



Blue Coat Church of England Academy

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Principal: Mr D Smith

Our Ref: DJS/LL

December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are now approaching the end of an extremely busy term. Year 11 pupils have studied hard for their mock examinations. I am sure that they will use the experience they have gained during this examination process in the external examinations next summer to further improve their results. Please note that the examination boards have introduced a contingency day for the summer examination series, which is 26th June 2019. Anyone taking external examinations in Summer 2019 will need to be available on this date. A contingency date is a day specifically set aside, should sustained national or local disruption arise during the June 2019 examination series. If disruption happens, the GCSE and/or GCE (A Level) examinations would be taken either for the first time or again on that day.

Over the coming weeks our Christmas celebrations will include the annual Senior Citizens Christmas Party on Monday 10th December, which this year will be followed Coffee and Carols which takes place in the School Hall beginning at 5.30p.m.. Aspens, our school caterers, have kindly agreed to provide a cooked Christmas meal for the Senior Citizens Christmas Party. Everyone is welcome to attend Coffee and Carols.

The school canteen will be serving Christmas lunch to pupils and staff on Wednesday 19th December.

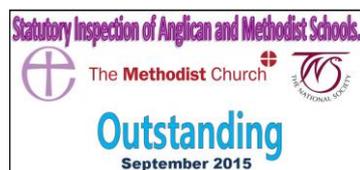
As you will be aware each Friday morning we have a whole school assembly at St. Matthew's Church. We are exceptionally grateful for all of the support we receive from Rev. Jim Trood and the wider church community. There are a number of services taking place in St. Matthew's over the coming weeks and everyone associated with Blue Coat is more than welcome to attend. The services are as follows:

- BIG Youth Christmas Party (11 – 18s) – Friday 7th December 2018 at 7.00p.m.
- Church Hill Praise Christmas Special - Sunday 16th December 2018 at 6:30p.m.
- Carol Service - Sunday 23rd December 2018 at 6:30p.m.
- Crib Service - Monday 24th December 2018 at 5:00p.m.
- Midnight Communion - Monday 24th December 2018 at 11:15p.m.
- Christmas Day Parish Communion - Tuesday 25th December 2018 at 9:00a.m.
- Christmas Day All Age Communion - Tuesday 25th December 2018 at 10:45a.m.
- Christmas Day Asian Congregation - Tuesday 25th December 2018 at 2:00p.m.

School ends for all pupils on Friday 21st December 2018, which will also be a non-uniform day. All pupils are asked to make a £1 contribution to support a fundraising appeal in aid of the Anthony Nolan charity. Contributions will be collected during form time on Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th December.

Dismissal on the last day of term will be at approximately 1.00pm. A lunch service will be available as normal but at an earlier time on the last day of term.

Blue Coat Academy re-opens for pupils at 8.40am on **Tuesday 8th January 2019**.
Monday 7th January is a staff training day



Thank you for your support this term to ensure that your child looks smart each day. If you are getting new school shoes for your child over the Christmas break please ensure they are plain black with no logos and definitely no training shoes or plimsolls. With the winter weather, it is also important that your child is warm. I would ask that if you are buying a new school outer coat, it is in line with the Academy's uniform policy and should be plain navy blue or black, without patterns or logos. Please refer to the attached information regarding uniform expectations, which was sent out towards the end of the Summer Term and I would draw particular attention to the expectations regarding piercings and hair styles.

I would also ask that if your child has a smartwatch which has a recording device or internet access, they do not wear them to school as they will be confiscated. The smartwatch will be returned to the parent at the end of the school day. This policy applies to all mobile devices.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to you for the support you have given to your children over the first term of this academic year. I have been very pleased with the way in which pupils have supported new events this term including participation in Kindness Day and Takeover Day (an opportunity for pupils to apply to shadow the role of different members of staff for the day, which they found very interesting, enlightening and tiring!). We have received a lot of positive feedback from both staff within the Academy and members of the local community about the efforts of our pupils to make a positive impact with their acts of kindness.

On behalf of Blue Coat's governors and staff, I would like to wish you a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D J Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish above the 'i'.

Mr D J Smith
Principal