady President's Prize: (Deputy Head of School)
Chairman's Prize: (Head of School)

Andrew Wong
 Steven King
 Richard Brown
 Tom Betts
 Sean Bradbury
 2003: Ben Gaston 2004: Hamza Ashur, Harry Orlans
 Ian Wilson
 James Hopkins, James Robinson, James Sayer
 Harry Orlans
 Josh Chisnall
 Liam Haydon
 Matthew Walker
 James Lacey
 Andrew Ryan
 Andrew Dundas, James Barber, Tariq Ahmed, Gregory Carey,
 Andrew Derringer, Christopher Flanagan, Paul Hewson, Jane Shaw
 Jack Kenny, Alexander Leece , Jade Slocombe, Josh Chisnall
 Ben Gaston
 Michael Ambler

Michael Davies
 Matthew Gibson, David Fiske, Ben Bowman, James Pope,
 James McKenna
 Michael Richards, Euan MacLeod
 Adam Machin
 Christopher Jackson
 Sean Bradbury
 Lucy Farrow
 Harry Orlans
 Louise Siddall
 Martin Thompson
 Louise Siddall, Helen Murphy
 Michael Banks
 Omar Khaleel, Stephen Nkansah
 Jane Shaw
 Michael Leyden

SCHOOL COLOUR AWARDS

Re-awards

Association Football: J. Hopkins, P. McKenzie, M. Nicholson, A. Scott, A. Skeete
Basketball: M. Forrest, K. Mekki
Cricket: A. Flynn, P. Lovelady, B. Pinsent, J. Sayer
Golf: I. Chadwick, J. Hopkins

Awards

Association Football: D. Fiske, Y. M. Keegan, J. King, D. Morris, M. O'Loughlin, S. Kattou S. Passey, D. Rush, M. Stone
Basketball: R. Beeley, D. Fiske, M. Gillies, A. Hooley, J. Hopkins, D. Marsh, A. Neill, J. Robinson
Cricket: M. Brittles, A. Dickinson, L. Fielding, W. Head, J. Hopkins, S. Passey, I. Roberts, M. Whelan
Golf: P. Hollywood, B. Stuart

DISTINCTIONS

Association Football:	J. Hopkins and M. Nicolson represented Merseyside U19 C. Curran and M. Deakin represented Liverpool U15																
Athletics:	C. Gunderson, H. Harper and L. Luscombe represented Merseyside P. Fielding, H. Harper, A. Hooley, D. Marsh, D. Idama, J. Batterton, D. Downey, H. Edwards, M. Rannala, O. Kennedy and K. Melia were City Champions																
Cross Country:	C. Gunderson, H. Harper, L. Luscombe and M. Rannala Represented Liverpool and Merseyside																
Basketball:	U14 Team National Finals (3rd Place) R. Beeley selected for England U15																
Cricket:	W. Head and M. Whelan represented Liverpool U15 T. Haggis represented Liverpool U13																
Netball:	U13 team Liverpool Tournament Champions																
Bridge:	Daniel Caton and Jonathan Liu – 3rd out of over 100 in English Bridge Union National Schools simultaneous pairs competition in March 2004 Selected to represent Merseyside & Cheshire Under 19 team against Manchester Steven King & Jonathan King (reached final selection round for English Junior Squad) Richard Brown & Yuandi Li Matthew Kenny & Adam Machin Adam Robinson & Liam Haydon Daniel Caton & Paul Roberts																
Chemistry:	Harry Orlans – Top 5 – AQA A level Chemistry and Biology Distinction in Advanced Extension paper and Silver Medal in Chemistry Olympiad <i>Bronze Medals:-</i> Steven King Matthew Kenny Martin Thompson																
Physics:	British Physics Olympiad: <table> <tr> <td>Steven King</td><td>Silver</td></tr> <tr> <td>Jenny Zhou</td><td>Bronze I</td></tr> <tr> <td>Paul Hewson</td><td>Bronze II</td></tr> <tr> <td>Benjamin James</td><td>Bronze II</td></tr> <tr> <td>James Boyd</td><td>Bronze II</td></tr> <tr> <td>Christopher Shone</td><td>Bronze II</td></tr> <tr> <td>Michael Banks</td><td>Bronze III</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ian Mullin</td><td>Bronze III</td></tr> </table>	Steven King	Silver	Jenny Zhou	Bronze I	Paul Hewson	Bronze II	Benjamin James	Bronze II	James Boyd	Bronze II	Christopher Shone	Bronze II	Michael Banks	Bronze III	Ian Mullin	Bronze III
Steven King	Silver																
Jenny Zhou	Bronze I																
Paul Hewson	Bronze II																
Benjamin James	Bronze II																
James Boyd	Bronze II																
Christopher Shone	Bronze II																
Michael Banks	Bronze III																
Ian Mullin	Bronze III																

SUCCESS IN MUSIC EXAMINATIONS

Grade 1	Ben Miller	Drum	Richard Leng	Violin
	Michael Tancred	Guitar	Craig Yip	Flute
	Siobhan Wilson	Drum	Francis Tierney	Tuba
	Abigail Sunderland	(Theory)	Mona Chee	Piano
Grade 2	Melody Mak	Violin	Katy Lin	Violin
	Neil Duffy	Guitar	Nick Miller	Piano
	Sarah Hodgkiss	Piano	Ben Southam	Bassoon
	Kushini Jayawardane	Guitar	Nick Power	Flute
	Siobhan Wilson	Violin		
	Jing Ouyang	Saxophone		
	Abigail Sunderland	Oboe		
Grade 3	Francis Banwell	Clarinet		
	Alice McRoe	Clarinet		
	Rebecca Smith	Piano		
	Kate Coenen-Rowe	Piano		
	Kushini Jayawardane	Piano		
	Katherine Hughes	Clarinet		
	Alex Pask	Clarinet		
	Mathew Saxton	Clarinet		
	James Hodgkiss	Guitar		
	Chris Watters	Saxophone (Merit)		
Grade 4	Paul Athans	Piano		
	Tessa Corina	Violin and Flute		
	Craig Milligan	Trombone		
	Robin Munby	Clarinet		
	Alex Leece	Violin		
	Alex Cook	Trumpet		
	Laura Watters	Clarinet		
			Grade 5	
			Maya Joseph	Flute
			Richard Leng	Piano
			Hai Lin Leung	(Theory)
			Stratios Koytzoumis	Guitar
			James Michael Boughey	Piano (Distinction)
			Cathy Mahoney	Clarinet
			Chris How	Piano
			Peter Stoddart	Piano
			Grade 6	
			Hai Lin Leung	Flute and Piano
			Paul Athans	Trombone (Merit)
			Oliver Williams	Piano
			Kate Lloyd	Piano
			Matthew Daley	Piano
			Rob Kerr	Trumpet
			Luke Dawkin	Piano
			Grade 7	
			Craig Milligan	Violin
			Rhogan Eyre	Piano
			Grade 8	
			Michael Ambler	Piano (Distinction)
			James Pope	Piano

Members of the Liverpool Youth Orchestra

Craig Milligan, Robin Mumby, Paul Athans, Michael Ambler, Christopher Flanagan

Members of the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral Choir

Peter Miller, Nick Miller

Liverpool Youth Brass Ensemble

Paul Athans, Rob Kerr

City of Liverpool Boys Choir

Craig Milligan, Andrew Wong, Jack Kenny

Merseyside Youth Orchestra

Paul Athans, Ben Southam

GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION RESULTS – SUMMER 2004

		ART	BIOLOGY	BUSINESS STUDIES	CHEMISTRY	DESIGN & TECH	ENG LIT	ENGLISH	FRENCH	GEOGRAPHY	HISTORY	INFO TECH	LATIN	MATHS	MUSIC	PHYSICS	RELIGIOUS STUDIES	SCIENCE	SPANISH	CHINESE	TOTALS
Grades	A*	4	8	3	14	2	2	34	12	9	12	56	6	10	2	7	1	0	5	2	189
	A	6	27	7	24	13	37	60	20	19	33	48	2	49	4	25	1	5	14		394
	B	7	38	15	37	8	48	22	17	19	18	15	1	54		26	2	1	18	1	347
	C	3	23	10	16	7	27	3	14	10	7			7		31		2	8		168
	D		9	7	10	4	6	1	8	5	1					15		7	4		77
	E				2				8		1							1	1		13
	F																				0
	G																				0
	U																				0
Total		20	105	42	103	34	120	120	79	62	72	119	9	120	6	104	4	16	50	3	1188

GENERAL CERTIFICATE EDUCATION A/S RESULTS – SUMMER 2004

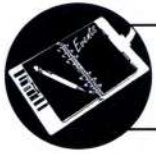
		ART	BIOLOGY	CHEMISTRY	DESIGN & TECH	ECONOMICS	ENGLISH	FRENCH	GEOGRAPHY	HISTORY	INFO TECH	LATIN	MUSIC	PHYSICAL EDUC	PHYSICS	POLITICS	SPANISH	RELIGIOUS STUDIES	PSYCHOLOGY	COMPUTING	TOTALS
Grades	A	3	4	12	1	5	15	4	5	5	3	2	1	3	10	1	1		9	2	84
	B	2	17	16	1	3	18	3	3	10	7	1	3	4	8	3	6		9	4	114
	C	2	10	10	2	6	8	4	8	10	19			4	7	6	6		5	5	107
	D		21	7	1	6	1	1	1	5	6			3	7	4	4		1	0	68
	E		12	5		6		1	4	1	2				4	1	2		1	5	39
	U		1	5		1		1			1				8	6				2	23
Total		7	65	55	5	27	42	14	21	31	38	3	4	14	44	21	19	0	25	18	435

GENERAL CERTIFICATE EDUCATION ADVANCED LEVEL RESULTS – SUMMER 2004

		ART	BIOLOGY	CHEMISTRY	DESIGN & TECH	ECONOMICS	ENGLISH	FRENCH	GEOGRAPHY	GENERAL STUDIES	HISTORY	INFO TECH	LATIN	MATHS	FURTHER MATHS	PHYSICAL EDUC	PHYSICS	*POLITICS	PSYCHOLOGY	RELIGIOUS STUDIES	SPANISH	MUSIC	TOTALS
Grades	A	4	14	21		4	10	2	6	9	10	3	1	27	5		13	5	2	1	3		140
	B	1	11	12	4	3	6	3	7	16	8	5	1	20	2	4	7	7	3		2	1	123
	C		7	7	2	3	3	1	2	22	4	4		12	2	4	5	3	2	1	3	2	89
	D		1	2	2	6		2	1	29		1		5	3	1	3	2	1				59
	E		5	3		1		2		24		3		9		1	3	1					52
	U									14				3	1	2							20
Total		5	38	45	8	17	19	10	16	114	22	16	2	76	13	12	31	18	8	2	8	3	483



Tareq Ahmed, Year 13



School Events

Winged Words

The Blue Coat School is noted for the erudition of its students; the versatility of its teachers and its devotion to the literacy arts. All these qualities were on display in the annual presentation of poetry – **Winged Words**, this year set in the classic surroundings of the school assembly hall now lovingly restored to its former Victorian splendour.

Master minded by Mr Alan Gleave; who will forget his amazing feat of forceful diction as he recited Rudyard Kipling's 'If', this year the 'Mistress of Ceremonies' was Mrs Claire Athis whose deft introductions moved us swiftly through the history of English verse from Chaucer to Roger McGough.

If the poet chosen came from every period, the emotions evoked were just as varied. How we enjoyed the warm historical humour of Ms Lynette Holland's 'Albert and the Battle of Hastings.' The pathos of 'Remember' so movingly read by Amy Radford, left us wistful and melancholic. Andrew Irvine chose to thrill us with the Byronic passion of 'She Walks in Beauty', and later reminded us of war and death with his rendering of the grim sonorous and bitter requiem 'Anthem for Doomed Youth'. Mr Tim Kershaw and Dr Pete Wilde restored our good spirit with respectively songs by Rabby Burns, and the hilarious antics of Hilaire Beloc's 'Matilda'.

All these rich jewels were strung on the golden thread of Shakespearean verse; those magical pentameters and analysing

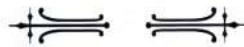
love and justice. Liam Hayden for a few moments faced us with Hamlet's troubled soul, and later was bold enough to share with us Shakespeare's caustic comments on his lovers Sonnet CXXX.

There were difficult moments; hesitation, lines forgot, murky diction, but the abiding memories are of the joyful enthusiasm of the participants and the genuine appreciation shown by the audience.

We look forward eagerly to further productions. Just one plea from a friend to literature and the school. A short poem learned by heart and practised to perfection is preferred to a longer poem read. Indeed, it is the Wisdom of Solomon that demands 'Let thy speech be short, comprehending much in few words.'

And one request. In a community of scholars such as the Blue Coat there must be more young writers capable of offering their own poems. We very much appreciated Peter Davey's Hardy-esque musing in 'The Night Realm'. Are there any other budding Blue Coat poets? What better and more sympathetic audience could the best of them have than the audience of Winged Words?

Mr Ken Edwards, poetry lover and friend of the Blue Coat.



Model United Nations



It was late autumn, and as 15 Blue Coat students descended on the town hall, we had a reputation to keep. It was the Model United Nations General Assembly (MUNGA) and we knew we had our work cut out to show that Blue Coat was the home of the intellectual elite. In

order to do this our contingent, comprising of three teams, USA, Canada and Denmark, would have to represent the interests of our respective countries in a model United Nations assembly.

Once the proceeding commenced and we had been welcomed and commended by the Lord Mayor, and "treated" to a long laborious speech by the British Ambassador to the UN, the debating began. Speeches were given by a member of each country on the reform of the Security Council, a potentially explosive topic with plenty of opportunities to slander other countries. After the first few boringly diplomatic speeches, an amazingly clever Merchants' Girl stood up (almost as clever as Kate L and Amy L from our USA team). She represented Britain and as she riled accusations across the

room at Israel and Iran, we could see there was going to be some opposition to the Blue Coat supremacy. After a feisty comeback from the King David team representing Israel, slinging abuse at Zimbabwe, Saudi Arabia and Palestine, it was time for the first of the Blue Coat teams – team USA. Sadly, the prepared speech did not quite work for Andrew Charlton, and despite giving a fair representation of Blue Coat, it lacked the impact we would have hoped for from the USA.

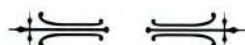
As time passed the debate began to go round in circles and diplomacy set in again at the instigation of countries like Romania and Japan. Cue Canada, time was running out and the time for speeches had passed, Liam lost his nerve and so the ever confident Chris How stepped up. As statements of "I propose we remove China from the Security Council" were uttered, confusion set in. Had Chris forgotten he represented friendly, neutral Canada, or had he just gone plain mad? Whatever the cause, hilarity was the result. His fellow team members Matthew and David writhed with laughter, and Ellie sat agape, half shocked, half furious that all the work the team had put in to a speech had been thrown out the window in exchange for plain arrogance. Still, when you're at the best school in the city you can do that, even if there are complaints to Mr Crighton.

As the first general session drew to a close there was time for one final comment on the proposed resolution. The Denmark representative – Peter Davey – thought he could add a final constructive comment – yeah right! Shaking so much he couldn't read his speech he began diplomatically having a go at Zimbabwe, and then out of the blue came the cry "Denmark does not want to be lumped with the incapable fools at the centre of Europe, namely France, Germany, Spain and Italy." The hall erupted in shouts, applause, chanting and laughter and as the chairman tried to assert order, the words "Thank you Mr President," rang coolly across the chamber.

The rest of the day passed quickly, Nick Edwards successively defended the USA in the security debate, and Neil

Grisedale and John Cunningham gave a good account in the waste and recycling debate. At lunch, McDonalds had never seen so many suits; there were more than a few strange looks as we walked through the doors. In the afternoon a debate on Sudan was called and after more bickering and some idiotic suggestions on the part of Czech Republic representatives, Matthew gave a good speech on the side of reason and Peter Shone and Mark Yates voted the proposed move out of the assembly. A very enjoyable day, but all that mattered was that Blue Coat showed that we are the school of the elite, and no school in Liverpool can beat us.

P Davey



Medlink '04

We arrived at Nottingham University campus looking lost, tired and rather pucky, only to be left all alone to find our way around with nothing more than a poorly printed map. We hiked up hills and down valleys for what seemed like an hour to get to the Derby Hall, only then to be told we were in the wrong place...D'OH!!

After our escapades, we were half an hour late to the first lecture so we went to the common room for a little drink and to soak up the university atmosphere. The common room just happened to be the bar, not our choice honest!! The pathology course was interesting in parts, when you looked around; at times the lecture theatre resembled one of Dr. Wilde's talks on wave-particle duality (snore fest!).

The next morning we arrived at breakfast looking a little rough (anyone would at 8 o'clock on a Sunday morning) and nursing headaches from the night of "thinking" we had at the bar. At 9, we plodded off to more lectures and awaited the arrival of friends who had elected not to do a pathology extension course. Everyone arrived at around noon and by all accounts fared a little better than we did at navigation. The afternoon began with the official beginning of The Medlink conference; this meant we now learnt more relevant things to our career choice (surgery).

Not only was the conference about medicine, but about making new friends and the lecture given by the eccentric Gary Craven encapsulated this by getting us to move around, meet someone new and then turn to your neighbour and rub their back (I had only known Alex, my neighbour, for about half an hour and I never expected to do that to him ever!) Gary Craven was an odd fellow. He was straddling the fine line between motivational and annoying and often fluctuated between the two quite seamlessly, but we all grew to love the guy.

That night we discovered the magical power of ordering out; this beats hall food every time. If you're ever in Nottingham and you're hungry, you should definitely try out either Amigo's Pizza or China Palace, they are so good it's scary! When we ordered from China Palace though, we did get in a spot of bother by "borrowing" some cutlery from the dining hall to eat our food and getting caught with them half way through our meal. I didn't know anyone could talk about knives and forks for half an hour...I was wrong!

Throughout the following days we encountered some of the greatest minds and authorities in medicine and they were very

cool, even normal! Possibly the coolest guys were a bald paediatrician (who supposedly lasts longer than 45 minutes, whatever that means) whose name I didn't catch, and a PRHO who gave us advice (bonjour! – any medlinkers from 11th/12th – 15th will get that one.)

And so inevitably the last day arrived and we had to say goodbye to all our friends. A sad affair at the best of times, but when one is nursing a "brain strain" from the night before, it becomes even more touching. We all had a great time, met tons of new people and didn't want to come home; if you get a chance to go, do it!

*Craig McFarlane
L6A2*



Natalie Connell, Year 9

Springtime in Oxford – 19th March 2005

To a seasoned visitor to Oxford, it is very easy to forget the impact it makes on first sight: a city of dreaming spires and towers. On one of the very first warm days of the year, 35 Blue Coat hopefuls stepped out into the bustle of a sunny city. After settling into rooms in Trinity College, on Broad Street, the group were led on a walking tour, taking in the Bridge of Sighs, The Radcliffe Camera, the Sheldonian Theatre, as well as some of the most famous Colleges such as Christ Church with its Cathedral. Students were fascinated to learn that Christ Church is not actually a College, being founded by Cardinal Wolsey as Cardinal College but later being re-founded by Henry VIII. In Oxford, it is always referred to as The House (meaning the House of Christ). We also peeped into the Dean's Garden, inspiration for "Alice in Wonderland" – Lewis Carroll was a noted mathematician at Christ Church.

Trinity College – our host college where we were billeted – was founded in the middle ages as Durham College for the priests of that diocese. It occupies a beautiful site in the middle of Oxford with extensive gardens. Its Hall is one of the most historic and charming in Oxford and we were delighted to dine there in splendour. It was particularly jolly to be joined by some of our current students at Oxford including Alice Leedale who is studying at Trinity.

After Dinner many of us visited one of the most ancient

shrines of student Oxford – The Turf Inn – one of the most ancient coffee houses in England. It was the most perfect summer's day and evening – despite still being technically winter.

After a night of partying, a few of us were privileged to attend an early morning service for Palm Sunday in Trinity's renaissance Chapel, built by Sir Christopher Wren. After a hearty breakfast in Hall, there was another walking tour – this time via Magdalen College, the historic Botanic Gardens, Christ Church's primeval water meadow, and along the course of the River Isis (really the Thames), to meet friends at the Head of the River Tavern. One of the most memorable epiphanies was hearing the distant bells ring out while admiring the towers and spires in the morning mist across the water meadows.

The main reason, of course, for such a visit is to introduce our prospective students to the idea of study at Oxford and Cambridge – to let them experience – albeit briefly – life in a college. All our students were greatly thrilled by the experience and are now inspired to work even harder to achieve a place in an Oxbridge College. For those that don't make it, there will always be the memory and inspiration of a sunny weekend in Oxford.

EJC



A Blue Coat group pictured outside Trinity College before the Headmaster revealed the contents of the school's ancient punishment book.



U.K. Lego Robotics Championship

It began when Mr. Verma got together a team of students to construct a Lego robot that could perform various tasks such as

playing a mini game of basketball, feed pets and set a table. I had built a few robots like this before using a Lego set, which I had for a few years. After two months of tedious building and testing we came up with our final design, all we had to do was programme the robot using the Lego system known as RCX Code, this was similar to Flowol.

On the day when we competed in the Northwest Championship, we were better equipped and prepared than any other team, as we had every set we could find, and our robot

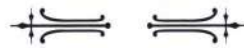
definitely looked the best. We won both the presentation prize, and the overall prize, which meant we would take part in the finals at the Ford Research Centre in London.

At the finals a new rule was introduced, which we weren't aware of at the time. The new rule stated that every robot had 2½ minutes to complete as many challenges as possible. It was a shame we designed our robot to move slowly so that it would be precise. In the end we finished about half way out of about 20 entries, but nevertheless we all had a great time.

The Team

Vlad Paraoan, Silviu Paraoan, Matthew Lo, Kristian Blackhall, Matthew Eliot

Vlad Paraoan, 9 Bi



Year 7 Social

Certainly for as long as I have been at this school, the Year 7 Social has been a popular event, and this year it was our turn to play dressing up with a valid excuse for the first time in years! After much deliberation, (during which someone campaigned tirelessly for the theme of the Ribena Berries, or later Poddington Peas) Cowboys and Indians was the chosen theme for the evening. Some students braved the autumnal weather to hire costumes from a place on Hardman Street, what we weren't told though was that we would have to walk down Church Street in full uniform, carrying half a dozen pink bags with some-one singing 'Hey diddle diddle' at the top of his voice.

So the evening arrived, giving the cleaners one hell of a shock, and the 12 sixth formers started to try and keep the children entertained with the help of Sheriff Caulkin. It would be nice to say that the games were all played in a fair fashion

but that of course would be a lie. The sixth formers were more competitive than the children, and by far the best cheats! The famed pass the parcel round was, as ever met with great deals of laughter, especially the bit where the Year 7s had to kiss their favourite prefect, which caused much embarrassment to those concerned. Excellent! The evening was superbly rounded off by the race around the chair, and I'm still convinced Omar's team cheated.

Thanks must go to all the prefects who willingly (??) gave their time to help at this event, to Mr.Caulkin for organising it, to Ian Wilson for providing the lights and the music and to the PA for providing the wine afterwards! (And for the people who do it next year, good luck, you'll need it....)

*Michael Jolliffe
U644*



British Physics Olympiad

This year 12 U6 students were successful in Paper 1, so they all sat the more difficult three-hour Paper 2 of the prestigious British Physics Olympiad Competition. To be successful the students have to be adept at applying physics' principles to unusual situations and topical events. One question was on physics of the recent transit of Venus across the Sun!

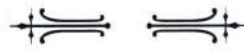
Blue Coats results for Paper 2 were as follows;

David Marsh	Silver
David Fiske	Bronze II
James Pope.....	Bronze II
Ye Xiao	Commendation
Tom Betts	Commendation
William Eborall	Commendation

Edward Ellis	Commendation
Mark Gallears	Commendation
Nicola Hedges	Commendation
James Hesketh	Commendation
Tom Wostenholme	Commendation
Andrew Yu	Commendation

Congratulations to them all, but particularly David Marsh on his Silver Award, who received a book prize and who came in the top 150 nationally. Approximately 1250 students sat Paper 2 and our Bronze II Award winners were in the top 64% of the entry. Even to receive a Commendation Award is a worthy achievement. Well done to our U6 physicists!

Mr. K G Caulkin



NAGTY 2004 Mission: Mars

During the summer holidays of 2004, Craig Milligan (colleague in 6th form) and I spent two weeks at the Imperial College London, studying rocket science. During the two weeks we designed parachutes, rockets and landers. In the last week our team, with the help of local professors and experts, designed a Mars rover that could possibly navigate on a Martian terrain. It took the entire last week to discuss, build

and program our Mars rover, to be tested on a replica of Mars' surface. The project was a complete success, except on the day of the presentation when our central microchip was damaged and the robot could only be remote controlled; still it was a fun toy.

Vlad Paraoan
9 Bi

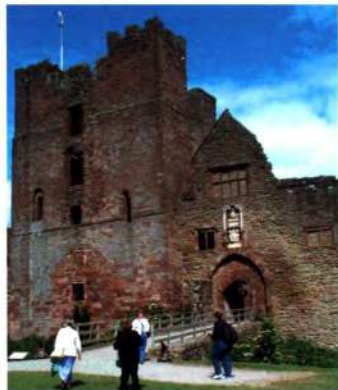


James Lacey – Year 11



School Trips

Ludlow Castle Trip 2004



It was a sunny morning on Wednesday 7th July, and a keen group of Blue Coat students set off from school at around 9:30am for a 2 hours 20 minute coach ride into Ludlow; this part of the Gifted and Talented scheme which gave us the chance to view 'Twelfth Night', open air, in the grounds of Ludlow Castle during the Ludlow festival. Spirits were high for

the best part of the journey (or should I say until Hayley, Bex and Tasha started "singing") – this giving all of us a bigger headache than the end of year exam revision period!

After stepping out of the coach (which was a relief due to the excruciating torture of sitting in-between Matthew Caveney and Daniel O'Neil in addition to the head banging sound affects mentioned earlier) we set off on a supposed "short" walk into the centre of Ludlow which ended up taking longer than intended due to Miss Casson's sudden urge to take the "scenic route".

Finally we arrived at "Dinham Millennium Green" where we had lunch by the river, which was surrounded by beautiful scenery, this the setting in which Kamal Allen prefers to chat up the birds (we always knew you had a thing for swans Kamal)! After we were jam-packed with scoff, we set off for the castle where we sat and chatted for about five minutes before entering the 'tent' for a pre-performance talk with the cast of 'Twelfth Night'.

Following our 'mini adventure' into the tent, we returned to the castle grounds for a quick chat before being called into the seating area. Finally the play began, much to the delight of Francis Banwell who had fallen asleep within ten minutes of the first act (yes we believe it was your travel sickness pills Francis...NOT). This along with the wit of the characters, and the innuendo filled the minds of the majority of Blue Coat student, having most of us in hysterics.

Three hours, and a twenty-minute break later, the play finished, much to the horror of Francis who hadn't realised it had started. During the 'eventful' trip back to school, we not only experienced the 'odd' antics of Adrian Wan, Michael Stannard, Leigh Jones, Paddy Taft and Andy Tomlinson, but also the banter between Eva Chee and James Loftus (it must be love). Whilst all this was happening, the teachers were having a little party of their own: they were listening to 'The Archers' on Radio 4 (now who said teachers don't have a life?!)

We would like to thank: Miss Casson, Miss Murphy, Mr Thursby, Mrs Athis and Mrs Thomas who came along and made the day possible; and also the glorious weather (it rained the day before, soaking everyone to the bone!!)

*By Ross Leader
11 Graham*

France Trip

In May 2004 an excited coach full of Year 7 pupils set off on the annual trip to Brittany, in France. We were accompanied by: Mrs Bennett, Mrs Irvine, Miss Henderson and Mr Adamson. After a long journey we finally arrived at our destination and were assigned our rooms and told to get plenty of sleep to prepare us for the week's activities.

During the week we did activities like canoeing, which brought out the competitive side of Mrs Bennett! We also did orienteering, during which, members of the group lost at least 10 times and lost various items of clothing and footwear in a number of mud patches. We also travelled to St Malo and the female members of the group participated in their favourite sport – shopping. To keep the lads happy as well, we had a football tournament.



St Malo

Our accommodation was host to a medieval night where we had a traditional form of entertainment – Mr Adamson in pantaloons, and we had French minstrels force Miss Henderson to recognise her talent for playing music. We also visited a swimming pool, and despite our desperate attempts – no teacher was dunked underwater, so we resorted to dunking our nearest mate. We can't forget to mention Mrs Irvine, because she made every coach journey an entertaining experience by reminding us to search for a boyfriend for Miss Henderson (preferably a hunky French lifeguard)! There was also the famous story of Mr Adamson's French bride (for details on this story, consult Mr Adamson – and yes, it's true)! We were also serenaded by Mrs Irvine, who favoured a song involving the words: "Nickety, Nackety, Noo..." the rest of the lyrics could not be understood.

The week ended with a disco, and a trip to the famous Disney Land Paris, which lives up to its reputation of being like a fairytale land. Then before we knew it, the week was over and it was time to return to sunny Liverpool.

*By Rowan Humphries
8 Blundell*

Spain Trip 2004

On Saturday 10th July, around 50 students from Year 8 and 9 arrived at school for the Spanish Trip. We were of course being accompanied by five school teachers (Mr O'Brien, Mr Adamson, Miss Cornwall, Miss Beattie (now Mrs Bennett) and Miss Henderson). Everyone had to arrive at school very early, 4am!! so we would not miss our 8am flight to Spain.

On the short trip to Manchester Airport everyone talked and messed around even though most of us were very, very tired. When we arrived at the airport we unloaded our bags, and then got through checkout and passport control without too many people setting off the metal detectors. After everyone was checked in we had some time to look round the shops and buy breakfast before we had to board the plane.

Luckily there were no delays and everyone was on the plane on time. The flight lasted about 2 hours and although some people slept, most were too excited and didn't get a wink of sleep. When we landed in Spain we immediately boarded a coach, which drove us to our hotel, "Hotel Los Angeles."

When everyone had been given a room and room key we traipsed (or took the lift) to our rooms and gratefully dumped our bags. Most of us then decided to go down to the pool, or explore the hotel, which would be our home for the next week. When we had exhausted ourselves with swimming and jumping around we went back to our rooms and had a quick shower, and then back downstairs for dinner. When we had stuffed our faces with chips, ice-cream and anything else you can think of, we were given free time to play pool, sit around the pool or if we really wanted to go to sleep.

At 11pm Mr O'Brien came around and told everyone who wasn't already in bed (which I think was everyone) to go to sleep and start settling down. Most people reluctantly agreed. Eventually we were all asleep (I think).

We woke up early the next morning to rain (in Spain!) and had breakfast before boarding the coach to set off for the "Torres Wine Estate". When we arrived we watched a short film explaining daily life on "The Torres Wine Estate". We then went in a special room where we watched another short film that sprayed smells into the room as well! After that we had a small tour of the grounds and vineyards before we visited the wine cellars.

After the wine estate it was back on the coach. We then went on a long drive up to Montserrat (a really high mountain practically in the clouds). We then stopped off at a café and had lunches that the hotel had provided. Although the teachers insisted the lunches were nice I don't think a single person enjoyed the lunch so most people bought their own lunch, including the teachers. After we had eaten we went to Montserrat monastery and cathedral where we were free to look around.

We got back to the hotel late in the afternoon and we had some time before dinner. We were due to go into Salou for the evening but ended up staying in the hotel instead, playing pool and watching the Hotel entertainment.

On Tuesday we had to get up early as we had a busy day ahead of us. We were going into Barcelona and to visit the Nou Camp!! The journey to Barcelona was quite boring and I think we were all quite happy to get off the coach. Our tour guide took us around Barcelona and we visited some of the famous sites including La Sagrada Familia.

Later on, after we had had our tour we got back on the coach and drove to the harbour, where we went on a boat ride. Unfortunately the boat ride took longer than we thought and we ended up being very late back. We quickly got back on the coach and drove to the Nou Camp. Once we were there we went inside and looked around the pitch before going to buy souvenirs and shirts. After everyone had bought souvenirs it was back on the coach and back to the hotel.

Wednesday was the day most of us had been looking forward to; we were going to Port Aventura!! (a theme park). We didn't have to get up that early, as the coach wasn't picking us up till one. After we had breakfast we went outside and swam in the pool, till the coach arrived. Then after a short journey we arrived at Port Aventura. We split into groups and entered the theme park. Inside there were log flumes, roller coasters, water rapids and much more. The best ride was definitely the Dragon Khan a roller coaster with 8 loops!! (the most loops on a roller coaster in the world!). It was a very good day out and we were all very tired when we arrived back at the hotel.

However, later on we found that the Hotel entertainment for that evening was a Mr. Universe Competition. After much persuasion and a lot of force Mr Adamson became a contender for the title. Everyone came out to watch him sing, dance, limbo, collect as much women's clothing as he could, be a macho man, and do a very embarrassing strip tease. The highlight would have to be when Miss Cornwall had to take part on the competition blind folded!! She had to let each contender kiss her!! She wasn't very happy about this especially as she ended up having to kick one contender. Finally it was down to Mr Adamson and a very small and skinny man. We all cheered as loud as we could for Mr Adamson but he didn't win. The newly crowned Mr Universe did however share his prize with Mr Adamson by giving him a glass of champagne. After the entertainment there was a hotel disco and some of us stayed outside and danced whilst others stayed inside.

On Thursday we all went to the water park that was next door to Port Aventura. Again the coach didn't arrive until one so we had some free time in the morning. Thankfully the weather was very nice and didn't spoil our day. We all put our bags in lockers before entering the park itself, where we rode the huge water slides and swam in the huge wave machine pools. Unfortunately we had one casualty, one of the boys slipped on the ride and had to go to hospital as he had fractured his nose. He returned later just in time for the fantastic firework display in Port Aventura.

Friday was our last full day in Spain so we just lounged around and had an entire day to do what we wanted. Later on in the evening we had a quiz about Spain and the teachers gave out prizes to certain students. Then we went and watched the hotel entertainment and did some last minute packing. I had an excellent trip to Spain and would definitely recommend it to anyone who considers going. It's fun, sunny and you have a fantastic holiday with all your friends. I would definitely go again.

*Nathalie Connell
9 Blundell*

Year 7 Kingswood Trip 2004

Friday 19th November 2004. It was a school Inset Day, but there were strangely dressed Year Sevens and some emotional mothers waiting outside the school building, next to four Mercedes Benz coaches. More and more scruffily dressed were Blundells, Bingham, Grahams and Shirleys arriving. Mr. Adamson, Mr. Gettel, Mr. Boardman, Mr. Ainsworth, Mrs. Bennett, Ms. Tabern, Miss Fairclough and Dr. Wilde were all standing around taking registers. As soon as everyone arrived, it was on the coaches and final register time. After that the coach door closed on all the parents yelling goodbye, and.....we were off!

An hour and a half later we were passing snow covered fields and well on our way to Kingswood. We soon arrived in the car park of Howells Boarding School, opposite, which were the Kingswood dorms! We had a brief meeting with the Kingswood manager and then we had to lug our packed suitcases up three flights of stairs to the dorms. We charged into Mrs. Norris' dorm and quickly bagged our favourite bunks. Each room was split into four sections, each with two bunk beds.

When we had settled in, it was down to the meeting area and the first activity. In Kingswood the people you are in a dorm with are your team-mates in all the activities. The activities were really fun. You were not forced, but encouraged to do the following activities:

- Circus skills
- Abseiling
- Archery
- Wall climbing
- Orienteering
- Aeroball (a cross between basketball, and trampolining)
- Murder mystery
- Mini Olympics and nightline. (An activity in which everyone is blindfolded and lead through various mud infested obstacles)

The food was very disappointing and extremely boring. We got the three main meals of breakfast, lunch and dinner, but it was all mostly the same. The choice was not very varied and we ended up eating the same meals more than once! Luckily this was the only thing that was below average.

All the staff were very confident and very helpful. One particular woman that sticks in everyone's memory was Shona. Shona was from South Africa and made everyone feel at home. We had different staff for different activities depending on their strengths and talents.

Overall Kingswood was a pleasant place to stay for adults and children. We all enjoyed it very much and would love to go back sometime.

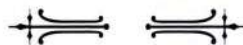
Kingswood helped us make new friends from different forms who we would not usually talk to. Also we got to see the teachers in a totally different light (they are human after all). I would like to take this opportunity to embarrass some of the teachers:

- Mr. Adamson looked quite amusing wearing his woolly hat, and fluffy gloves.
- Mr. Gettel attacked from all sides, by 120 screaming Year 7 children in teachers' dodgeball.
- Mr. Boardman falling off the indoor climbing wall.
- Mr. Ainsworth landing on his rear end, after abseiling down the climbing wall.
- Miss Fairclough wearing Mr. Boardman's XXL waterproof coat.

And finally well done to Mrs. Bennett for winning teachers' dodgeball, in high heels!!

All in all we gave Kingswood 9/10 and recommend it to everyone who enjoys a good time and a laugh.

*Helena Sweeney and Katie Sung
7 Blundell*



Malham

Congregated at the front of the school, a crowd of upper sixth Biology students eagerly awaited their journey to the rural town of Malham. However we were fairly unprepared for the amount of thinking that was actually required for what most thought of as an excuse to miss a few days of school.

Having arrived we were met by our eager ecology teachers, and while they expressed their overall enthusiasm for the natural world, we pondered over what we would be given for dinner. The pasta dish that was served was (for lack of words) interesting, but the teachers had obviously developed some kind of immunity to Malham cooking, and were all highly pleased with the food. The majority of us however made triple sets of sandwiches the following morning to avoid starvation.

Classroom work was informative, but the teachers despaired at the lack of any enthusiasm for ecology, although people tended to perk up a bit once knee-deep in a bog. The trip ended with the coach journey home where a couple of boys provided the entertainment by singing custom-made chants about Mr Kilhams, which I am sure he will be keen to re-enact for people on request.

*Holly Buckard
U6S3*



Helmshore Mill

In the Autumn Term 2004, Year 7 pupils went to Helmshore Higher Mill in Rossendale. Forms Graham and Shirley visited first on 17 September and Bingham and Blundell followed on 1 October.



Higher Mill is an 18th Century woollen fulling mill. It was constructed as a water powered mill in 1789, by six members of a financially comfortable family named Turner. It was one of the first fulling mills in Rossendale. For those who aren't familiar with the term 'fulling', it is a process which produces a controlled shrinkage and thickening of woven, woollen cloth.

For the last century of the mill's commercial life, the Whittaker family ran Higher Mill. Some repair work was necessary on the wheel bearings and internally toothed rim gear of the huge water wheel which provided the mill machinery with its driving power. Just before the outbreak of war in 1914, the drive to the fulling stocks failed. The machinery was then converted to be driven by electricity, until June 1967, when Edith and Rossall Whittaker retired and the mill closed.

Our guides took us on a tour of the mill and told us about the history of the building. They were really friendly and helpful and all spoke with an interestingly marked Burnley dialect.

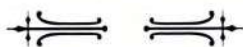
It was interesting, finding out about how the mill worked. Our favourite part was when our guide started the waterwheel to let us see how it powered the machinery using gears and pulleys. We moved steadily through the museum, learning what life was like in the 18th century for mill workers and their families. Life was very bad and children had to work. Girls sewed while some boys worked in dangerous factories.

We were taken out of the mill at the back and were shown the river and mill race where the water was diverted into power and turned the great water wheel. The scene was green and peacefully beautiful, as if the long dead mill workers still lingered to guard it.

Next we were taken to learn how to 'card' wool. We had to scrape two spiked brushes against each other in a combing motion to make the raw wool smooth; we then had the chance to try our hand at spinning yarn from the woollen fibres we had carded. We were allowed to take home the piece we had spun as a souvenir – most of us declined the offer, because although the guide said the fibre was full of lanolin, which is very good for the skin, it was unwashed and had the strong odour of the sheep that had worn it before shearing.

We had an interesting time and really enjoyed the day with Mrs Tabern and all the other teachers. The trip's experience was unique and will help us understand the origins and history of fabrics theory for our textiles lessons.

*Catherine Ainsworth and Olivia Thompson
7 Graham*



Gifted and Talented France Trip 2004

During the last week of the Summer Term, ten of our French linguists, accompanied by a number of colleagues from other schools, embarked upon a journey into the heart of French society. The trip provided all the students with the opportunities of befriending pupils from Bellerive, Childwall and St Margaret's, and of creating an educational video diary of the short break.

During our stay, we witnessed the exciting exhibitions of sea life at Nausica Sea Centre, traipsed around the historical city of Boulogne and relived the infamous battle of Agincourt at the Agincourt War Memorial Museum, and these were but some of the distractions during this activity-packed vacation.

Evening entertainment provided refuge from the educational rigour of the day and included a midnight session of bowling from which we returned exhausted at two o'clock in the morning. Unfortunately our 'experienced' coach driver decided that it would be beneficial to pass the same point several times, despite claiming that he would always take the shortest possible route and refusing to admit that we were lost!

We stayed at a traditional French hotel in the heart of the charming, busy seaside resort of Berk sur Mer, which has the reputation of being a sporty and healthy town that epitomises French culture. We were pleased with the hospitality of the staff at 'The Cottage des Dunes', the hotel in which we stayed.

On the penultimate day of our visit, we were treated to the pleasures of the water park Aqualud. There were a variety of breath-taking slides to choose from, the most notable being the 'Black Hole'; 29-29 the only single attraction in Europe that is literally a plunge!

Later that evening, at the Berk sur Mer resort, we viewed a spectacular fireworks display commemorating Bastille Day, which is a very important occasion in the French calendar. As can be seen, we had a fantastic time during our holiday in France and after a brief stop at a notoriously cheap hypermarket in Calais, we returned home to the rainy skies of England satisfied that our time had been well spent.



We would like to finish by thanking Mrs Jackson for her efforts in organising such a wonderful trip, and for providing us with a fantastic experience to develop our language skills.

*Peter Fielding &
Hamza Ashur*

Versailles, January 2005

The destination: North-Western France, arguably the cultural hub of the world. The visitors: 34 eager Liverpool historians, fresh off of a 10 hour coach journey through the English countryside. A match made in heaven.

7:15am wasn't exactly a time most of us where comfortable with, but that time it was that we were expected to meet up outside school, departure time standing at a ridiculously-early 7:30. Surprisingly, everybody arrived on time, a feat one could only be astonished with, considering the fact that many of the group didn't know that 7:15am even existed. All staff were, of course, on time: the hugely-knowledgeable history-department trio of Mrs. Athis, Miss Holland and Mr. Caulfield, as well as the multilingual Mrs. Roberts, somebody we would realise to be a Godsend once we arrived.

Despite the departure time, the atmosphere aboard was electric. The coach was pleasant, something which cannot be said for the on-board toilet. The length of England and a train ride later, we reached Calais to a rapturous reaction as we continued the journey, stopping off for a food break in Amiens at the fantastically named "Flunch". Yes, it is "lunch" with an "F", and yes, rather unsurprisingly, it did serve lunch. After a hugely-satisfying meal, and the once-in-a-lifetime experience of a steak made up of 80% water, we were on our way once again. Arriving in Paris at near midnight after a tiring, yet enjoyable, journey, we retired to our rooms, of which the less said the better.

Our first port of call would be the splendid Palace of Versailles, around 20 minutes coach travel from the hotel. After a "generous" lie-in until 8:00am, we were back on the coach, operated by an animated driver who we came to know as "CD". What the initials stood for we will never know, but the more on-the-ball members of the group took a wild guess at "Coach Driver". Arriving insanely-early at the palace grounds, we walked through Versailles' vast gardens to the Palace itself. Although many of the statues were covered up and the fountains not working for the winter, we could not help but be impressed by the seemingly limitless grounds and the grandeur of the palace as we walked closer and closer to the main building. As we entered the Palace, we were struck by the breathtaking architectural detail, as well as the numerous examples of blatant propaganda, such as Louis XIV as a victorious Roman emperor, used to intimidate foreign emissaries. We took a spectacular tour of the palace, complete with audio player and headphones, and although the famed

Hall of Mirrors was closed for restoration, it was a marvellous experience; we had heard much of the splendour of the Palace from history lessons, and the first-hand experience certainly didn't disappoint. The visit was topped off by certain members of the group posing for some side-splittingly hilarious photos, of which some Japanese tourists also took the chance to capture. Unfortunately, these photos could not be provided to accompany this article, as we were afraid that the sheer hilarity would take away our professional approach, and/or offend some readers. Refer to Qian if you think you can handle the laughter.

The evening was without doubt the highlight of the trip, as we boarded our trusty coach for the Tour Eiffel. The atmosphere was thrilling as we basked in the light of the marvellously-lit landmark, genuinely one of the most amazing sights we've ever seen. Unfortunately (or, alternatively, fortunately for the Vertigo sufferers among us), the 3rd and top tier of the tower was closed and we could "only" reach the 2nd, the word "only" being stressed due to the fact that we were still amazingly high. Even so, it was a fantastic sight, as we spotted other famous sights of Paris, some of the more enthusiastic among us searching for their houses through the night air. As we descended from the tower, a free-spirited French woman made some suggestive gestures to certain members of our group to great amusement. Again, refer to Qian for a realistic reconstruction.

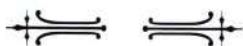
After a long night was another early start, and a day that would take us into the surreal metropolis of the French capital to visit the internationally-renowned Louvre, the home of some of the world's most beautiful and valuable treasures. The Louvre is another of Paris' many fantastic sights, the pinnacle of a half-hour journey through the centre of the city where we would view the splendour of L'Arc De Triumph and the history-engulfed Cleopatra's Needle. The Louvre building, as well as its content, is a mesmerising structure in itself, the modern glass pyramids combining well with the grand architecture of the old Palace, and the sight of the museum was particularly exciting for those of us who had read Dan Brown's "The Da Vinci Code". After separation into two groups of 17, accompanied by two members of staff each, we were treated to a tour of French art on the upper floors of the museum, keeping to the educational theme of the visit, not forgetting the compulsory visit to the world-famous Mona Lisa. After a small meal, and the amusement of Qian's brand new Mona Lisa T-shirt, we set off again, the Hotel de Invalides our next destination. Most of us where disgusted at the idea of actual work when we were presented with an "exciting" worksheet that would require us to trek through the whole building in the search for answers. This was turned into a competition as motivation for competitive students, and after a steady hour of investigation, all worksheets were returned and we set off to our next destination: a cruise on the River Seine, Paris' main waterway. The cruise took us through the centre of the city, and allowed us to view the many sights which we had been unable to see on our coach journey, the Notre Dame Cathedral being one of them. The majority of students made the most of the experience, while others decided to inject some fun into the journey through a number of exceptional dance moves, including "The Monkey", "The Bird Dance" and Qian's own, passionately-named "The Ivory-Coast-Didier-Drogba-I'm-Back!" dance. The cruise was enthralling, and we were all reluctant to depart the boat, but that we did, and were, in minutes, flying for the last time down the Champs-Elysees, still bustling at 11pm, taunting us with its numerous designer boutiques that, despite our moans and groans, we didn't have time to stop at.



The journey home was a lot quieter than the first journey, the majority of people exhausted from a non-stop, action-packed and thoroughly-enjoyable weekend that will no doubt be useful come exam time. We would like to take this chance to thank, on behalf of the whole group, all the staff that accompanied us on this once-in-a-lifetime experience: Mr. Caulfield and Miss Holland for their breathtakingly-deep knowledge of all things historical, and spectacularly-detailed commentaries at the Palace of Versailles that expanded our

learning experience so much; Miss Roberts for her extremely-welcome (and desperately-needed) lingual input; and especially Mrs. Athis, who put together a magnificently-arranged trip that we will all remember for a lifetime. All the staff were wonderful company, and we thank them all thoroughly for a great week full of laughs and thrills that is highly-recommended to anyone interested in the future.

Qian Song & Antony Neill



Mera

After weeks of waiting we were finally on our way to Mera, Italy! After an hour or so of waiting in Manchester Airport we took off at around 7am and landed in Milan at 9am to be greeted by a bright, warm morning.

But all that changed once we got onto the mountains because after a two hour coach journey, it was freezing! Once we were all on the chairlift it was a relatively easy ride on the way to the hotel (but some people were scared of heights, beware!) when we got there, we dropped our bags and went down to the lounge/disco/canteen area and sat down to a nice, hot bowl of tomato pasta.

After we had all eaten and got our rooms sorted, practically everyone had joined in on an all-out snow war! It went on for about 2 hours, but the teachers eventually rounded us up for our ski fit (getting your ski boots etc). We then trudged through to the lounge, where Mr. Rees told us the rules, the does and don'ts, and after all that the usual "be careful and have fun." We had a meeting everynight at 5pm. Once we had settled in and unpacked it was time for dinner. We had breaded chicken (there was always an alternative vegetarian choice), and ice cream for desert. Mr. Ainsworth had brought his Playstation with 'Pro Evolution Soccer 4' and that was where most of the free time was spent, as well as in discos, quizzes and at "Ainsy's Bingo Night." The hotel also provided table tennis and table football. At 11pm everyone piled into their bedroom for some much needed sleep.

On the next day we went down for breakfast (served daily at 8.45) then outside for our first skiing lesson at 10am. It wasn't a proper skiing lesson, more of a test to assess the level we were all at (all the ski instructors were great teachers). We didn't have any falls, and everything was going fine until Lee Henry lost control and ploughed into Mr Jamieson; Lee broke his wrist and had to sit in the hotel all week. There were only two other breaks throughout the holiday, Rowan Humphries who also broke her wrist and Mambir (Yr 10) who shattered his wrist on the last day, getting airlifted to hospital wearing a Batman costume, complete with fake six-pack. After the lessons we began parallel skiing down the slope by the hotel, and then we spent the rest of the week skiing in the bowl near the hotel. The slopes were ideal as there were easy routes, as well as more challenging routes for the more advanced skiers. On the last day everyone competed in a slalom race, second and third place received medals, with first place receiving a trophy. The presentation was made on the last night and was a good laugh (even if the ski instructor was convinced my name was Doris, thanks to everyone at my table!)

All in all the entire trip was one of the best holidays I've ever been on and I'm sure the feeling was shared throughout the group. I would definitely recommend the trip, and for those who have never been skiing it is a great experience.

James Rushton
8 Sh.



David Williams - Year 12

Visit to Krakow and Auschwitz

Last October during half term, Ms Holland and Mr Cook took five students over to Krakow, Poland for an educational visit regarding the Nazis and their treatment of the Jews during the Second World War. We stayed in a hotel very close to the centre of Krakow, which for centuries has been a centre for Jewish culture. None of the students had visited the city before and were all very keen to see the historical city and especially Auschwitz.

As Krakow was home to many Jews during the Second World War, the Nazis targeted the people there, killed many of its residents and deported most of the rest to the wartime ghetto and thence to Auschwitz-Birkenau. An astonishing one third of tourists visit Krakow within the context of a visit to the concentration camps an hour's drive away. Although the former ghetto had largely fallen into decline since World War II, the area is rapidly changing in response to the renewed interest brought about by the film, *Schindler's List* and the Jewish culture. Whilst we were there, we did a tour of the city and visited many of the places that were used for filming during the true story. It felt surreal to see many of these sights when I had only before seen them in such an epic movie. We visited many cultural places on our tour, which included a number of synagogues and

Churches as well as part of the wall, which was left from the ghetto. The tour guide who assisted us was extremely helpful and was willing to answer all of the many questions that we were eager to find out. Aside from the tour, we had the chance to visit the market square and the castle. Each night we were there, we ate at a different style restaurant to experience their traditional food. We went to a Ukrainian, Polish, and on the final night a Jewish restaurant and I surprised myself by even trying lard, which was recommended by Mr Cook! I can't say that I would eat it again, however the rest of the food was very enjoyable. When we went to the Jewish restaurant, it was after we had just visited Auschwitz and so it seemed fitting to end the day there, where a cabaret was playing traditional Jewish music. On our way back to the hotel each night, the church in the main square would be lit up and there was a really sombre atmosphere in contrast to the busy market during the day.

On the final full day we were there, we visited Auschwitz. From my own point of view, I was partly looking forward to the

experience although I really didn't know what to expect. All over the world, Auschwitz has become a symbol of terror, genocide, and the Holocaust. It was established by the Nazis in 1940, and like other parts of Poland, was occupied by the Germans during the Second World War. The name of the city of Oswiecim was changed to Auschwitz, which became the name of the camp as well. Over the following years, the camp was expanded and consisted of three main parts. The camp

used to be swamp like and of course provided terrible living condition for the prisoners. This camp and many others were started because the Nazis thought so many Jews were going to come in and they would have no place to put them. They needed a big facility that killed millions of people. At first, Poles were imprisoned and died in the camp. Afterwards, Soviet prisoners of war, Gypsies, and prisoners of other nationalities were also taken there.

Beginning in 1942, the camp became the site of the greatest mass murder in the history of humanity, which was committed against the European Jews as part of Hitler's plan for the complete destruction of that people. The majority of the Jewish men, women and children deported to Auschwitz were sent to their deaths in the Birkenau gas chambers immediately after arrival. Some

of the horrendous actions that were carried out against the prisoners made the visit really emotional. What really hit me was how many obstacles the prisoners had to overcome in order to survive the death camp. The living conditions were obstacles in themselves, without taking into account the torture methods and gas chambers. The reason so many people went there was because it was one of the largest concentration camps ever. It is hard to put into words your feelings after such a moving experience, however the fate of the prisoners must not be forgotten in order to prevent anything like that to be experienced again. Overall the visit to Krakow and Auschwitz was an experience, which I enjoyed after studying it for history and a place I am glad to say I have visited and will never forget. When the holocaust is mentioned, I will always remember the terror and genocide suffered in the concentration camps during the Second World War.

A Higham



The Poland Exchange Trip

Following on from the Mock UN assembly held a few weeks earlier, Mr Crichton generously offered the participants the opportunity to travel to Poland along with several Holly Lodge students, under the vague guise of the prospect of visiting the Nazi concentration camps in Auschwitz (tying in the UN theme). A trip to the former Eastern Block in the middle of its harsh winter didn't seem as remotely appealing as several of the other Blue Coat trips to relatively exotic sounding destinations. However, the ridiculously cheap price of a trip (£80), coupled with the unique experience of a cultural exchange, persuaded the more adventurous of us to sign up for the trip (not mentioning the small matter of the trip coinciding with a week of school).

With the flight to Warsaw departing from Luton, space on the minibus was at a premium. This wasn't helped with the sheer size of all the girls' suitcases (plus Liam's), packed full of so-called "essentials." After a short stop at a service station however, the omens seemed positive when "Snow Patrol" suddenly appeared from the toilets. Tightly clutching a signature from the lead singer of Snow Patrol, we crawled down the M6 to Luton in high spirit. The mood was still cheerful on the pleasant flight to Warsaw as the two schools got acquainted.

On departing the plane, we were surprised at the swift transformation from day to night. Collecting our baggage from the miniature terminal at Warsaw Airport, with the prospect of spending a strange night in a strange Polish house, it suddenly dawned on us that in a few minutes we would be greeting our new prospective parents. Filled with trepidation, we lingered at the luggage carousel, discussing ridiculous potential implausible outcomes. Recollections of "The Simpson's" episode in which Bart takes part in a cultural exchange to France but is abused by his "carers" and forced to carry out hard labour flashed in our mind.

As we herded through the automatic doors where the Polish families were waiting, we could almost empathise with what the evacuees in the 2nd World War had to endure. I even resorted to praying for the richest and most friendly family to whisk me away. Names were read out as our Polish families escorted some of us to our Polish home. As numbers dwindled, I suddenly realised that my name hadn't yet been called out. Faced with the prospect of either sleeping on the streets in Warsaw or sharing a room with two of the Holly Lodge teachers, I felt immensely relieved when I was escorted by a Polish guy called Maks Fus and his Dad. I was ecstatic when we zoomed off into the midst that had descended over the Polish capital in a beautiful BMW with amazing acceleration (it later emerged that his Dad was a local BMW dealer). My first impressions of Warsaw was of a reasonably modern city which could have conceivably been a city anywhere in central Europe. (Perhaps Berlin or Munich).

True to name, his parents did indeed make a huge fuss over me, and it certainly felt like my prayers had come true. After a pleasant night's sleep, I awoke disorientated, thinking I was still in Liverpool. It was consolation enough not having to endure a day of school at Blue Coat even though I was due to visit Maks' local school that morning. That morning, we compared our Polish families; it was commonly acknowledged that I had the best family. However Nick's experience with his Polish family was hilarious (his job each evening was to teach their

son English, and they gave him the worst imaginable pack lunch). Shoney had the most original experience with his family, going to the local shooting club (with live ammunition).

The rest of the morning was spent visiting the rest of the students in the school, eager to meet us. Later that day, Anna the Polish teacher who organised all the expeditions, escorted the English group, some of the Polish students and the Italian contingent who were also visiting, on a tour past the Warsaw landmarks.

The following day, we awoke nice and early in time to set off to Krakow on the coach and to visit one of the salt mines situated near Krakow that has become a famous tourist attraction. During the 8 hour coach journey to Krakow, the English contingent developed the 'back of the bus mentality' where some of us (who shall remain nameless-cough-Liam) performed activities so shocking, that it was hastily agreed that what happened in Poland should stay in Poland. Cunningham was also especially amusing, showing off his ability to speak French in a Russian accent.

Over the course of the week, we endeavoured to visit so many cultural sights that we developed the disorder commonly referred to as cultural fatigue and saturation. One member of the English 'crew' became so renowned for his actions that even the Italians christened him 'Playboy'. 'Playboy', Ashley and Ellie were also so often seen, with their arms round each other, that it was commonly believed that they'd collapse if one of the 3 'feet' were to leave.

During the 3 days that we spent in Krakow, we stayed at a cheap hotel that also served inedible breakfast. The evenings spent in the hotel were enjoyable however, as a few of the English 'crew' got to know the Polish guys and girls really well. We even taught each other several expletives, though surprisingly, they knew more English ones than us. We also discovered the true answer to that previously elusive question: the pronunciation of Liverpool goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek. It was also surprising to find out that 'Chinese snap' and 'quims' were in fact universal card games that were played in Poland too – albeit with peculiar names (not suggesting that the English names aren't strange too). The last night/ morning culminated in some hilariously mischievous activities, including a sprint down the corridor at 3 in the morning. After finally settling down to sleep at 6 in the morning on the floor, we had to set the alarm for 7 o'clock so we could prepare to depart for Krakow that morning.

The majority of the 8-hour trip was spent fast asleep on the coach, stopping to visit Auschwitz, the Nazi Concentration Camp. The mood was sombre, as we relived the memories of the Jews and the Nazi's enemies that had been so clinically eradicated. It was particularly distressing to see how the prisoners were expected to go to the toilet while sitting side by side without individual compartments.

The next day, we were due to return home after an enthralling bowling game. We also had time to visit the Jewish Ghetto in Warsaw that also brought back memories of the atrocities committed in Auschwitz.

Appreciation for organising the trip must go to Enid Lodge and Mr Crichton. And as for the pledge 'what happened in Poland stays in Poland', yeah right!

Chris How
L6A4



“Romeo and Juliet”

... A story of true love, tragedy, torture and tights!

It was on a coach heading towards the Liverpool Neptune Theatre when leaders of the Blue Coat School Shakespeare Company, Janette Bonar Law and Suzanne Scott, announced that the company would be taking part in the Shakespeare Schools’ Festival, performing “Romeo and Juliet”.

Casting began in June when pupils auditioned for our very own Mr. T. Kershaw and the head of Performers’ Theatre School in Liverpool, Nick Rogers who assigned roles later in the day. With the lead roles of Romeo and Juliet being filled by Matthew Waddelow and Steph Denny, pupils were sent to learn their lines over the summer holidays.

However, when it was announced that the Blue Coat School Dramatic Society was being closed temporarily, it raised the question as to whether or not we would see Shakespeare again at the Blue Coat School. The future of “Romeo and Juliet” was as grim as that of its title characters.

When we returned from the holidays, we were unsure whether it would happen at all. However, with the help of Mr. Crighton (go Criggers!), we were given permission and it was then, amid the celebrations and all-round merriment, that it was pointed out that there were only four weeks to organise rehearsal space, costumes, make-up, set designs, lighting designs and music...Oh yeah! And learn the play!

Our confusion was heightened by the bombshell that was Janette’s departure as director! With four weeks until the all-important night, James Lacey and Portia Harris became the play’s co-directors (“Lord help us!” we thought).

Rehearsals began and the tantrums followed. With a set constructed of giant letters spelling out the word ‘Shakespeare’, it was an important task to ensure that Verona could become alive on the stage. However, the set was the least of our worries. As every member of the cast had to stay on stage at all times, it proved a difficult task to teach the cast to STAND STILL! Once we past this point in the proceedings, lines were learnt (only just!), scenes were blocked (only just!), fights were lumbered together (only just!), costumes were distributed (only just!) and we did all this without anyone killing themselves (only just!).

As the big day drew nearer, and the cast and crew grew frantic and agitated, with veins of stress bulging on the skin of our company members, there was no room for annoying anyone – as Mr. Waddelow found out when he launched a petition against the giant letter ‘E’! Finally, the day of judgement fell upon us and the anxious company gathered outside the school office, dreading the arrival of the coach that would lead us TO OUR DOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

However, to our surprise, the rehearsal at the Neptune ran smoothly. Considering it was our first full rehearsal, James and Portia were surprised at how well the cast adapted to the professional environment of the theatre. With only a few hours to go, alterations were still being made, much to the cast’s annoyance. THANK YOU MR. DIRECTOR! But in Lacey’s defence, they did make it better! (Cough cough). Much to Miss

Denny’s dismay, the most important alteration was that she should be carried into her tomb and, after being dropped a mere three times in rehearsals, we decided the scene would be added.

Three hours before the show, with a suicidal leading man, a temperamental make-up lady, and a hyperactive director – not to mention more tantrums than have been seen in any series of Big Brother – the cast made their way to the canteen for their last supper before the performance later that night.

When we finally arrived at the theatre, the tension and anticipation – and Sally-Beth’s nerves – were drawn to their full extent as we found that we would be the last of three schools to perform that night! After watching the two other schools perform and dressing extremely quickly during the twenty-minute interval, the curtain went up on the tragedy that was...our production of ‘Romeo and Juliet’.

The opening, carefully timed and choreographed by our two directors, worked perfectly and the costumes looked stunning under the professional lighting systems of the Shakespeare Schools’ Festival. As the play progressed, we saw the excellent quality of Mr. Waddelow’s acting ability (not bad for a man in tights) and the amazing talents of Miss Denny (she’s got an excuse for wearing tights, Waddelow – YOU HAVEN’T!) The other cast members excelled and showed the great quality of Blue Coat Drama.

With a spectacular ball scene (hum hum), a touching balcony scene (hands off Waddelow!), a terrifying and dramatic fight scene (No hard feelings, Nile! The wounds have only just healed!) – not to mention Waddelow’s horrific death (Yeah!) and Steph’s angst-ridden and emotional departure, it was safe to say that the show was not the disgrace we had expected, but was a greater success than we could ever have imagined. Indeed, in the final horrific moments of the two lovers’ lives, both cast and audience shed a tear for the death of the title characters.

When the play was over and a representative from the Liverpool LEA gave comments on the show, he stated that it was a fantastic production and achievement and a testimony to the school, and especially, that they trust their students to direct such a show. The greatest compliment was that he said he would pay to go and see this production again!

Bringing both tears of sadness and laughter (Sally-Beth’s feather duster!) it appeared that the final lines of the play were true: ‘There never was a story of more woe, than this of Juliet and her Romeo’.

James Lacey and Matthew Waddelow

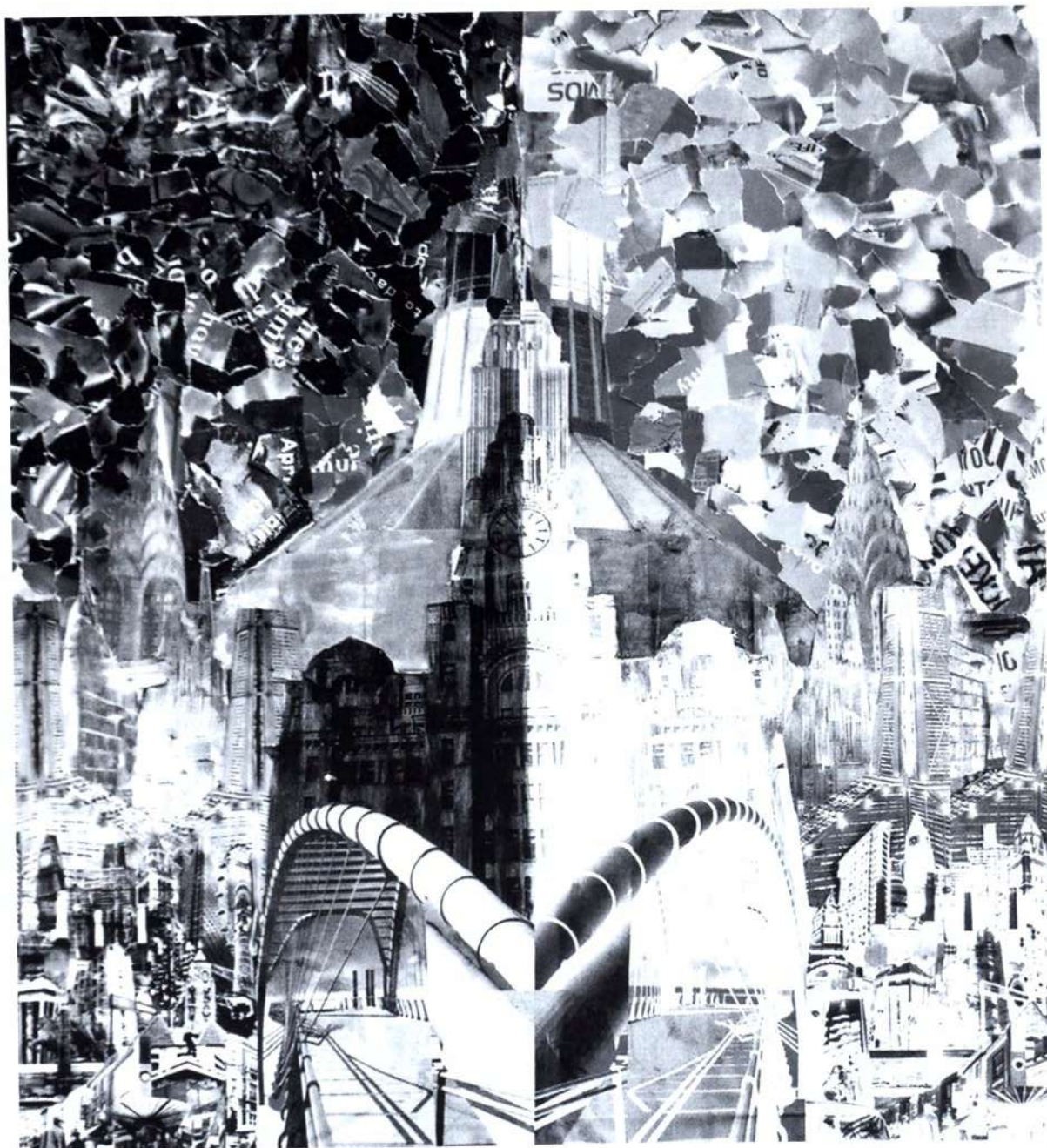
“A Midsummer Night’s Dream”

The Shakespeare Company began to try and give students an insight into Shakespeare’s work, our aim was to perform one play each year, studying and discussing its relevance beforehand. Our first chosen play was ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’. We performed it twice; first a slightly adapted version performed by the lower school in Bootle Space Centre and second an original version performed around the school grounds. After casting we met every Saturday morning to rehearse, by midday the group would become restless but as a team we stuck together. As the big night approached we began to design and make the costumes that were all individual and looked spectacular on the evening.

The backstage crew organised props, lighting arrangements and the music all of which were perfect. Our dances were choreographed by James Lacey and assisted by Steph Martin. We performed three evenings in a row with no big mistakes and then we just had to do it again for an open-air production.

With a whole new cast, rehearsals had to begin again, only now they were outdoors. But again the show was successful despite a few minor mistakes that were probably lost on the audience anyway.

S Batterton & S Denny



Matthew Herdman – Year 10



Music Report 2004-05

Here we are again! Another edition of the Squirrel, which means another poor student desperately trying to remember what has happened in the Music Department since the last issue. Since the last report, the Music Department has been on another high, with the choir and orchestra taking the Liverpool Music Festival by storm, which proved to be the perfect fuel for a sensational end to the year's music concerts. In mid-march, both the choir and orchestra performed in 'High Schools In Harmony' for the second year running. The choir performed 'Libera Me' from Fauré's requiem, 'Listen to the Lambs' and 'I'm Goin' Up A Yonder', as well as an old favourite, 'The Lord Bless You And Keep You', whilst the orchestra retained the high standard set by the choir in performing 'Finlandia', and the ever popular 'Light Cavalry Overture'. Barely a fortnight later, both the choir and orchestra were in action again in a highly impressive Spring Concert. The choir again performed 'Libera M'e', 'I'm goin' up a yonder' and the 'Lord Bless You and Keep You'. There were also three superb vocal solos from Gary McCreadie who sang 'On the Street Where You Live' from My Fair Lady, Jane Shaw performed 'Habanera' from Carmen, and the ever-impressive Michael Davies sang Schubert's 'Ave Maria'. This year's Spring Concert also saw the birth of the Concert Band, who delighted the audience with renditions of 'We Know Cha Cha' and 'Trail West'. The Audience was then treated to not one, not two, but three fabulous piano solos. Andrew Derringer performed 'Bethend Ray', Tim Lui played 'An evening in the Village' and Paul Hewson played Waltz in C minor. The soloist hadn't finished yet though, Ben Gaston played 'Hungarian Dance' on his violin, whilst Gregory Carey played the 2nd movement of Poulenc's Flute Sonata. The Evening was rounded off with the Orchestra performing 'Finlandia', 'Scherzo' and 'Light Cavalry Overture', subject to flashing lights and pyrotechnics provided by none other than Ian Wilson (quelle surprise!) Bring on May and Founders Day! The Audience were treated to the full uncut version of Allegri's 'Miserere Mei Deus', performed by the school choir to an exceptional standard. Not to be upstaged, the Orchestra responded with 'Finlandia', which was enjoyed by all.

Speaking for experience, the Choir was more than glad to hear that we had over two months before our next concert, which was plenty of time for Mr. Cook to drill the entire Fauré's requiem into us, which provided some amusement for the older students as the younger ones desperately tried to get a grip of the Latin. His hard work once again paid off at the Summer Concert, as the choir gave another impressive performance (no bias here), this time with excellent solo contributions from Jack Kenny, who sang the 'Pie Jesu' movement, and Gary McCreadie who sang, amongst others in 'Libera M'e'. The Summer Concert was a fitting end to many students contribution to the music society, Michael Davies and Paul

Hewson to name but a few whose invaluable contributions will be sorely missed in the Choir and Orchestra alike. The audience was serenaded by stunning vocal solos by Jane Shaw who sung 'O Mio Babbino Caro' by Puccini, whilst Michael Davies' performance of 'Figaro's Song' from the Barber of Seville brought the house down. The piano was again well used, as Andrew Derringer, Paul Hewson and Matthew Caine all delighted the audience with their pieces. The Concert Band lightened the mood somewhat with Highlights from 'Grease', including everyone's old favourites. Greg Carey also wowed the audience with his flute solo, whilst Ben Southam and Francis Tierney raised more than a few smiles in a duet playing the theme tune of the Pink Panther. The Orchestra rounded off a hugely successful year for the Music Society with the Overture to 'Die Meistersinger', a Theme from 'Rhapsody in Blue' by Gershwin, and Johann Strauss' Thunder and Lightning Polka.

The first event in the new academic year was the Choir's second appearance on ITV's 'My Favourite Hymns'. The Choir endured a long day of rehearsing, singing and singing again, whilst the Floor Manager grappled with important issues such as who should hold the banners... Next up was the annual Carol Concert, held for the first time in Holy Trinity Church. The audience was left wowed as the choir performed Christmas songs such as 'The Gloucestershire Wassail', 'Adam lay ybounden' as well as 'The Lord Bless You and Keep You'. The audience were then treated to wine, mince pies and festive cheer in the Shirley Hall.

The Liverpool Boys' Choir performed 2 very well received pieces, the orchestra played items such as 'Thunder and Lightning Polka' and 'The Great Escape', (once again subject to Mr. Wilson's 'artistic temperament') and the sixth formers performed 'Santa Claus Is Coming To Town' and 'I Wish It Could be Christmas Every Day'. Unfortunately, the concert was held during a hugely important football match, and more than one student was seen jumping in silent joy as the result came through from Anfield (and what a goal it was!!!!) Barely a week later, the Annual Prize giving was the focal point of musical attention. The Choir sang 'I'm Goin' Up A Yonder' whilst the Orchestra played 'The Procession of the Sardar'. A fitting end to a wonderful year's music.

March dawned and with it the choir took part in the Liverpool Music Farcical, sorry, Festival, my mistake, which this year donned the motto 'tack wins trophies' to which one choir adhered to in the strictest fashion imaginable, let's hope for next year they master the difficult arts of swaying and clapping... The choir was entered into 3 categories, St. Julie's winning the Religious singing, Blue Coat winning the School Choir Category, and Notre Dame winning the 'unaccompanied category' with a selection of bongo drums, thanks to the innovative idea by the adjudicator that it wasn't the quality



of singing that counts, rather how clappy the song is. (It made about as much sense to us too). Hopefully next year the Orchestra will 'unaccompany' the choir.

The Annual Spring Concert was the next item on the agenda. The school choir opened by singing 5 songs, two in Latin, one in French, one in Russian and finally one in English. There were numerous ensemble items, Liz and Ellie Lewis performed the Prayer, Nicola Hedges and Gary McCreadie sung 'All I ask of You', and Liverpool's answer to Italy's the three tenors, The Tenor, the Bass and the Baritone (namely Sam Knott, Paul Humphreys and myself) performed an Italian aria called 'Se tu m'amì, se sospiri'. For those amongst you who don't speak la bella Italiana, it more or less means if you love me, prove it. There were also 3 solo items sung by various people, James Lacey sang 'This is the moment' from Jekyll and Hyde, Jack Kenny sang 'The Phantom of the Opera' (no prizes for guessing the musical it comes from), and I reverted to Italian again singing 'Amarilli Mia Bella', which is completely un-related to peter Kay's version of 'Amarillo'. As ever the brand new Grand piano was well used, with solo items from Matthew Caine, Tim Lui and James Boughey, and a duet by Mr.

Cook and Oliver Williams. Paul Athans performed a Trombone Concerto (on a trombone surprisingly). The newly formed Jazz band delighted the audience with 'Calient' and 'American Patrol', whilst the Concert Band played 3 pieces, including highlights from 'Grease' (soon to grace the stage of Shirley hall) and the Orchestra rounded off the evening with performances of 'Finlandia' and 'Rhapsody in Blue', with an amazing piano part played by Michael Ambler.

Phew! My job is almost done, helped along by the editorial staff's evil glares in the corridor but before I finish my incessant waffling, a few points need to be made. Firstly, of course thanks to Mr. Cook whose hard work and dedication to the Music Society was as ever unquestionable throughout the year. Secondly to Mr. Miller and Mike Ambler who have played the Piano and Organ for the Choir in rehearsals and in the services as well. Finally I'd like to thank all the members of the Choir, Orchestra and various bands for their hard work throughout the year. Roll on Prague and Vienna!

Michael Jolliffe
U6A4



Matthew Ko—Year 10



Society Reports

The Social Services Committee 2003-04

The Social Services Committee had another successful year meeting twice a term primarily to select the weekly charity speakers. This year the speakers were from local, national and international charities. Among the 30 plus charities represented were Merseyside Society for the Deaf, British Heart Foundation and Christian Aid. The totals collected for these amounted to £164.82, £173.43 and £144.39 respectively. Most weekly collections now amount to over £130. Many thanks to all who gave so generously

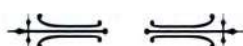
throughout the year though it would be encouraging if the male students gave more.

Altogether this year the school raised over £7400 for charity – the final total being £7424.05. The highlights were the traditional non-uniform day at the end of the Autumn Term, which raised £783.05 for Makhande High School and the sponsored cross-country, which raised £2953.01 for KIND.

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

PR Edwards

Date	Charity	Amount Raised	Date	Charity	Amount Raised
10.09.03	N.P.C.C.	215.66	22.01.04	Leonard Cheshire Home	191.75
17.09.03	Pain Relief Foundation	168.82	29.01.04	British Lung Foundation	191.06
25.09.03	Alder Hey Kidney Fund	233.27	05.02.04	Zoe's Place	165.06
02.10.03	Western Spirit	160.29	12.02.04	PDSA	186.03
09.10.03	Woodland Hospice	204.85	25.02.04	Abbeyfield	157.92
16.10.03	CHICS	216.89	03.03.04	Guide Dogs For The Blind	190345
23.10.03	UNICEF	170.72	03.04	KIND	2953.01
11.11.03	Poppies		10.03.04	Cystic Fibrosis	175.14
20.11.03	Amnesty International	161.06	17.03.04	Christian Aid	144.39
26.11.03	British Heart Foundation	173.43	25.03.04	British Red Cross	160.67
04.12.03	Mencap	135.11	01.04.04	Roy Castle Foundation	140.45
11.12.03	Tear Fund	166.58	28.04.04	Multiple Sclerosis	180.67
12.03	Mkhande High School	783.05	04.05.04	Merseyside Society For The Deaf	164.82
17.12.03	Parkinson's Disease Society	159.95	12.05.04	Newborn Appeal	139.06
09.01.04	Action Aid	154.53	18.05.04	Leukaemia Research	132.88
15.01.04	Marie Currie and Daffodil Appeal	164.29	26.05.04	Greenbank	159.57
			23.06.04	Stepping Stones	93.12
				Total	7424.05



Chess Club

With the players who had made up the majority of the team over the past five years having moved on to university, the current academic year always threatened to be something of a transitional year for the Chess team, and so it proved.

Having reached the zone final for three of the last four years, and consequently competed in the nationals, an opening away trip to Argoed in Wales did not, on paper at least, look like an insurmountable challenge as our previous visit here in 2002 was memorable only for a 6 – 0 win and Mr. Ainsworth's attempts at navigating the Welsh mountains in February. However as in Burnley, so in Wales, a weakened team (due to the supposed ease of the fixture) saw us take an early lead with Andrew Wong winning his game in around a minute. The score however quickly became 3 – 1 in favour of our opponents and despite a fighting come back on the final two boards, to tie the score at 3 – 3, the younger average age of Argoed resulted in their progression and our elimination.

The post mortem in the mini bus on the way home pinned the blame firmly on Mr. Boardman (making his debut as team bus driver) for being far too good at following the traditional vague, Yorkshire directions of the team manager. The unprecedented event of actually arriving on time for an away game meant the team were far too relaxed for a Chess trip.

On a more positive note, the blitz competition held at the end of the previous academic year, proved a very popular events with Andrew (I win all my tournament games within a couple of minutes, so what sort of blitz competition is five minutes each?) Wong predictably emerging as the winner, in a particularly well organised event run by Michael Banks (the previous and long-serving Chess Club Captain).

Many thanks to all who took part, a similar event will hopefully also take place towards the end of the current academic year.

S. Shipgood

The Bridge Club 2004

The Bridge Club continues to attract a small but fiercely loyal group of boys (come on girls, you can beat the boys – it happens in other schools!). We now meet daily in a Chemistry (or is it Biology) lab, which, thankfully for our general health, is the one in which Mr. Cowan, doesn't teach! This year several new faces have arrived, most notably Chris Caunce (who certainly needs one!) whose size and natural Irish aggression has tended to deter the poker-playing and gambling intruders! (No Chris, clubs does not mean shillelaghs!) Bridge is of course a game of skill: it actually helps you to both count and remember accurately – useful skills these days!

Most lunchtime sessions are (fairly) friendly, although twice a year, over two or three lunchtimes, we play in the Schools Simultaneous Pairs Competitions organised by the English Bridge Union. In March, the in-house results showed a clear win for Daniel Caton and Jonathan Liu (Years 9 & 10 respectively) over several more experienced Sixth form pairs. This was confirmed nationally, with Dan and Jon 3rd out of 92.

In November, with fewer Blue Coat pairs but more overall, Stephen Banks and David Hughes of 11 Blundell finished 14th out of 111.

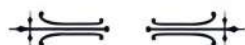
Our best pair is arguably Jonathan King (and boy, does he argue!) and Dan Caton who have twice represented Blue Coat

in the local Merseyside Bridge League, as part of an otherwise adult team of 4, winning 10-2 on one occasion. Both have been awarded School Colours recently.

Jonathan, still only in Year 12, had in fact been playing League Bridge regularly with a "slightly" older partner (Clue: he's bald with a moustache, and he drives a Peugeot...badly!), and has contributed greatly to what looks like being a successful season in division 3. Having (with Dan) won the N.W. Schools Pairs Shield recently, Jon was selected to represent the North-West at under-19 level in the inter-regional Tollemache Trophy event in Sheffield, partnering a Scottish junior international. Who knows – he might soon be called for England trials (yes, we hope he's found guilty!).

Bridge can be a game of surprises – who would believe that Mark Page and Tim Han (Year 11) could regard themselves as the second-best junior pair in the North-West? (OK, it is a bit far-fetched!) Who could believe that Jon Liu could get through 6 hands in less than an hour – miracles never cease! Or maybe the bigger miracle is that he and Michael Orlans haven't come to blows yet! Finally, with the arrival in recent years of teachers who are secret Bridge players, could it be that 2005 will see the return of the traditional Staff vs. Pupils match? (yes, this is a challenge!)

Mr. Cowan



Michael Kazick, Year 11



Art Club

Art Club is on Monday at 1.00pm and finishes at 1.40pm. The teachers in charge are Miss Vipond and Mrs. Watson. We have been on many trips, such as a trip to Yorkshire Sculpture

Park and the Edinburgh Modern Art Museum. In Art Club we do many different projects and activities. Art Club is a great place to meet new people.

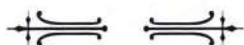
During the trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park, we saw lots of different sculptures by various artists such as Anthony Gormley who made 'The Angel of the North'. We spent a whole day exploring the park but all that time wasn't enough to see all the sculptures. In the afternoon, we were allowed to go off on our own or in groups and draw any sculptures we wanted in our sketchbooks. People chose lots of different sculptures to draw but one of the most popular was the Totem Pole.

When we returned, Art Club was asked to think about creating sculptures to be placed around the school. Working in teams we came up with a number of extremely good proposals some of which may be developed at a later stage in the year.

We are currently working on a project to celebrate Chinese New Year. We are designing and building a large arch inspired by Liverpool's Chinatown. The arch will be placed at the top of the stairs leading into the Art Department so every time you enter or leave you will be able to see Art Club's amazing talent!

Future Art Club plans include a visit to Newcastle to visit 'The Angel of The North'. We are also hoping that Mrs. Watson and Miss Vipond will find it in their kind hearts to take us to Barcelona to visit Gaudi's work. These trips should prove to be as successful as other trips in the past have been.

By Beth Chan, Jenny Rattcliffe and Katherine Bellis



Craft Club

Craft Club meets every Tuesday lunchtime at 1 pm and is run by our textiles teacher Mrs Tabern. We make lots of different things, for instance, bead bracelets and other jewellery, fridge magnets, puzzles, gift cards, pencil toppers, book marks etc.

The items we produce in the Craft Club are sold at the school fairs (Summer and Christmas) to raise money towards our school funds. We have produced a 100% profit from our finished products up to the present. The bonus to pupils is that we can take home one of the samples we make and it's good to learn new skills and raise money at the same time. The pupils' efforts have raised a total of £210.10 up to now and we are now producing stock and planning for the Summer Fair 2005.

We really enjoy making the bracelets, because there are so many different patterns to make. If you buy a bracelet manufactured by the members of the club, you can be sure it is an original and no-one else will have one of the same design.

To make fridge magnets we used salt dough or air hardening clay and then give them time to set hard (salt dough shapes have to be baked in a slow oven to harden them). The

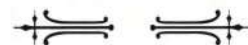
magnet shapes are then painted and a magnetic patch is added.

We have recently learned how to do pin-pricking card work and we enjoyed this, building up quite a skill level. You have to prick the card very carefully with a needle-sized tool. This process takes patience and a steady hand, but it is satisfying to know that we are improving our practical skills in an enjoyable way.

The finger puppets we are making now are the best! Miss Tabern brought in a farm animal fun book, which had mini books inside it. The little books had a different animal finger puppet attached to each one and we are working on these, making one each to start with. The main body of the puppet has to be sewn first and the rest of the details are glued on with fabric glue. They are really easy and quick to make. They look quite professional and make you feel proud of what you have managed to produce successfully.

Craft Club is interesting and fulfilling. We hope that other pupils will consider coming to join us after reading our article, it's cool and so much fun! See you soon, Crafters! There is a faint rumour that we may get a visit to McDonald's before the Summer Holidays – fingers crossed, we hope we do.

*Catherine Ainsworth and Jennifer Stoddart
7 Graham*



Creative Writing Club

Each week, Miss Casson holds a "creative writing" club. We develop our knowledge of story writing skills including alliteration, punctuation and tension building. We've been writing mini-ghost stories to be entered into a competition where we hope the story will be published. We have a fun and experience filled time and anyone is welcome to come along and join in.

Helena Sweeney	7Sh
Kieran O'Sullivan	U6A4
Peter Davey	L6S1
Jack Kenny	8 Gr
Truina Baneryee	7 Sh

Those listed above won a competition to have their poem published in the Northern Anthology of Poetry. A copy will be available in the Library soon after Easter.

*Mathew Caine
8 B1*

I am pleased to be able to announce that there will be an annual Creative Writing Competition, starting this year. There will be three prizes, one for each key stage, and all are invited to enter. Prizes will be awarded at the annual Prizegiving Ceremony in November and will be entitled "The Peter Arnold-Craft Prize for Creative Writing", in honour of the late headmaster of the school.

Ms Casson.



We even get girls at Computer Club!

I.T. Club

"It's Full" – a common phrase in the I.T. rooms around lunchtime. Maybe it is because of the comic geniuses we call prefects, or maybe it is due to a small invention called broadband, but

whatever it is, it seems to attract a crowd.

It is a well-kept secret that not everyone who comes to computer club comes to do schoolwork, and while that is what it is for, it has developed into a social club of sorts. Clearly, those who want to work can, as they have a room dedicated to that. However, the real fun lies in the other room:

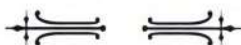
the more liberal of the two!

It is a pleasant environment, and everyone who attends enjoys it. As computing prefects, all we have to do is keep the peace, and make sure that people don't abuse the facilities or mess about with the computers.

There is no shortage of supervisors, and this seems to be a popular position especially throughout the lower school. The main prefects who 'oversee' computer club are Daniel Wright, Sam Knott, Mark Atherton and Adam Osborne. We also have access to reinforcements: Kristian Blackhall and his army of lower school 'supervisors'.

Alas, we run out of space, but the best advice I can give is to come and see for yourselves!

By Daniel Wright



Christian Union

As a group we are neither the 'Christian Club' nor the 'Christian Society', nor even the 'Christian Association': we form the 'Christian Union'. We are called this because we believe that the Body of Christ should be unified and united: 'The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we are all baptised by one Spirit into one body...' (1 Corinthians 12:12-13).

The Christian Union is therefore open to anyone, from any background or denomination, who wants to learn more about The Creator and Sustainer of the Universe: Jesus Christ.

Every lunchtime we meet together, usually in W10, either for Bible study, a video, film, worship or prayer. Also for those members of the C.U. awake at 8.30 (which for me would be a miracle), there is the morning meeting. This is an opportunity to start "the day the Lord has made" with prayer and worship.

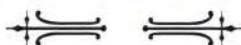
Christian Union is assisted by Mr Cowan, Head of Chemistry, yet now a six day creationist! On Wednesdays Mr Singer arranges for a guest speaker to come in to speak to us, or deliver personally

one of his excellent Bible studies. As well as leading the meetings through the week, Mr Cowan also takes groups of people to a variety of church meetings, ranging from Pentecostal 'Glory' meetings to Roman Catholic masses. Every year members of the C.U. head down to 'sunny' Minehead for the annual Spring Harvest Festival. Here we see the fine line between Mr Cowan's culinary skills and his Chemistry experiments!

The true Head of Christian Union, who is the reason we exist, is of course Jesus Christ, the perfect Saviour of the world. Our message is simple: a relationship with Jesus Christ will change your life forever!

In a society with few absolutes, where truth is relative, and reality is based on perception, we of the Christian Union boldly proclaim that Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life, and that no-one comes to God except through Him. (John 14:6)

Sean Fitzsimmons U6S4



Scripture Union



Not only do we at Scripture Union believe that the Bible is the infallible word of God, but also that it is completely relevant to society today. The issues and problems that we face in 2005 are far removed from the times when the Bible was written, but as a wise man once said: 'there is nothing new under the sun.'

We believe that God, by coming to the earth in the form of a man –Jesus– showed us just how concerned he was about being a part of our lives. That is why we meet together every Wednesday to attempt to understand what the God of the Universe wants to say about

the issues of today's society. From abortion and euthanasia, to UFOs and evolutionary science, the constant question in our hearts is – 'what does God have to say and what does that mean for us?'

Scripture Union is organised by Mr Singer who provides a different speaker each week who specialises in the topic. So if you want to know what the Bible says about anything, please feel free to come along, anyone is welcome no matter what religion or background. Our main aim is to meet to discuss the issues of society in light of the Bible. So listen out in assembly for those notices!

Sean Fitzsimmons



Original Writing

Trapped

Tuesday 21st September

BANG! I'm trapped again. I haven't been out in months, and I don't know why. Lots of the others are going out almost every day. Maybe Martin's just forgotten me, or maybe the rumours are true... the English book says we're not wanted any more, that he's chosen his "options" and we weren't chosen. Obviously English, Maths and Science don't need to worry, he's not allowed to drop them. They haven't forgotten that either: every time Martin comes to get his books, they're always waiting at the front of the locker, eager to show how useful they are. Why don't I get a chance to shine? I'm just as important as them, aren't I? How will he get anywhere in life without knowing Geography?

So now I'll just have to sit here, waiting to be taken out and then never returned, the same as happened to Latin. I'd always liked Latin – he didn't talk much, being a dead language, but he always had something over the other languages. I think French and Spanish were quite pleased when he didn't come back. They could finally call themselves the most important languages. I'm all alone now, Geography against the world. Slightly ironic, don't you think? I'm the one that knows all about the world – volcanoes, mountains, earthquakes and all the things that kill thousands of people every year, yet these people don't care. Nobody cares. They'll regret it someday. How could History help them stop a natural disaster? Who really cares about dead Kings and Queens, or some stupid Italians that tried to rule the world? I know I don't. I'm living in the present, but the present doesn't want me. I guess I might someday slip into History someday; people will look back and vaguely remember me. Oh well.

And those football boots, oh how I hate them. Every Tuesday they drop in and sit smugly on top of us, the rejected books, dripping muddy rainwater all over us, gradually soaking through my pages and washing away all my precious information. Who do they think they are? Why are they so happy? All they do for a living is get dragged round a muddy field, throwing themselves at a football once or twice. Well, I guess they're just happy to feel needed. I wish I was needed.

I wish I could get out again and see, just once more, the world I know so much about, from reading myself over and over again in the darkness – we books have night vision. I'll bet you didn't know that. How else could we deal with being shut in dark lockers and schoolbags all the time? All I ever see these days is the same four walls of this locker, dull, dark and blank, like endless tunnels stretching further and further into nothingness. Even when the door's open these days I don't see much; I'm stuck at the bottom with all the other rejects, and I obviously can't move around much to get a better view at least not when people can see me. That corridor out there hasn't changed at all since I've been here; at least that's what I've heard. Anyway, I'm going now, to try to sleep. There's nothing better to do. Maybe tomorrow will be good for something...

And maybe it will. The word on the shelf is that Geography books are in demand again, because the new stock has been delayed. This could be my chance. Yeah, maybe it is just a few days of work, but it's a chance to show my usefulness, to pass on what I know, and to see the outside again. I have to get out. I have to succeed...

Tuesday 28th September

I did it! I got out! Well, that's if you can call 'out' a few days in someone else's locker, someone else's bag and on someone else's desk. But it felt so good, the slight breeze rippling through my pages as I sat contentedly on the desk, happily displaying my knowledge to everyone around. For one more time I was useful, I was needed. I mattered. It might not be much to you, but for a geography book on the edge, it was a lifesaver. Textbook suicide is rampant at this stage of school, as more and more children decide not to take Geography.

But I'm back now, back in the same old locker with the same old books, the same old football boots on top of me all day the same cavernous walls that look so deep but are really so close and constricting. I guess it's not that bad. I got what I wanted. I made it out, I was useful again; I helped someone else to do well in Geography, perhaps paving the way for more of my kind to survive for longer in future.

So now I'll bring today's entry to a close, on account of there not being much space left in this spare English book.

Wednesday 29th September

The time has come. The end is nigh. The caretakers have finally got round to their collection and "disposal" of old books that are no longer needed. I knew today would come, and to be honest I don't mind. I've served my purpose, I passed on what I had to, and now I can face the future. Here it is now – there's a tiny crack of light appearing from the doorway, gradually getting bigger and bigger. It's very bright out there today. I wonder if I'll ever see another sunrise...

Hang on. Something's not right. That's no bin that they're holding out menacingly towards me. It's not even a big box full of firelighters (I'd hate to burn, it's the worst way to go). It's some big box that says "Third World Textbook Recycling". This means I'll still be needed, still be used! I can see other books in there! Other Geography books! Wow, some of these books I haven't seen since we were all new and living on the same shelf in the storeroom. And now we're all going on an adventure together!

This is the one ambition that unites all Geography books – to travel the world. This won't be bad after all. In fact, I think this is going to be fun! I'm going now. Going to join them.

*Nick Miller
Year 10*

The Wandering Wolf

Deep within the lonely forest,
Darkness has fallen.
A shadowy figure, illuminated by moonlight,
Breathes deeply,
Crying at the diamond in the barren black sky above,
It moves steadily forward, like an assassin, waiting for an
unlucky victim.
It is now out of sight, enshrouded in mystery.

Its dark, evil eyes are darting
Searching, searching on
Its teeth glisten in the low light,
Red, bloodstained daggers in its mouth.
Its fur brushes the low-lying branches,
They flinch to the touch
The wind whispers,
Wolf, wolf, go now, for with you comes sin.

No answer,
The wanderer walks blindly on,
As if it is a mindless robot,
Compelled to simply fulfil its needs,
And never do anything else.
It still pushes on,
Forth into nature's labyrinth.

The keepers of evil are seen by the wanderer,
Those who farm the land, poison it and destroy it.

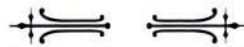
But the wanderer retreats back to the forest,
Petrified, disgusted,
For he who enters their lair may all hope abandon.

The keepers notice wanderer
Frantically it breathes now,
Footsteps are heard,
Shouting, roaring,
More footsteps, running, running!
The wolf glides gracefully over the tree roots,
But one heaves a gargantuan foot out
The wolf falls,
Silence for a brief moment.

All the wolf sees is darkness,
But it blinds him.
The sky diamond gazes,
The earth watches,
Time itself stops, shocked.
All hope is lost for the wanderer.

Gunshots plague the forest,
A ghostly red silhouette creeps down the wolf's side,
Trees abhor it,
The wind whispers,
Wolf, wolf, you have perished, and sin shall perish with you.

Ben Twigg, Year 7



Platypus

Crawling through the undergrowth,
A tangled sea of colours,
Clambering over, sliding under
Bill probing,
Eyes searching,
No hurry, no bustle, no rush.

Out onto the bank,
A plain of ooze and muck,
Trudging onwards as if through glue,
Webs heavy,
Tail dragging,
No hurry, no bustle, no rush.

Snuffling around a river,
A flow of opportunities racing by,
Loud noise, rustling bush,
Feet scrambling,
Plunging in,
Gone into murky depths.

Struggling into a lair,
A safe haven of earth,
Squeezing in, belly heavy,
Wriggling down,
Like a homing missile,
Towards a small birthing room,

A solitary egg,
A small container of life,
Being warmed affectionately,
A tiny creature squeezed inside,
Waits patiently to break free,
No hurry, no bustle, no rush.

So if you see,
A beaver's body,
A duck's bill and webs,
A kangaroo's pouch,
2 endless pools for eyes,
And a dog's tail on one animal,
It's Platypus.

Callum Spiers, Year 7

Paper

Sailing on our paper boats,
Through gutters and through tides,
Memories swim across the clouds
Floating as in the rapture,
Of the waves that toss and turn.

Sailing on our paper wings,
Across the winds that sweep us far,
To places we can only dream,
Where our fingers touch a while
Then we return with rare delight.

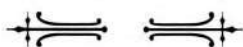
Sailing along on my paper heart,
Along a creek through time,
A pencil touches parchment
And is soon then torn to shreds

Whatever it is I can not lie
On my soaring paper bed.

So I cast off my paper wings this time,
Alone when riding the winds,
I trip my toes along the surf
And watch her tears go rolling by
As clouds come rolling in.

Paper doesn't last that long,
Nor does sealing wax,
Or string
But memories of my paper boats
Still come sailing in.

Abigail Sunderland
Year 9



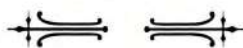
Life

The forest became a blur of reds, greens and browns as her feet battered the leaf littered ground beneath. The wind whispered through her hair, brushing it back from the sides of her face, her eyes squinting against the sunlight streaming through the treetops. She kept on running, her shadow struggling to keep up with her as she dashed between the trees. Her motive? To escape reality, the reality that was gripping her by the neck, crushing her into nothing more than dust, and letting the thin strands of her spirit fall through its fingers and onto the ground to wither away.

She slowed to a swift jog, and then began just to slowly walk to ease her aching knees. She sat down against the rough bark of a tree, the leaves shading her against the bright sun. She sat there, just a heap of rejected dirt, in anyone's mind, but one person valued her, but she was long dead. Her jacket draped over her shoulder and a small box clasped in her hand. The box

had a worn cover, revealing the dark wood grains underneath. Her hand gripped the delicate lock and her other crept into her pocket, from which a key was withdrawn. The key was placed into the lock, turned and she slowly eased the lid open, careful not to place too much weight on the already broken hinges. Revealing a small dagger, sitting on a red velvet throne. The handle was studded with gems of all lands, glittering and gleaming like stars in the sky. The blade was almost perfect, the tip sharper than any sword. She picked it up, her hair falling over her shoulder running along the edge of the dagger. Life is a lie, she thought and ran the blade along the edge of her finger, gently bringing away the surface of her skin, a fragile string of blood running down her finger. She thought again, life's a lie and closed her eyes for the last time.

Hai Lin Leung
8Gr



40 MPH

A flower is clinging
To a grey lamp post
And I know somewhere,
Someone is crying.

Maybe on their special day,
They went too fast
Swerved the wrong way.
Maybe they saw an old friend,
Ran out to soon
And met their end.
Maybe it was just a child,

Hit by someone
Driving too wild.
Maybe a man on his mobile phone,
Lost attention
And died alone.

A flower is clinging
To a grey lamppost,
And I know that somewhere,
Someone is crying.

Natasha Bradley 9Gr

Lost in the Woods

Ethan stumbled forward once more. Damn. It had been a good hour since he had entered the forest, and already the sun was beginning to set. He knelt down to check his ankle and coughed slightly – the intoxicating, minty smell of the dead leaves was all around him, forcing its way up his nostrils and swirling around inside of his lungs. His ankle was worn red, like a slab of uncooked meat. He gingerly rubbed his hand over his leg and winced as he felt another jolt of pain streak up his leg and to his head like a bolt of lightning. Carefully, he staggered to his feet and tried his weight on his damaged limb, before feeling it buckle in protest. Ethan swore loudly. Broken – possibly sprained, and if he didn't get a move-on soon, the 'Others' would catch up with him.

He sat down once more and pulled out a splint from his medical kit and did his best to apply it to his leg. After much more groaning he hobbled up and began to limp off at a brisk place.

The forest closed in all around him; its component trees standing tall like a private army, their knobbly withered branches reaching down towards him, grabbing at his clothes as if they were able to move on their own accord. "An army for the dead..." muttered Ethan as his bag was knocked off his shoulder once more. He glanced up at the large, silvery orb hanging in the sky between the branches, and was glad to see it: walking through a forest by moonlight was better than walking through a forest with no light at all, especially with the 'Others' on his tail.

The Others despised the light, like the rest of their kind. Hailing from deep beneath the ground, their black, leather-clad bodies were easy to spot in daylight. They absorbed light, making their wraith-like forms seem like three-dimensional

shadows, hovering a metre above the ground. The night, however, was a different story: they were nigh on invisible to the naked eye and were able to travel through the shadows like a bullet through air, speeding from out of a dark corner and hitting their targets with pinpoint accuracy.

Once one had taken you, there was no going back, and once they have found their next victim, there is no escape. Ethan lumbered onwards, listening to the leaves cracking beneath his feet like the bones of long dead animals. The light from the moon made the wood seem completely monochrome, its shadowy depths pooled with shafts of eerie white light. Ethan shuddered, and felt a cold, clammy feeling head straight up his spine and into his head. He began to flail around wildly, his lips parted in a bone-chilling scream: the Others had caught him.

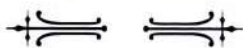
Bad memories flooded through his mind, his conscience no longer under his control. He felt his eyes bulging, as his limbs began to make involuntary jerks – he was a puppet; a wooden marionette on strings.

No! He wouldn't let it happen. Must fight it. His mind sprang to life, and he wrestled for control of his body. The creature was caught off-guard and was thrown back. He could feel it – a seething presence in the back of his mind. Ethan saw his chance. He ran, enduring the pain of his damaged leg. He tripped. Got up. Ran on again, the tree's gnarled roots sticking out like skeletal legs.

Suddenly he found himself in a clearing and he fell to the ground, waiting for the inevitable, his face screwed up in determination – he wasn't going without a fight.

...nothing came.

Alex Leece 9Sh.



Archangel

She checked the road, left and right, all clear. She started to cross. Lights from nowhere. A loud screech. Quiet...

Her soul awakened, it arose from her body pulling itself further and further out. She couldn't fight it, she couldn't fight death. Finally her soul completely detached itself from her. She breathed her final breathe, the breathe of Death.

The soul looked around, complete darkness. Silence. It looked around. A light. A soft light shone, it looked warm and welcoming but also very far off. The soul looked around some more. In the other direction flames were dancing to the smells of hot rotting corpses filling the air. The soul turned back to the light. It knew where it wanted to go.

The soul travelled, closer and closer to the light. The light got brighter and brighter. Soon enough, sounds of laughter and

bubbling waterfalls echoed in the blackness. The soul reached the light and stepped into it just as easily as it stepped out of her body.

Archangel stared down through the gates at the Earth. She thought about how much she made her way up there as a tiny soul. Now she was the leader of the Angels.

Archangel had flowing red hair and wore robes of pure white. Her wings were made up of white feathers purer than a Dove's feathers.

Archangel watched all the wars that were going on. She was upset and wanted to help. She pushed open the golden jewel encrusted gate and flew down to Earth.

Holly Boyes, 8 Shirley

Love

Love is like a bright, sunny day, which makes you for no reason, smile
Love can drag you through something, which may not feel worthwhile

Love is like belonging to someone who will care and protect you
Love is like a window, which only two can see through

Love is like winning a race, you feel like number 1
Love is like a drug you crave when it has gone

Love is like a cappuccino it makes you hot and steamy
Love is like chocolate; it's rich, indulgent and creamy.

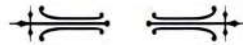
Anon Year 9

Love is like a flower in spring,
Like the pattern on a butterfly's wings,
Love is like a wave on the sand,
It can be exciting but never bland,
Love is something everyone can have,
It can be very special and it can make you laugh,
Love is something we just can't live without,
Love is beautiful but can be filled with doubt.

Hannah McNally 9 Sh

Love is more than just a word
Love is more than just a feeling
Love makes you strong when you are weak
Love makes you weak when you are strong
Love is like a roundabout, it makes you dizzy and you never know when it will stop.
Love warms you up from inside out
Love is like a roller coaster, it is terrifying but you never want it to stop.

C. Higgott 9 Sh



Shadow

Our clock has stopped,
There's no way out,
From our only aspect
Free from doubt.

Doubt be lost,
For in this fight,
It cannot halt
The inevitable night.

All other sleeps
Provide some rest,
And one could hope
For this at best.

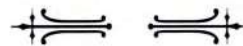
The soul may continue
Beyond this flesh
A creature trapped

In wire mesh.
A stranger to myself
A body alien to me
When night comes
Will I finally be free?

Such talk helps
Us to accept
The fate of life
As our own concept.

But really in life
I am utterly free
Death and suffering
Cannot break what I am: me.

*James Taylor
11 Blundell*



Rose

So delicate the flower,
That blooms like her beauty,
Her pale skin, dark eyes, black hair,
Seemingly sweet, innocence.
Inside she's screaming.
For physical release
A promise she must break
To carry out her plan, and to
Save the one that she loves.

Dearly, and has loved her back.
A crowded room and no-one hears,
To hear her only one of them cares.
The love shared between them.
Stretches on and on
Til death do us part,
And beyond.

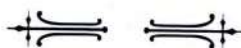
Jade Slocombe 9 Sh

Chase

Running, stumbling,
Jacket fumbling,
Fabric flapping,
Trainers tapping,
Branches cracking,
Wisdom lacking,
Wrong way turning,
Lungs are burning,
He's still chasing,
Pacing, racing,

Just keep going,
Your blood flowing,
Run, run,
Fall, fall,
Her, pain
Scream, call
Never again.

Natasha Bradley 9 Gr



Flying the Nest

The two sad souls measure up my body, all alone, yet together,
They walked through darkness, yet my windows show the
morning light,

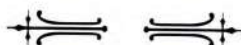
The strings of their puppet relationship are growing weary,
As the nail of sadness is slowly driven through his mother's
heart.

Their silent wails echo through my unfurnished heart,
The hard wooden floor soaked with invisible tears of sadness,
They know they're going to miss each other, through all the
arguments,

And through all of the pain, their single, shared heart will be
torn apart.

Like the little bluebird on its first flight,
Her child of 21 is taking off into the night,
The ground is shaking; the hearth gives light,
Their solemn and tear-filled eyes, long to hold each other tight.

Daniel Chambers 10 Shirley



Ideal Holiday

As you look out over the coast from your hotel balcony
and see the rippling waves, splashing against the golden sands
of the Spanish coast, it's hard to imagine a greater place on
Earth. The endless blue skies stretch on into infinity and the
beaming sun makes everything glint, as if it was all made of
some precious metal.

In the distance, far beyond the horizon, you can just see
the northern coast of Africa, shimmering as if made from
cloud.

The hotel is placed on a hilltop; only a stone's throw from
the shore. It is extremely new and modern, but there's still a
rustic and traditional feel to the building. Down in the bay,
the white sails of the fishing boats seem to be made of light,
as the men collect the fish for the evening meals in the
restaurants all along the front.

The secluded bay hides the beautiful, golden beaches that
are empty and undisturbed, as if waiting just for you. A gentle
breeze catches the blues and greens of the Mediterranean Sea,
making the tips of the waves foam with brilliant white.

In the morning there is absolutely no sound to disturb the
fragile tranquillity of the area and throughout the day there is
the occasional local going about their daily business and the
visitors ambling about this magnificent place, or sunbathing
on the golden sands. At night, the town comes alive, with
restaurants, bars and shops willing you to come to them.
Families and couples of any age are dining, chatting or
spending money in the smaller souvenir shops and don't seem
to have a care in the world.

In the darkness you can only hear the rhythmic wave
splashing onto the beach but you can still see the lights of the
night-fishing boats flashing in the distance.

No matter how long you spend here, there never seems to
be enough time to take in the beauty and the serenity of this
magical Spanish town, but you know it will never change,
whether you return in one year or ten.

Chris Watters 11 Shirley

Blood Moon

Roseanne hurried along the path, snapping twigs underfoot, her long, black hair flowing freely behind her, as though dragging her back to the horror that stalked her. The smell of damp, decaying leaves surrounded her and she felt every scratch of the branches that grabbed at her, trying to cage her like an animal. Roseanne listened carefully as she ran. Her predator was speeding up and getting closer. No. He had stopped. Roseanne slowed to a halt and found herself at a riverbank. She knew she couldn't cross it. But, if need be, she would try. She looked around nervously and listened closely but could neither see nor hear anything. In her mouth the taste of blood was clear; she had bitten her tongue whilst running. Then she heard it. The abrupt snap of a twig through silence alerted her to his presence. He must have crept up. This was it.

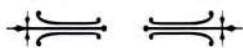
Roseanne leapt into the water. Already soaked through, the young girl who had always been so troublesome waded through the river as quickly as possible, glancing behind her. He was there. Standing where she had been only moments before, holding something in his hands. He began to make his way toward her. As she tried to climb the bank she realised: it was too steep. He was getting closer. Roseanne clawed at the dirt, begging it to lift her and free her from this nightmare. But it didn't happen. She turned and faced Him and saw what he had been holding.

The dagger's blade glinted wickedly as the moon shone

down upon the pair. In it, Roseanne saw her own reflection, the pale skin and deep blue eyes of a troubled girl who has witnessed many horrors. The girl, whose first boyfriend had used her, then cast her aside like an old pair of shoes. She had always blamed everything on herself. Her parents' death, her brother's murder. All she ever wanted was to be loved. And then he came along. He made her happy. He had loved her. He had shown her how amazing she was. He had helped her see that most things weren't her fault, that she was someone special. But He was no longer the boy she had known. He had loved her that was true. She could see it when she looked in his eyes. Even now with him standing in front of her, preparing to kill her, she could see the love, see the tears shining so innocently on his cheeks in the moonlight. It wasn't His fault. Roseanne knew this. Something had happened. Some thing had taken over his body. There was a darkness, an evil in His stare, but also the unmistakable love. Fresh tears ran down Roseanne's cheeks. Why had this happened? What had she done to upset the Threefold Law of Wicca? She prayed to the Goddess in her head and braced herself. The water was still. All was silent.

The moonlight shone softly upon the water, setting the scene for a very different story; the story that was replaying inside Roseanne's head. The story of how all this began...

Jade Slocombe, 9 Sh



Followed through the Forest

I kept running, as fast as I could, just running away. The cold, sharp air was burning in my chest, but my fear just blocked out the pain. It felt as if I had been escaping, trying to get away for hours. In reality it had only been a few minutes. The long, spindly branches of the trees were hitting my face, scratching at my body, tearing at my clothes.

Eventually, I had run as much as I could. My legs ached and blisters plagued my feet. My last resort was to hide. It was the only way I could escape it. "Uh, huh, uh, huh, uh, huh..." As I stumbled across the forest floor, frantically searching for a place to hide, I heard the crunching of a twig nearby. That sound sent a stabbing pain in my heart, as fear took over my whole body. I had no time to choose the best place to hide, the only thing I could do now was crouch under the nearest bush.

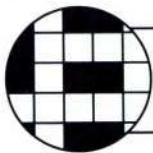
"Uh, huh, uh, huh, uh, huh..." From my hiding spot, under the branches of a blackberry bush, I could see it coming from behind an ageing willow tree. I tried to hold my breath, so that it would not be alerted to where I was by my desperate panting and gasps for air. After a few minutes it was still searching, as quiet as a mouse, so as not to scare me away. I had started to calm down a little by now. "He shall

give up soon, just keep still and silent for just a little while longer." I told myself.

I was brought a glimmer of hope as it slowly turned around, giving up on its search for me. Then, suddenly it quickly spun round again, its eyes in my direction, staring straight at me. No. It couldn't be. Please no. It's coming. For me. No. Not now.

Then it started approaching. A grin crept up on its face, like a Cheshire cat. Then everything went dark. The only thing I could hear was the rustling of the leaves and the whistling of the wind through the trees. The stench of stale beer threw me and the blackness of wherever I was petrified me. I had no idea where I was or where I was being taken. The guess I had was that I was in a sack of some sort, being dragged along the forest floor. The bumpiness of the ground hurt my arms and a feeling of drowsiness overtook me. "What had it done to me?" That was the question that riddled my brain. But the question that I really wanted to know the answer to was, "What was he going to do to me?" And then I found out.

Emma Longworth, 9Bl



Puzzle Pages

Rebus

A REBUS is a picture representation of a name, work or phrase. Each "rebus" puzzle box below portrays a common word or phrase. Can you guess what it is?

HEAD
HEELS

Answer: Since the word HEAD is *over* the word HEELS, the answer to the puzzle would be HEAD OVER HEELS!

Here are some more for you to try. The answers are on page 58.

1

____ RANGE

2

PAWALKRK

3

ICEBERG

4

HO
RS
E
S
N

5

IFLAND IFIFC

6

NOW^{HE}RE

7

F F
E R I R E

8

YOU DESERVE TODAY

9

BA NK

10

BARBERSHOP
BARBERSHOP
BARBERSHOP
BARBERSHOP

11

CONTRACT

12

PEN^{sword}

13

GEAR GE^AR

14

L
A
U
G
H
T
E
R

15

TEMPORARY

16

SITTING
WORLD

17

CHART

18

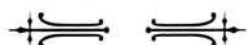
HCRYAME

Sudoku

		4		5			6	
	6		1			8		9
3					7			
	8					5		
			4		3			
		6					7	
			2					6
1		5			4		3	
	2			7		1		

Sudoku Instructions

Every row, column and 3 x 3 grid must contain the numbers 1 to 9.



Classic Teacher Comments

"I'm not here but I'm still watching you."

"I can't hear you from this end of the field."

"There's only one place you can be, the courtyard or the dining room"

"I can see through you like a transparent mirror."

"It's either coincidence or chance."

"Take off your coat and put your mouth in the bin!"

"Puruliones pilas iactabant." (translation; the dwarves were juggling with their balls)

"Can I use a glue stick?"

"Yes, but keep the lid on it!"

"If you don't behave I'll drop myself on you from a great height."

"You can do this in the present, or do it now."

"I'm really going to lose my cagoule in a minute!"

You might have been off, but I know you were here!"

"I can't help you, I don't even know how to switch the things on."

"Two things will happen,
Number 1; nothing will happen....."

"We're not going to study nerve cells, I can't be bothered drawing them!"

"If you worked hard this year you'd be the top of the set...apart from the genius"

"If your ears were any lower, you'd be a cricket."

"If you're not going to stand up, at least tuck your chairs in."

"This dining room is not a supermarket!"

"Here's a nice sign, for those of you who can't read."

"If you can't see that, you need to go to the dentist!"

"Every time I open my mouth, some fool speaks."



School Sport

Sports Day

Another year and another Sports Day held down at Wavertree Sports Centre on a fine summer's afternoon allowed the lower school to enjoy a day of highly enjoyable, yet still highly competitive events. Students competing both for their respective forms and also for personal achievement proved once again the array of talent in sport the school enjoys every year.

Year 7 Boys

Blundell ran out clear winners this year, with the individual winner position being shared by Lee Roberts and Victor Truong. The hurdles and discus produced new school records.

Year 7 Girls

The individual winner was also tied, this time between Charlie Dickinson and Rachael Hodgkinson, who both helped Graham to winning this age group. The girls also broke 3 school records, in discus, 800m and hurdles events.

Year 8 Boys

Bingham were the overall winners for the Year 8 Boys with Danny Idama and Harry Edwards sharing honours in the individual awards. Kieran Koshy broke the school javelin record with a throw of 18.17m.

Year 8 Girls

Shirley won this age group, and the individual winner was W. Garr who won all her three events: 100m, long jump and high jump. The Year 8 girls set a total of 7 new records in all three throwing events, 100 and 200m and also the 1500m and hurdles. Well-done girls.

Year 9

Harry Harper set a new school record in the 1500m with a time of 4min 46secs and helped Bingham to run out eventual winners in this year. Alex Hooley won the individual trophy winning both the 100m and the 200m (in which he set two new records) and also the shot put. Drew Marsh also broke the long jump record.

Year 10

There was no house competition for Year 10 although there was an individual competition in which a few boys competed. John Potter won the individual trophy winning all three of his events: 100m, 400m and also the long jump.

The overall winners were Blundell, so a special congratulations to everyone in Blundell and also to everyone who competed on the day.

D Fiske



Athletics



As well as Sports Day the school also competed in various athletic tournaments throughout the year with excellent performances by all concerned.

Central Districts Champion Schools

In order to enter these events the school first competed in a district event, in which Year 9 and Year 10 both qualified; however Year 10 were unable to compete in the next round as they were completing their work experience. However with Year 7 and 8 despite not qualifying as a Year group individuals competed in the finals with great enthusiasm providing some outstanding performances. Year 9 eventually finished 2nd behind St. Margaret's with some exceptional performances along the way.

Year 7

Notable performances include:

- Daniel Gardner 3rd in the 1500m with a time of 5m 26.8s
- Victor Truong 2nd in the High Jump, 1m 25
- Oliver Kennedy 3rd in Javelin with 18m 40, Oliver also went on to become City Champion in Year 7, so congratulations to him.
- Sophie Batterton 3rd in the Long Jump.

Year 8

Blue Coat were represented strongly within Year 8 with a large number of students receiving podium positions in their events:

- Danny Idama 2nd in the 100m, and triple Jump
- Harry Edwards 3rd in the 400m, and also Long Jump
- Magnus Rannala won the Shot Putt and came 3rd in the Discus
- Alex Cook 3rd in the Javelin
- Kaya Melia 1st in Javelin, making her the City Champion.
- Wini Garr finished 2nd in the 100m, but was unfortunate as both 1st and 2nd place recorded identical times.

The boys 4 x 100m team also won their race, with the girls team (Holly Railes Nathalie Connell, Charlotte Benbow and Wini Garr) finishing 2nd. Magnus Rannala (Shot Putt) and Danny Idama (Triple Jump) went on to become City Champions in their respective events. Magnus Rannala was also the National Indoor Shot Putt Champion so special congratulations to Magnus.

Year 9

Success was high within the Year 9 events, with victories from, Harry Harper (1500m) and Alex Hooley (100m and Shot Putt), other achievements included:

- Joe Nkansah 2nd in the 200m, and 3rd in the Long Jump
- Laurie Luscombe 3rd in the 1500m
- The boys 4 x 100m team also finished 3rd

Year 10

Podium positions obtained in year 10 include:

- L Jones who came 3rd in 800m Javelin and Discus.
- Galgey 3rd in the 1500m
- Michael Curran 1st in the 800m
- John Potter 1st in the 100m Hurdles
- Peter Fielding 2nd in the Long Jump and Triple Jump
- Craig Gunderson 1st in the 3000m

Craig Gunderson was also the English Schools City Champion and ran for Merseyside, finishing 14th with a season's personal best of 9mins 13secs.

D Fiske



Michael Oakes, Year 11

Cricket

U12 Cricket



We played our first game of the season against Birkenhead who were in my opinion, the best team we played all season. We bowled first and managed to restrict an excellent batting line up to 122-5, this was a bit disappointing as we gave away far too many runs (something like 40) in the last 5 overs. We opened with Koshy and Yoh but Koshy got bowled first ball and

Yoh soon followed leaving us 3-2 in the second over. From this unenviable position it was quite a comeback to reach 88-3 after 20 overs with Tom Bowman scoring 46* and Tancred batting most of the innings. We didn't win but it was a good performance considering it was our first game of the season and against the best side we played all season.

The closest we came to winning was against Calderstones when it came down to the final ball of the match. We battled first on a slow (synthetic!) wicket and it was tough going but we just about managed a competitive score to bowl at. Calderstones found it hard as well and we bowled accurately. It came down to the last ball which was bowled by Joel Crawley with them needing 2 to win. Their batsman hit it straight to Yoh who misfielded bringing the scores level but then we failed to back up the throw, which gifted them another single, and the game. We had played well but we lost because of poor fielding.

Unfortunately, the rest of the season didn't go too well. When batting, only one person ever got into double figures again. Our batting was definitely our weak point, bowling wise, I thought we were better than most of the teams we played but it was our fielding and batting that let us down. We rarely managed to bat out 20 overs and we gave away far too many runs in fielding. We finished the season without a win, which is a bit harsh, as we had outclassed a lot of teams in the bowling department.

Overall we tried hard and I'd like to thank everyone in the team as well as Mr Barends for managing us.

Tom Bowman
8 Gr

U13 Cricket team

TEAM	
Tim Haggis (Capt.)	Greg Stuart
Amir Ali	Mohammed Khattak
Magnus Rannala	Michael Roberts
Phil Murphy	Josh Batterton
James O'Brien	Daniel Idama
Harry Edwards	Nick Ford
Thomas Bowman	

Manager: Mr Phelan

Overall, it was a good year for the cricket team. Getting to the semi-finals of the Liverpool Cup and progressing through a few rounds of the Lancashire Cup were very good achievements.

The first win came in the first game, away at Liverpool

College. Liverpool College posted a score of around 60. We came into bat and struggled, until Rannala and Haggis built a good partnership. From only a few balls Magnus won the game for us with 12 not out.

There was another exciting game at SFX. They batted first and totalled 38 with Haggis being the pick of the bowlers with three wickets. When batting, not even Khattak with ten runs could stop us falling short by just one run.

Two defeats came in the Cup. The first defeat was against St. Edwards in the Liverpool Cup. We were beaten on a "bowl out" as the weather was bad. The other defeat was against Birkdale in the Lancashire Cup. Birkdale when batting got 97 runs. However, nobody stood out for us and we only reached 30 runs when we were all bowled out.

The last game of the season came in the pouring rain against Calderstones. Calderstones reached 57 runs with Haggis collecting four wickets. Again we came second into bat and struggled at the start. Then Edwards came in and won us the game with 43 not out (performance of the season). In this innings he hit nine fours and five of them were in consecutive balls!

Michael Roberts

U14 Cricket team

The Merseyside Derby had once again arrived (no, not that one). The Blue Coat Boys and Liverpool College were set to encounter each other for the third time in three years and this game had all the build up of a World War, not a game of cricket. Both teams were going in with all guns a-blazing and no prisoners were going to be taken, this was the chance both teams had been craving for; the chance to get ahead in this ongoing battle for supremacy.

We were in high spirits as we boarded the mini-bus on our way to the College, the weather was great, we had just escaped a mind-numbing English lesson and of course we were able to play a game of cricket! There was nothing to feel down about, at least not yet anyway.

When we arrived however, the weather took a quick turn for the worst as clouds began to hang over the pitch like a drunk in a pub, but morale remained high and the team was still looking forward to the hotly contested clash that was to commence shortly. When there are clouds though, rain almost definitely follows and the rule was not set to be broken in this case, consequently the start of the match was hampered with the players being sent back to the dressing room after barely ten minutes of play had been completed. Not exactly the start either team had been looking for. Nonetheless the two sides were back on the field after a light drizzle only to be forced back in moments later. This period was truly frustrating for the players and coaches alike as we just wanted to get back on and play. Our prayers were swiftly answered when the clouds passed away with the wind. Finally, we played some proper cricket.

On the return to the pitch captain Matty Whelan decided to hand the bowling responsibilities to Neil Shaw. In hindsight it maybe wasn't the greatest moves as Shaw unfortunately injured himself after hitting the deck hard in his second over (on a wicket reminiscent of a dirt track, not a cricket pitch) and

shortly afterwards nearly knocking himself out cold when he collided with Whelan while trying to catch a ball (which he did in the end) hit closer to the stars than Earth. At the close however, the Blue Coats fell short of the 136 runs required managing to score 97 runs on what I remind you was an awful wicket at the end of proceedings.

Despite the lack of games (in fact we only played one!!!) our team could still take a lot of positives from the season as a whole. It wasn't the greatest result ever by any stretch of the mind but it did open our eyes to what needs to be improved. On the other hand though, it was a chance to catch a glimpse of some youthful talent that was emerging from the junior years and help players who had promised a lot in the past to finally realize some of their full potential. The season dawning in front of us could be a very rewarding one but we need to build on the foundations established last year and work on our weaknesses as well.

Ahmed Khattak	
Johnny Tam	
Ahmed Khattak	3 wickets
Neil Shaw	1 wicket
Danny Chambers	2 wickets
Nathan Ko	
Matthew Ko	
James O'Brian	
Matthew Whelan	2 wickets
Tim Haggis	
Mambir Sherry	Did not play
Jack Bowlker	1 wicket
Hayden Morris	Did not play

A Khattak

U15 Cricket team

This summer, the U15 cricket squad had a solid and enjoyable season despite being eliminated in both Cup competitions in their relatively early stages. Under the guidance of Mr Rees, we continued to improve our technique and ability through both training and matches. William Head continued to captain the side, and was an inspirational player with the bat and the ball along with Leigh Jones and Matty Whelan.

The team spirit had also been boosted and going into our first fixture, we were confident of a good performance. We were making the short trip to Liverpool College and were marginally beaten mainly due to a poor batting display, especially from Peter Hollywood with a dismal zero. In spite of this, the bowling was encouraging and a sharp field showed potential for the remainder of the season.

Our next game was against St Edwards who, in recent years, have proved to be a tough opposition for us to overcome. We were in buoyant mood before the game after some impressive training sessions. We elected to bowl first and were disappointing to say the least. An equally disappointing batting session destroyed our confidence after no real highlights or exceptional performances.

Other friendly games against SFX and Calderstones resulted in morale-boosting victories, producing excellent batting performances from Head, Whelan, Jones and Stuart. A spectacular hat trick for Joe Corina was one of the highlights of the season, it was just a pity he couldn't prolong this form for the important Cup games.

Another trip to Calderstones in the Liverpool Cup was easily won with an excellent all-round performance from the team. Head again excelled with a memorable half century, however an immense bowling performance outshone this feat. Mick Green ended with figures of six wickets for just four runs with his legendary leg spinners. These figures included a hat trick from Green but not without the help of stumpings from wicket keeper Peter Hollywood.

But after this "performance of the season", we were brought down to earth quickly by a very strong St. Margarets' side in the next round, which was the semi-final. The Liverpool Cup Champions demolished us despite some good bowling from our new found sensation Michael Stannard and Leigh Jones. Our batting, however, was not up to our usual high standard even though the Liverpool Cricket Club pitch was immaculate. A slow run rate and disappointing composure let us down and we left knowing we could – and should – have done better.

Our last chance of winning a trophy came in the Lancashire Cup but again we failed to deliver at the vital time. We lined up against St. Edwards once again, after our defeat earlier in the season. Their psychological advantaged boosted their game and we were eventually defeated. Let's hope we have more success this coming season.

P Hollywood

1st XI Cricket team

Last year was a surprising year for the first eleven as we had a strong team but didn't win either of our 2 games. The team's first game was against the Blue Coat Old Boys and after being set a massive target of 140 odd runs in 20 overs, (which has to be blamed on myself and Captain James Sayer for setting a much too aggressive field right the way through the game) we were bound to struggle. We started off well with the bat with myself and Flynn getting the team to 46-0 off the first 5 overs. Unfortunately though both players were dismissed before the 7th over leaving the less experienced players to try to carry the team through the rest of the innings. We ended up making 128-7, which was a lot more than we expected, and a total that would usually win a 20 over match.

Our next and last game was against St. Edwards, which was anything but good. Losing the wicket of myself in the 2nd over to what I would have to say was one of the best catches I have ever seen at school level was the start of the collapse. Then within 5 overs we were down to our sixth and seventh batsmen. We went on to lose but a good thing that came out of the game was a strong batting performance by Year Ten's Liam Head who top scored with ease and showed the upper order how to bat. Another positive that can be taken through to next year's team is that only a few of the players were actually in upper sixth, which means this year's team should be full of experience.

The team: J. Sayer (C), P.Lovelady, J.Hopkins, S.Passey, A.Dickinson, A.Flynn, A.Bailey, M.Khan, I.Roberts, B.Pinsent, L.Head (Yr10), M.Whalen (Yr9).

P Lovelady

Hockey

U12 Girls' Hockey

The Year 7 Hockey Team has done very well this season and Juman Al Machoor has been our top scorer. We have two teams in year 7:



Helena Sweeny
Rachael Smith
Helen Fee
Katy Sung
Hannah Marnell
Laura Moran
Lucy Quinn
Gabi Sherry
Michelle Ariss

Juman Al Machhaar
Ellie Darby
Alex Mallon
Jenny Stodart
Samantha Dolan
Helen Thompson
Francis Muscatelli

We've played our matches at Wyncote playing fields. Our closest rivals are Liverpool College who beat everyone this season, but by next season the A team aim to beat them. We have not played all our matches yet as there are still 3 games left to play. Overall this season the A team has won 6 games, drawn 4 and lost 1.

Everyone involved in the U12 hockey team would also like to thank Mrs. Beggs and Miss. Cornwall for organising and coaching us this season.

Ellie Darby

U13 Girls' Hockey

In the hockey league this year we have won eight games, and lost only two. We were beaten by St. Eddie's A team and also St. Eddie's B team. We played in another 7-a-side tournament in Preston; it was the National Mini Hockey Tournament. Other tournaments we played in included the U13 Merseyside Finals; this was an 11-a-side competition.

We also played an 11-a-side friendly against Archbishop Blanche winning 1-0. Sharon Koshy and Ellie Beggs represented Mersey-Lancs in the U14 County Games. They also attended training and trials. The games were played in Altrincham, near Manchester. This year we have been playing 11-a-side games, this will certainly help us as next year the league will become 11-a-side rather than 7-a-side games. The season has been an enjoyable experience for all of us, and we are all looking forward to next season.

The Team:

Lisa Tighe
Sophie Batterton
Ellie Beggs
Gabi Thompson
Sarah Hodgkiss
Siobhan Wilson
Becca McWaters

Lizzi Whitehouse
Sharon Koshy
Charlie Dickinson
Steph Denny
Hollie Hughes
Corinna Milroy
Alice McRoe

Ellie Beggs

U14 Girls Hockey

All girls play hockey in Years 7, 8 and 9, however when you reach Year 9 the layout changes slightly, the pitch becomes full size, instead of playing across a half pitch as in the two previous years. Also in Year 9 teams increase in size from 7 players on each team to 11 a side. Hockey training is no longer on the pitches at Wyncote; instead arrangements are being made to have skills sessions in the sports hall.

Girls in year 9 who played in the team are:

Jenny Radcliffe
Beth Chan
Katharine Bellis
Charlie Monaghan
Kaya Melia
Mary Williams
Holy Railes
Wini Garr (who was selected for the U14 county squad)
Mel Foo
Charlie Benbow
Hayley Conboy
Rachael Langford
Abigail Sunderland

We recently played the U14 County Tournament but didn't have any matches before the event and there may not be any games for the rest of the year. At the beginning of the year we played:

Archbishop Blanche – Lost
Archbishop Beck – Won twice
St. Julie's – Lost
St. Eddie's – Lost

J Radcliffe

Netball

U12 Netball

The Blue Coat Netball Team has worked very hard over the past two terms in training and matches and has won 4 out of 9 games.

The team members are:

Ellie Darby (c)	Juman Al Machhaar
Laura Moran	Alex Mallon
Fiona Boardman	Megan Moriaty
Christina Farandos	Michelle Ariss
Bethany Leader	Catherine Ainsworth
Pippa O'Conner	Eleonora Bianchi

The team hasn't always had the best of luck, from problems with unavailable players to biased umpires! However the team effort has always been excellent and has been rewarded with fantastic performances, such as the one against St. John Almond's when the team won 7-0. The rest of results from the season are:

Liverpool College	lost 4-1
Notre Dame	won 5-3
St. John Almond's	won 7-0
Alsop	lost 7-3
St. Hilda's	lost 6-2
St. Julie's	lost 9-0
Calderstones	lost 4-0
Broadgreen	won 3-0
Broughton Hill	won 7-0

All the girls would like to thank Miss. Cornwall for coaching and organising all the games this season

*Juman Al Machhaar
7 Blundell*

U13 Netball

Team:

Gabi Thompson	Ciara Lenehan
Ellie Beggs	Sophie Batterton
Sharon Koshy	Lisa Tighe
Charlie Dickinson	Siobhan Wilson
Bronica Gumbia	Tori Jones
Pippa O'Connor (Year 7)	

Results in The Liverpool City Schools' Netball League:

Bluecoat v Liverpool College	lost
Bluecoat v Notre Dame	won 10-2
Bluecoat v Alsop	won 15-2
Bluecoat v St Julies	lost 3-5
Bluecoat v Calderstones	won 7-1
Bluecoat v Broadgreen	won 8-2
Bluecoat v Broughton Hall	won

Second in the City League
Third in the County League

In the City League we came 2nd in our pool with St Julies ahead in 1st place. This position meant we had to play St

Edwards, who finished 1st in their pool, in the next round. This was a tough match but we managed to score a crucial goal at the last moment to make the final score 10-9 to Bluecoat.

We were now in the semi-finals against St Julies. Despite feeling tired after the St Edward's game we had to play the semi straight away, giving St Julies the advantage. This game was also very tough and unfortunately we lost in a closely fought match. This defeat meant that Bluecoat finished 2nd in the City.

The team would like to thank Miss Cornwall for all her hard work this year in coaching the team and organising all the fixtures.

Sharon Koshy & Ciara Lenehan

U14 Netball

The U14 netball team has been successful since Year 7 but this season has been one of the best so far. After a series of successful league matches:

Bluecoat v Liverpool College	lost
Bluecoat v Notre dame	won 20-0
Bluecoat v St Benedicts	won 13-1
Bluecoat v Alsop	won 17-3
Bluecoat v St Hildas	won 9-6
Bluecoat v Calderstones	won
Bluecoat v Broadgreen	won 13-0
Bluecoat v Broughton Hall	won
Bluecoat v Archbishop Blanche	won

we came top in our pool and got through to the final. After playing and defeating both Belvedere and Liverpool College, in very close games, we won the Liverpool League.

We were not as lucky in our County Tournament though. After playing a number of matches in the first leg we were in 1st position and had to play Rainford for the second time that day to confirm our place in the final. Unfortunately though we lost this game despite having beaten them comfortably in our first encounter of the tournament. This was disappointing but we still managed to get through to the finals and finish 4th rather than 3rd following a few dubious umpiring decisions.

Our next tournament was the City Tournament. The weather was freezing and it rained constantly. Despite this we still managed to make it to the finals where we met our rivals Liverpool College. The final was a close game that Liverpool College eventually won leaving us having to settle for a respectable 2nd place in the competition.

The netball team are now looking forward to our trip to Malta and hopefully winning a few games against the local teams. We would also like to thank Miss Cornwall for coaching us this season and everyone who has helped to raise money for the trip.

The Team:

Chloe McDonald	Holly Railes
Katie Dean	Nathalie Connell
Stephanie Chow	Kaya Melia
Kara Wayland-Larty	Winnie Garr
Mary Williams	

Katie Dean , 9 BL

Football

U12 Football



So far the Year 7 football team has played ten games, unfortunately the team are still to win a game.

Each player has played well individually, but the team as a whole has struggled. Not many goal-scoring opportunities have been created but both Matthew Benton, and Joe Verdan have six goals each, but due to our defensive

frailties we have conceded about sixty goals.

The team is starting to get better as the defence is slowly gaining experience and confidence, thanks to the captain James Platt. The team now also know each other better and hopefully we can pull together for some better results.

Although the team are getting better, improvements still need to be made with the consistency of the side's performance.

Alex Edwards and James

U13 Football

This year the Year 8 team had a fairly good season with many ups and downs along the way. The start of the season came with some heavy defeats and some good wins. Further into the season, the team started to show more determination and looked like they wanted to win. This paid off, as Easter was drawing near, as a bout of good results occurred. However it started with an unfortunate 6-2 defeat to Archbishop Beck, although perhaps a draw would have been a clearer reflection on the game. We then beat St. Margaret's 7-1 and then drew away at Calderstones 2-2, which was a great result considering Calderstones finished third in the cup and had previously beaten us 8-1 and 5-1.

The players who participated this season were;

Alex Yoh (c)	Jack England
Jack Bedford	Lee Roberts
Jagdip Bains	Richard Hetherington
Michael Tancred	Oliver Kennedy
Kiron Koshy	Gary Chan
David Corns	Elliot Kwong
Victor Trong	Alex Waterfield
Daniel Bartling	

*Alex Yoh
8 Blundell*

Under 14 Football

Squad:

Harri Edwards (Captain), Michael Roberts, Magnus Rannala, Josh Batterton, Matthew Saxton, Michael Daly, Daniel Bruce, Daniel Idama, Gregg Stuart, Anthony Scully, Tim Haggis, James Blackburn, Nick Ford, Justin Wong, Vincent Hale, Max Berks, Phil Murphy

This season proved to be a successful one as the boys grew in confidence and belief. The team had two commendable Cup runs, losing on penalties in the National Cup to Archbishop Beck and then suffering a defeat in the semi-finals of the Echo

Cup to Cardinal Heenan.

As this team was inherited from the 'Boardman' school of coaching it soon became evident that the boys had learnt to never give in and always fight to the finish.

Once again the team's top scorers were Harri Edwards and Michael Roberts and special congratulations must also go to Magnus who actually managed to finish a game.

Finally we would all like to extend a big thank you to all the parents who supported the boys throughout the season.

P Phelan

U15 Football

The 2004-05 season saw the U15 team compete with and match the best school teams in the city. Despite an early exit in The Merseyside Cup to Halewood, the side played exceptionally well in the second major competition of the season.

A thrilling Liverpool Cup campaign witnessed the side overcome the might of De La Salle with a comprehensive 3-1 victory. A Sam Gifford hat trick provided a great foundation to build on. Captain Alex Roberts lead the team to the semi-final stage of the cup. All the other sides that we played commented on the conviction and team play that came from a strong defence that included: Carl Bramwell, James Ransome, Tom Highton and Liam Brown. A compact, creative midfield included: Mark Dockray, Alex Roberts (Captain), Zach Washington-Young and John Monaghan along with the deadly

strike force of Sam Gifford and Alex Hooley. We must also not forget the safe hands of Daniel Chambers who made several crucial saves against De La Salle.

St Margarets were our opponents in the semi-finals and unfortunately they edged Bluecoat out of the competition with a 3-2 victory. The greatest success from the game was the belief in the team that we could still compete after conceding an early goal.

The team certainly improved this year under the expert guidance of Mr Barends who was keen to instill the need for discipline and fair play. On behalf of the U15 Football Team I would like to thank Mr Barends for all of his time and effort this season.

Alex Roberts

1st XI Football

The season began last September with the first game of the season, the annual Blue Coat 1st XI vs. Blue Coat Old Boys XI, although it has to be noted that the Old Boys team consisted of lads not much older than ourselves, as well as a few long standing team members. The game was contested fairly yet strongly by both teams, and without an excellent performance from Mr. Barends in goal for the Old Boys the outcome could have been different. The game finished 2-0 to the Old Boys but a good time was had by all, and everyone headed to the Halfway House for a cavery dinner and drinks at the bar afterwards. Thanks to the Old Blues for paying and organising this event.

The National Cup was the only competition to begin before Christmas, and so most Saturday mornings, and also some Wednesday afternoon friendly games against local schools were organised. In general the results were very impressive and all the games were strongly contested especially a 2-2 draw vs. Magull in which there was no love lost between the two sides. Other games included a 2-0 defeat against SFX and wins against St Margaret's and also a slightly flattering 7-0 victory against Archbishop Beck. As we neared Christmas the National Competition began, we won our first game against Cardinal Heedan, and headed off to Manchester to play our next game. The pitch was rather small for the 1st XI but nevertheless we used what space we created to go on and win the game 2-0. The game included a (second successive) penalty save from Adam Dickinson (so far he has an impressive 3 /3 penalty saves.) Role on the next round, and again another tough fixture against Magull. This game seemed even more competitive than the last, but Blue Coat had everything going against them, after conceding two goals, one that came from a defensive blunder. Despite this Blue Coat pushed forward looking to get back in the game. Unfortunately though the game finished 2-0 despite several efforts that hit the woodwork, including one direct shot from a Ben Stuart corner, so perhaps it just wasn't our day.

As we entered the New Year the team was beginning to adapt to the new 3-5-2 wing back system we had adopted and soon our fortunes began to change. A 5-0 win against Calderstones helped keep confidence high as we entered the Merseyside Cup. But before the cup run could begin we had a game against an Australian side that were just beginning a tour

of the country. Everyone was in high spirits for this game despite the element of the unknown. The weather was perfect and Blue Coat controlled the game from start to finish, running out comfortable 4-0 winners.

The next game we played was the first round of the Merseyside Cup against Arch Bishop Beck, and despite our impressive result earlier in the season we knew the game would be tough. The game was one of few chances, and so those that were created were vital for both teams, thankfully for Blue Coat, Detrix Tomlinson slotted home to put us 1-0 up, and there best chance of the game was sent spinning off the cross bar. Michael Deakin settled the game for us with an impressive goal but unfortunately it proved to be his last game for the 1st XI as he has just signed for Chester F.C.

The next game, and our last to date were the quarterfinals of the Merseyside Cup. Once again the weather was perfect and Blue Coat responded running out comfortable 3-0 winners against Maricourt, another clean sheet keeping up our impressive defensive record. As the season draws to a close we are still involved in the Merseyside, and also Liverpool Cup in which we have reached the semi-final in both, spirits are high and we are confident that we can be successful in both competitions.

Thanks must go to Mr. Rees for running the team each week, and also to the parents who come and offer their support for all of the games, it is much appreciated and definitely helps the team progress further.

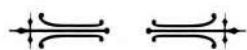
The Team

Adam Dickinson (Gk)	Ben Stuart
Peter Fielding	James Hopkins
Paul Lovelady	Ricky Rimmer
Michael Forrest	Matthew O'Loughlin (c)
James King	David Fiske
David Morris	Detrix Tomlinson
Michael Stone	

And also appearances from

Stephen Passey	Michael Deakin
Kieran O'Sullivan	Karl McKenzie

D Fiske.



2nd XI Football

Squad:

The Gaffer. Mr Adamson
Stuart "The cat" Corns
Joe "Fiskey Jnr" Fiske
Martin "The big man" Gillies
Paul "Shaggy head" McAuley
Dave "Dive in" Brown
Ross "Mr Cool" Leader
Chris "C.G." Gardner
Alan "One game wonder" Burke
Tom "Silky Skills" Mullin
Phil "trusty left foot" Jones
Karl "The Dog" McKenzie
Paul "Too Big time for the Seconds" Lovelady
James "Jay Jay" Jones
Michael "watch me hair" Melia
Kieran "Skipper" O'Sullivan (c)
Ste "Super Sub" Nkansah
Sean "Clinical" Evans
Ayo "fox in the box" Adegbenro
Ryan "Shades of Fowler" Torrible

Results:

The first game of the season saw a home encounter against West Derby; as it was the first match of the season spirits were high and boots were clean and the boys were ready for our first win of the season.

It was a tough match in every respect, with both sides being evenly matched and some tough tackles flying in from both sides. Halfway through the second half, after a great mazy run by Tom Mullin on the left wing he threaded a ball through for Jonesy to open his account for the season and to put the mighty blues 1-0 ahead with only 15 minutes to go. But before the whistle went to secure our first victory the visitors managed to score a good goal, a rebound after Corns made an acrobatic stop to cap off a quality all round performance. The new keeper made quite an impression on his debut as did the rest of the team and despite the 1-1 final result the team showed much potential and it promised to be good season to come. MOM goes to Jonesy for his goal and tireless work up front.

A week later saw another home fixture against Archbishop Beck, an encounter that always seems to be a good game. This was no exception, from the opening minutes the tempo of the game was electric. Our first real attack saw Ayo shoot just wide of the post to which they replied with an equally threatening counter attack. Just before half time, a long goal kick bounced right through to their striker who duly accepted the opportunity to put the visitors 1-0 up. We came out in the second half much more determined to defend our unbeaten record, which was only one game strong but still was a record we intended to keep! We created chance after chance but through a combination of bad luck and good goalkeeping we were still losing 1-0 as we entered the final minutes. Good battling work in the middle by Karl and Jonesy opened up some room for Ayo on the edge of the area, who produced some quality trickery to beat the defender and tuck away his first of the campaign. It finished 1-1 which was a probably a fair result although we could have grabbed a winner at the end as Jonesy forced a great save from the visitors' keeper. However it was not to be. MOM went to Paul Lovelady who was solid in the centre of midfield.

It was a few weeks until our next fixture; away at Ruffwood and prior to the game we knew we would be missing a few key players due to injuries and absentees. We had also lost the influential figure of Paul Lovelady in the middle of the park as he had been promoted to the 1st XI after his impressive start to the season. Although we started the match with 10 men, we were still confident about getting our first win, or at least defending our unbeaten record that had now stretched to two games. The one-man advantage proved too much as they enjoyed all the possession and were two goals to the good at half time. Despite this disappointing performance all round Jonesy popped up at the end to nestle his second of the season and give us at least a consolation. 2-1 final score, first defeat of the season, less said the better.

After the disappointment of the week before, the boys were really up for the next game, and the Gaffer had drafted in some extra players to avoid a repeat of last week's shortage. To add even more spice to the occasion it was against our longstanding rivals and arguably the best competition we could face, SFX away. The game began with a high tempo, tough tackles but also with some good football being played from both sides. There were some tough battles in the middle of the park, notably between the two skippers, but the game was not at all dirty as many of the players were friends off the pitch. We created chance after chance but after determined forward play, Jonesy was unlucky not to score on several occasions.

We were soon made to pay for missed chances as the home team took the lead and then doubled it within a minute after some good link up play between the midfield and the prolific strikers. However, we showed our team spirit and some great bouncebackability as we shortened the lead to one with a superb individual effort from Tom Mullin who was playing well on the left of midfield. Before half time a lapse defending allowed their captain in to slot home and restore the home team's lead to 2 goals, a big blow on the stroke of half time. The gaffer was not deterred by this first half performance and told us to get the ball to Tom on the left and to Jonesy who had the beating of their defenders time after time.

We went out all guns blazing and our hard work was rewarded with a deserved goal from Jonesy after some clever footwork from Kieran in midfield to release him. It was 3-2 with half an hour to play and what a half hour it would prove to be. A dodgy decision from the "SFX referee" resulted in a free kick on the edge of our area. A superb effort from the left foot of the SFX Captain, Mark Cole, resulted in the home team taking a 4-2 lead.

Jonesy was working hard upfront as was the rest of the team across the park, but so far all Jonesy's efforts had resulted in just the one goal which was not enough at this moment. Fortunately his luck changed and two goals in a minute from the front man meant that we were level at 4-4, what a comeback and there was still 10 minutes to play. They came at us with all they had after losing the lead they had held from early on and the constant pressure paid off as the striker bagged his second of the game and put them 5-4 up in this epic battle; however the match was not over, 5 minutes or so were left and we were not about to give in. We resorted to the long ball tactic out of desperation and in an attempt to grab a late equaliser the Gaffer threw his skipper up front for the last few minutes. A long goal kick from Stu fell nicely at the feet of Karl who linked up well with Kieran to release Ayo who rounded the keeper and slotted home to dramatically equalise with only seconds remaining.

We were so ecstatic and as we waited for the final whistle to blow, they broke into our penalty area and one of the strikers tumbled under a mediocre challenge and to our absolute astonishment the home team's referee gave in to the half hearted appeals of the SFX players and awarded them a penalty. Despite Stu guessing right and getting a hand to it, their penalty crept inside the post and with the last kick of the game they stole the points and the glory.

Despite the disappointing end result, we were proud of our performance and were just pleased to have played in such an epic battle between two evenly matched teams. MOM goes once more to Jonesy for his hat-trick performance even though he missed a few sitters as well.

That was the last game before the Christmas break and our next game wasn't for another two months and it was SFX away again, so we were out to avenge our defeat. However, despite a quality debut performance from Sean Evans upfront who scored one of our two goals, we lost 4-2 at the hands of our bitter rivals who had now done the double over us. MOM goes to Stuart Corns who put in yet another impressive performance between the sticks.

The following week we were at Liverpool College away and we were very confident going into the game. However we were soon punished for this overconfidence as we were stunned by a quick counter attack and we went down 1-0. This immediately provoked an offensive reaction and we went straight down the other end for Ayo to bag his first goal of what was to be a drought. Minutes later we took the lead as Ayo rounded the

keeper to slot his second of the game. A fiery performance from Karl, Kieran, Jonesy and Tom Mullin in midfield led to more and more chances for our forwards to capitalise upon. Soon after Ayo scored his third in quick succession to bag a 5-minute hat trick, which had effectively, finished the game after only 10 minutes. We then added to the performance with goals from Jonesy, Evo, Tom Mullin and a rare right-footed strike from the second half substitute Chris Gardner. Talking of half time substitutions, as the game was virtually over at 6-1 at half time, the gaffer decided to use some tactical genius and rested a few big guns to give some fresh legs a run out. This did not work that well as the second half was more evenly matched with a final result of 7-1 and a convincing victory for the boys in blue. MOM has to go to Ayo for his superb hat trick that turned the game around and a good all round performance.

Our most recent game was at St Margaret's away, a match that saw a lot of drama and action, with the home side taking the lead on two occasions only for a resilient comeback on two occasions by our spirited team. A good debut performance from Alan Burke on the left linking up well with Tom Mullin who put away a diving volley to make the match 2-2 after Evo had equalised initially. A good all round performance but MOM goes to Stu who pulled off a few magnificent saves yet again.

K O'Sullivan



Ben McNally, Year 10

Basketball

U14 Basketball

Played 34
Won 31 Lost 0
Seventh in the National Final

This was a very good season from a talented group of lads. To win 30 games in succession was a tremendous achievement. The only defeats were against schools in the National Final Tournament in Barrow.

The squad has developed well over the past year and to reach the National Finals, considering there are only 70 boys in the year to choose from, is quite exceptional. The only disappointing area was the performances in Barrow that did not reflect the quality of the team. We lost by 20 points to Reddish Vale from Stockport and then suffered a heavy defeat to Greet Baddow from Essex. The team won their final group game comfortably against King Edwards, Birmingham and finished third in their pool. In the crossover game on the Sunday we were narrowly defeated by a very poor St Columbus, Hertfordshire and therefore played against King Edwards again for seventh/eighth place.

The boys should be congratulated however on reaching this stage of the competition. Two exceptional players, Magnus Rannala and Daniel Idama, led the squad. Daniel represented the North of England U15 Team and Magnus played for the Manchester National League side.

They were ably supported by: Harri Edwards, Matthew Saxton, Michael Roberts, Tim Haggis, Greg Stuart, Sam MaCauley, Daniel Bruce, Phil Murphy, Jack Bedford and Anthony Scully.

This team have been a pleasure to coach and I am sure that they will improve even more next year.

I would also like to thank all of the parents who supported the side throughout the year.

N Barends

U15 Basketball

National Finals – 3rd, Liverpool Champions, Winners of The Eric Grimes Trophy

Squad:

Ryan Beeley - Captain (England)	
Drew Marsh – Vice-Captain (England)	
Alex Hooley	James Ransome
Magnus Rannala	Andrew Corcoran
Sam Gifford	Sam Hardy
Luke McGee	Michael Sweeney
Hayden Morris	Daniel Idama

This season proved to be outstanding, once again, as the team finished 3rd in the National Finals.

At the start of the year we expected to reach the Finals but an unfortunate injury to Drew Marsh the night before the tournament proved costly. We lost to Tassis, Surrey in our opening pool game by 2 points after losing our inspirational Captain, Ryan Beeley to foul trouble and the red mist! Playing in his first Finals tournament Daniel Idama was superb and kept us in the competition even though he was fouled out with 2 minutes to go.

To reach the semi-finals we had to win both of our pool games. We beat Northampton by 2 points in double overtime having been 2 points down with 0.4 seconds on the clock. At this crucial moment Ryan Beeley made 2 foul shots – no pressure! Soon after St Bonaventures were beaten and we faced Park View Academy in the semi-final for the second year running. Unfortunately we lost to Park View but then beat Tassis comfortably in the 3rd/4th place game. The boys showed great character to bounce back after the earlier defeat against Park View and the team finished a very respectable 3rd in the competition.

Special congratulations must also go to Ryan Beeley who top scored with 78 points.

At the time of writing this report it has been revealed that Park View Academy, who won the tournament were playing at least two over age players. We wait to see if we will be given the 2nd position nationally or an opportunity to play Ellesmere Port to decide the winners.

P Phelan

House Matches – Results

Boys Football

Year 7

- 1st Shirley
- 2nd Graham

Year 9

- 1st Shirley
- 2nd Blundell

Year 11 A&B

- 1st Graham
- 2nd Shirley

Senior

- 1st Shirley
- 2nd Bingham

Girls Hockey

Year 8

- 1st Graham
- 2nd Blundell
- 3rd Bingham
- 4th Shirley

Cross Country

Year 7 Girls

- 1st P O'Connor (Sh)
- 2nd E Darby (Bl)
- 3rd S Dolan (Gr)

Year 8 Girls

- 1st R Warriner (Sh)
- 2nd R Hodgkinson (Gr)
- 3rd F Montgomery (Sh)

Year 8

- 1st Blundell
- 2nd Bingham

Year 10 A&B

- 1st Blundell
- 2nd Bingham

Year 7 Boys

- 1st M Banton (Sh)
- 2nd J McGowan (Gr)
- 3rd B Kelly (Sh)

Year 8 Boys

- D Bartling (Sh)
- 2nd K Koshy (Bl)
- 3rd V Truong (Gr)

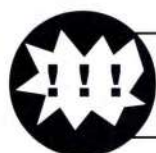
Year 9 Girls

- 1st C McDonald (Bl)
- 2nd H Boyes (Sh)
- 3rd A Hawkins (Sh)

Year 10 Boys

- 1st H Harper (Bi)
- 2nd J Hodgkiss (Bi)
- 3rd J Nkansah (Sh)

D Fiske



Another year draws to a close and this bunch of illiterate fools attempts vainly to come up with something funny. Yes, it's that time of year again. Reading through old Squirrels to find material, they seem replete with hilarious and sometimes unbelievable anecdotes and experiences from numerous (and productive) Squirrel meetings. Damn it. Unfortunately we have no such experience of a group meeting, and in the few times we actually got the team together, the time was spent realising how much work was still left to do and laughing to ourselves about our inability to meet deadlines. There was so much to do that we even had to use our free periods on top of missing out on many valuable General Studies and Enrichment lessons. But in true Squirrel fashion here we sit one day from the final deadline writing the Aftershock with a full in-tray of articles, poems and various reports, all needing to be typed. And to think this time next year we'll be trying to function in the real world.

After last year's "Squirrelgate" debacle we tried our best not to offend any of the teachers past or present, prefects and the entire upper sixth but hey we're not perfect and some people should really lighten up.

Thanks again to the new and improved Miss Beattie

AKA Mrs. Bennett (quite possibly the only person we haven't offended... yet) for her endless patience in the face of yawning apathy from the entire team.

And so we hand down the torch to some other hapless wannabe journalists (apology letter written in advance) looking for something vaguely interesting to put on their UCAS forms.

So that's it for seven years of "The Blue Coat Experience" – from our days as "the little people" struggling to make our way to lessons through asbestos-strewn halls, through years kicking holes in Portakabins to this, the new "college of knowledge" (sponsored very kindly by Lego, Inc). Unfortunately it looks like we'll only have one year in the revamped school but come 19th August that could all change! Otherwise, farewell. We promise to leave you alone this time.

Ben "who?" Bowman

David Fiske

Matthew "worst prefect in the school, apparently" Gibson

James McKenna

James "worst prefect in the school, definitely" Pope

Rebus Answers

1. Point Blank Range
2. A Walk in the Park
3. Tip of the Iceberg
4. Horsing Around
5. One if by and, two if by sea
6. He came out of nowhere
7. Crossfire
8. You deserve a break today
9. Break the Bank
10. Barbershop Quartet
11. Contract Extension
12. The pen is mightier than the sword
13. Shifting gears
14. Side splitting laughter
15. Temporary Setback
16. Sitting on top of the World
17. Eye Chart
18. Cryin' Shame

Sudoku Answer

2	1	4	9	5	8	3	6	7
5	6	7	1	3	2	8	4	9
3	9	8	6	4	7	2	1	5
4	8	1	7	9	6	5	2	3
7	5	2	4	8	3	6	9	1
9	3	6	5	2	1	4	7	8
8	4	3	2	1	9	7	5	6
1	7	5	8	6	4	9	3	2
6	2	9	3	7	5	1	8	4



SQUIRREL 2004/05