

September
2009



COVENTRY BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL
AND MUSIC COLLEGE

Blue Coat News

Head Lines ...



Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends of the School,

Welcome to our first edition of Headlines for this new academic year.

After just three weeks in post as Headteacher of Blue Coat School I count my blessings when I arrive each day to see such warm intelligent and friendly students working with my teams of caring, well qualified and professional teaching and support staff. There are many attributes that makes Blue Coat School very special and pulling together in times of difficulty is a strength I have experienced here first hand in a very short time. The loss of Natalie Morton is a tragedy that leaves us all dazed, confused and sometimes a little angry that we have had to experience such emotion and “coming together” of an entire community through such sad circumstances. We shared it all, from the tears and condolences to the rage and resentment we felt at the intrusive media reactions to what they saw as their headline news. We continue to pray for Natalie’s family and friends.

My values are based around three things. I believe our people are the life blood of our school within our caring Christian ethos, teaching and learning is at the heart of all that we do and I hold that a high quality educational environment is vital to offer the very best to all who come into contact with us. *“With God’s help we will do mighty things.”* Psalm 60:12 NLT. To establish these values firmly and root them in the life of the school community I believe it is important that we share a renewed vision and that I work with all partners to communicate how we move forward together within this excellent school. My consultation process has already begun with discussions, interviews and questionnaires from staff, students and governors on what we can do to continue to build upon all that is good within our school. I am now working with groups of parents and students to continue this process of consultation and I am very grateful to the Year 7 parents who came along to the social gathering on 25th September to focus on our transition process looking at how we can improve on current practice further.

The whole process so far has been fascinating and an excellent way to understand the background to our school. I am keen to build upon this knowledge and I enclose a questionnaire, usually used by inspection teams, to get an idea of how all parents and readers of Headlines see our school. I would be grateful if you are able to take the time to complete the document (readers who are not parents may wish to complete question 14 only) and return it to the school (before 23rd October please) to help to give an even wider picture to the consultation process. In the second half of the autumn term I will use all this information to work with the student council to formulate a three year development plan that will ensure the views of pupils are fully incorporated into the wider school planning process. The pupils' views of Blue Coat School so far have been overwhelmingly positive, with students of all ages citing the positive and supportive relationships with staff and the strength of the community spirit as the very best things about our unique school.

As the new Headteacher of Blue Coat my mind is focussed firmly on the road ahead. However, when looking ahead I have inevitably been drawn into reflection and detailed consideration of the path that has already been trodden. I feel immense gratitude to those that have made the school what it is today and provided me with a very firm foundation upon which to build. Since I have arrived I have been enormously impressed with the range of support, encouragement and commitment demonstrated by staff, parents and governors. My commissioning service touched my very core and I thank all who had any part to play in that, from the choir who sang so poignantly to the staff who organised the whole event, a particular thanks to Fr Paul and Mrs Brammeier who together created such a perfect introduction service to this magnificent school.

Congratulations to all on the excellent examination results; to the Eco team on achieving their prize of £1,000 and residential opportunities from n power; to all who participated in and led the wonderful production of Snow Queen (such home grown talent); to the Leading Edge team that have been nominated for a prize in a forthcoming national partnership event and a big thank you to the support staff team that ensured a smooth start in a well prepared environment at the start of this term despite the problems encountered by the flooding of the theatre in the summer. Our staff are prepared to go the extra mile to ensure the best for our students. This is in evidence wherever I turn, from the excellent summer examination results (88% 5 + A - C grades at GCSE and 60% A and B grades at A level) to the nurture, care and Christian ethos that prevails across corridors and classrooms. To me this is what Blue Coat is about, a celebration of life and success despite all odds. *"Cast your cares on the lord and he will sustain you: he will never let the righteous fall."* Psalm 55; 22, NIV.

As we celebrate all that Blue Coat Church of England School is and has achieved over the past 12 months, we look forward to an exciting future using our success as a platform to build upon and strengthen our excellent academic record and our pastoral achievement. I look forward to working closely with you all as we head towards an unknown but exciting future. It feels appropriate to close with a quotation from Corinthians,

"Be on guard. Stand true to what you believe. Be courageous. Be strong. And everything you do must be done with love." 1 Corinthians 6: 13 – 14, NIV.

Dr Julie Roberts
Headteacher

New boys in school!

We are Mike Winterton and Nigel Canning, the newly appointed Pastoral Support Assistants.

Our exciting and challenging role is to support the Pastoral Learning Managers (Mike is Year 7 & 8, Nigel, Years 9, 10 & 11) in all aspects of pastoral care in school. We are not teachers and as such not tied to timetables and therefore available during the day should you wish to contact someone to talk to about your child. Please feel free to make an appointment to come and see us or just call via the main school reception. We look forward to getting to know you over the coming weeks and months.



Community Language Classes

Once again, after school Community Language Classes will be taking place at Blue Coat, on a weekly basis from 3.30 – 4.30 p.m., for any interested pupil in years 7-13. The languages offered last year were Gujarati, Panjabi, Bengali and Italian, but classes may also be arranged in Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Polish, Somali, Tamil or Urdu, if there is sufficient interest to make these viable.

Please encourage your child to pick up a leaflet from pupil reception if they are interested. It would be appreciated if completed forms could then be returned promptly so that lessons can get underway as soon as possible.

Mathematics Information Evening – For parents of Year 7 pupils

We will be holding a Mathematics Information Evening on Thursday 1st October 2009 in the 6th Form Common Room, starting at 7pm.

Calculators

We are now selling 2 types of calculator:-

CASIO fx - 83ES (battery only) at £5

CASIO fx - 85ES (battery & solar) at £6.50

Available from the Mathematics Department

M Rice

Mathematics Department

The Snow Queen

Warm thanks and congratulations are due to all those students in Years 8-10 who took part in the performances of the Snow Queen on 16th-18th September. The production was highly successful and much appreciated by good audiences.

I would also like to thank the older students who helped in all sorts of ways – backstage, scene-painting, doing make-up, lighting and sound; all the many staff members who contributed their time and talents so freely; and the numerous parents who contributed costume items and props.

Rehearsal photographs are available on the school system, and can be downloaded free. There will also be a video in due course, but we are hoping to edit it in a proper “semi-professional” way, which is likely to take some weeks.

The backstage areas have now been tidied, so it’s likely that any remaining “lost property” will have been put away somewhere. Anyone who has not recovered anything they contributed needs to come and find me and fix a time and date for a search.

A Kyle
Director

Photographs

Photographs and video footage are often taken in lessons. The school may like to use these in publicity or training material. Last year all parents and carers were given an opportunity to withdraw their child from these and we retain this listing. Year 7 and Year 12 parents will receive an individual letter by pupil post, but should parents in other years wish to withdraw their sons/daughters please write to me at the school.

Canvas Shoes

We still have a number of pupils wearing canvas shoes to school. Please will parents note they are not acceptable footwear. A full uniform list is available in the prospectus and on the school website.

Start of School

The new school day is working out well. The first lesson starting at 8.45am gives a crisp start. Our new pastoral support assistants are monitoring arrival times. They report that some students are being dropped by cars at 8.45am or even a few minutes later, and some arriving on city buses at this time. May I emphasise that lessons start at 8.45am and students need to be on site before this time to prepare themselves.

V Lundberg
Deputy Headteacher

UK Memory Championship

In early June 15 pupils from Blue Coat School took part in the regional final of the UK memory championship run by 'Inspire Educational'. We were delighted when Chloe Somers, Joe Sidebotham and Jessica Walker, all Year 9, went through to the national final held at the Northampton Saints rugby ground. The day involved 5 separate memory competitions including random words, dates and binary digits. All three pupils were extremely successful with Chloe Somers coming 20th and Jessica Walker being placed 28th out of 100 students. Joe Sidebotham performed exceptionally gaining the gold medal in the random word event and smashing the previous championship record and then going on to win bronze medal overall in the competition. He also gained a silver medal in the random playing card event. We are extremely proud of all our pupils who took part in this fantastic event and are delighted at the exceptional results.

Gifted and Talented Summer School

During the Summer holidays 30 prospective Year 7 pupils were involved in the annual Gifted and Talented Summer School. The pupils took part in a wide range of workshops ranging from History of Art to designing catapults and making rockets. The week culminated in an assembly for pupils and parents where participants were able to demonstrate the various activities that they had enjoyed. We were extremely impressed with both the commitment and enthusiasm that were demonstrated throughout the five days.

A huge thanks must also go to staff who gave up their time to provide a fantastic week of activities.

E Takács
Gifted & Talented Summer School Co-ordinator

PARENTS' PRAYER SUPPORT FOR THE SCHOOL

As parents we may not be able to follow all that goes on at school but our hearts are certainly in Blue Coat because it is such an important influence on our children's lives. Come and join us to pray for pupils and staff. A background of supporting prayer is what we can give - you may even meet some new friends among other parents in the process!

All parents are welcome **Tues 13th Oct 8 - 9pm at 533 Binley Road, CV3 2DP - Coffee and cakes from 7.45!**

Mr & Mrs Normington
Parents

♪ MUSIC COLLEGE NEWS ♪

PTA YEAR 7 EVENING

Congratulations and many thanks to Andrew Normington (Year 12) for entertaining parents and Year 7 youngsters at the PTA evening in the post 16 common room on Friday 25th September. An enjoyable time was had by all.

STEEL PANS AT CITY COLLEGE

The steel pans will be out of school on the afternoon of Friday 2nd October playing for a conference at City College in the city centre. Congratulations to Ms Russell and her band of pupils for getting a large amount of music ready for the event so early in the term.

CHOIR AT BEDWORTH CIVIC HALL

The School Choir are taking part in a concert at the Bedworth Civic Hall on Saturday 10th October at 7.30pm. The concert is a charity event that will benefit the Mary Ann Evans Hospice in Nuneaton. The choir will be joining the Bedworth Singers, Canon Maggs Primary School Choir, the Julie Bromage Dance Academy and Holborne Brass for the world premiere performance of 'Song of the Ribbon Weavers' by Nick Spencer which has been specially commissioned for the occasion with aid from National Lottery funding. For this concert only just the upper voices of the choir are involved.

The piece is based upon events in Bedworth's history from 1850 and is about the plight of the ribbon weavers of the town who were starving due to lack of work and their journey to Australia to forge a new life. The piece is written for 2 choirs (Blue Coat being one) with brass and percussion.

The choir will also be singing favourite items including 'The Vicar of Dibley' and 'What a Wonderful World' but have also learnt already (this early in the school year) some new items that will be first heard during this evening as well. Best wishes to Mr Formstone and the choir for this event.

INSTRUMENTAL TUITION

All instrumental tuition has started by now – if any pupils have applied for lessons for this year and have not heard anything need to contact Mr Owen as soon as possible.

EXTRA – CURRICULAR

Most groups are now up and running and are on the same days and times as last year. The only changes are the Wind Band, which has moved to Wednesday lunchtimes and started on the 30th September and the Concert Band which will be on Monday lunchtimes and will start in October once the above Bedworth concert has taken place. Times will be 12.30 until 1.20 in O4

N Owen
Head of Music

P.T.A. NEWS

Firstly, we would like to welcome new pupils and families to Blue Coat, we hope to have the opportunity of meeting you all during the course of the academic year.

The term has got off to a busy start for the P.T.A, we supported the school by providing interval refreshments at the recent production of "Snow Queen". Many positive comments were made about the production during the interval, which always makes us feel very proud to be associated with the school.

The P.T.A. also hosted a "Welcome Evening" for Year 7 pupils and their families. This was an informal event giving families the opportunity to chat to one-another, to meet Dr. J. Roberts, our Headteacher, and also Mr R Farren, the Head of Year 7.

Our thanks go to Andrew Normington and Hannah Barton who provided entertainment for the evening.

Our future plans include a Lower School Disco on Thursday 8th October, tickets will go on sale week commencing Monday 5th October and be available at lunchtime outside B12 (Drama Studio).

We are also arranging a "Bag-2-School" collection. Each pupil will be given a bag to bring home, which can be filled with unwanted clothing, textiles, shoes, belts and soft toys. The school receives a payment from the re-cycling company based upon the weight of items, and we would, therefore, ask you to gather together as much as possible. The bag should be returned to school for Thursday 19th November.

The Christmas Fair and Concert will take place on the evening of Wednesday 9th December (please make a note of this date for your diary).

We will be writing to you during the coming weeks with further details of this event.

There are many projects around the school requiring our financial help. We would encourage you to support P.T.A. events wherever possible. This, in turn, will enable us to raise much needed funds for the benefit of all pupils.

Our A.G.M is to be held on Monday 5th October at 7.30 pm in the School Library, which will be followed by our usual monthly meeting.

Janet Taylor-Rai
P.T.A Chair

Coming soon to a theatre near you... FILM CLUB

From Wednesday 7th October, Lower School Film Club will be running every two weeks from 3.45-5.15pm. Film Club is open to all year 7 and 8 pupils and is a chance to watch films with your friends for free! To become a member see Mrs Wood for a consent form and to create a membership profile.

J Wood
English Department

Educational Visits

We are currently proposing to run the following international visits.

1. February 2010: A Year 8 weekend trip to Paris including a boat ride along the river Seine, visit to a cheese farm, Disney Buffalo Bill dinner show and finally a visit to Disneyland Paris.
2. July 2010: A Business/Modern Foreign Languages trip to the Moselle region of Germany. This is for students in Year 10.
3. Longer term: We are in discussion with our cruise company to run an educational cruise in 2011, as well as negotiating prices for a visit to China and a two centre visit to Toronto (Canada) and New York and exciting places in between.

Do watch out for these. Our proposals will be forwarded to Governors once we have negotiated the lowest possible prices.

D A Roberts
Travel & Tourism



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Calendar Dates – October

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| 2 nd | 2.15pm Commemoration Service |
| 5 th | 7.30pm PTA |
| 8 th | 7.00pm Lower School Disco |
| 15 th | 4.30pm Y7 Consultation Evening with tutors |
| 23 rd | Next newsletter out |