



# Blue Coat Church of England Academy

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Website: [www.bluecoatacademy.org](http://www.bluecoatacademy.org)  
Principal: Mr D Smith

18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are delighted to see the school open to all year groups – we have certainly missed the pupils over the last few, very difficult months. We are very proud of the way in which our young people have started back in the new academic year. We appreciate that the new way of working in year group bubbles is strange at first, but we are very pleased with the way pupils have responded and look forward to working with them to gradually return things to normal when it is safe to do so. We know that things are not perfect and we are working hard to improve things as much as we can without compromising the safety of pupils or staff.

It is going to be a long and challenging year as we try to make up for the time we have lost, but I want to reassure pupils, parents and carers that we have a progressive plan which will gradually get things back to normal and support pupils to make accelerated progress without overwhelming them. Initially we are focussing on re-establishing routines and ensuring that pupils are engaged in learning while also focusing on any mental health issues which may have emerged during the period of lockdown.

It is clear from the news that many challenges lie ahead and that we all need to be vigilant and look out for the symptoms of coronavirus. If your child or anyone in your household displays any of the symptoms below, then everyone should self-isolate and take a test which can be arranged by telephoning 119.

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- A high temperature (around 38°C or above) - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back.
- A new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste - this means you have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

We have regular updates from the local public health team and they have reiterated the importance of looking for the distinct symptoms outlined above and not to confuse these with seasonal colds, sore throats and runny noses.



We are continuing to work with Aspens, our school caterers, to develop and improve the offer to all pupils. As part of our control measures, it is important that payments for meals are made online. The use of the online system to add money to accounts for pupils who pay for school lunches is strongly recommended. More information is available on the school website:

<https://www.bluecoatacademy.org/parents-carers/online-payments>

Canteen staff will look up pupils on the system to process payments (pupils receiving free school meals will have their normal daily allocation). Pupils can pre-order a meal if they obtain an order form in advance from the school kitchen. We are installing additional drinking water points around school so please make sure your child has a water bottle if they want to access a drink from the water coolers.

Over recent months there have been some aspects of school life which have continued as they normally would in spite of the challenging circumstances. A number of staff: Mr Azad, Miss Everitt, Mrs Harris, Mr Kumar, Mr Law, Mr Miah, Mrs Murphy, Mrs Teladia and Mr Timmis left the school at the end of the summer term. We are grateful for the dedication and commitment which these staff have shown to the pupils at Blue Coat and wish them all well for the future. We would also like to wish Miss Wootton a happy retirement after many years' service in school.

We are pleased to welcome a number of new staff to the school, some of whom started during the Summer Term and others took up post at the beginning of the academic year:

Miss Alonso- Teacher of MFL  
Miss Barnsley - Teacher of Humanities  
Mr Desai- Teacher of Maths  
Miss Gordon- Teacher of Science  
Mr Holmes-Teacher of MFL and KS3 Progress Leader  
Mrs S. Kausar- Head of ICT and Computer Science  
Mrs A. Kausar - Senior Receptionist  
Miss Sturgess - Principal's P.A. & Executive Officer  
Mr Viridi - Science Progress Leader  
Mr Wright- Teacher of Maths

We are also pleased to welcome Mr Parker who will be working with us as an ICT technician, while also continuing a similar role with the Blue Coat Federation.

Mrs Facey has also taken up post as our Independent Careers Adviser.

Work is also continuing on the refurbishment of the Tonks' Building. The first phase was completed and handed over during the lockdown period and is now the home of the Year 8 bubble. The second phase of work is well underway and we are hoping that this will be completed later this term.

There are a number of mobile phone applications which will help you to keep in touch with what is going on in school, highlight ways to support your child, to find out more about the school catering and easy ways to help us raise funds for the school. Details of these apps are enclosed with this letter.

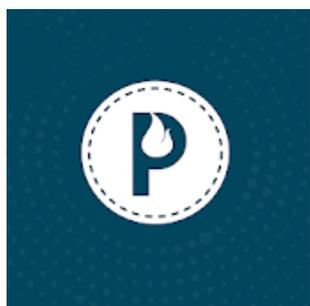
We appreciate all of your support over the past couple of weeks getting children back into school. We will continue to work hard to develop and improve the provision in a way which is manageable for pupils and members of staff.

Yours faithfully,



D. Smith  
Principal

## Useful Applications and Websites for Parents



**The Parent App** is available on iOS and Android

The app synchronises to the school website and will notify you of any important updates added to the school website. Setting up the app is very straight forward, the link below explains how to download the app and link it to Blue Coat Academy.

<https://vimeo.com/339368938/17e0c05b96>



**SIMS Parent Lite App** is available on iOS and Android or can be accessed online <https://www.sims-parent.co.uk>

It allows you to update information regarding your child such as address, contact information, consent, medical details etc. The Academy requires an active email address in order to issue parents with an invitation code which is unique to you. If you require an invite please email [updatemydata@bluecoatacademy.org](mailto:updatemydata@bluecoatacademy.org) with your email details and your child's Forename/Surname/DOB.



**Easyfundraising App** is available on iOS and Android or can be accessed online. You can raise FREE donations for Blue Coat Academy EVERY time you shop online by using easyfundraising. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate, including all the big names like Amazon, eBay, Argos, ASOS, Expedia, M&S, Just Eat, Uswitch and many more! Sign up today to support Blue Coat Academy by visiting the page below:

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bluecoatceacademywalsall/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_content=w2](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bluecoatceacademywalsall/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=w2)



**School Gateway** is available on iOS and Android.

Allowing you to make payments for academy meals, trip and events and items of academy clothing. In order to register we require an active email and mobile number in our school management system. These can be provided via the Parent Lite App above or by emailing [updatemydata@bluecoatacademy.org](mailto:updatemydata@bluecoatacademy.org) with your email and mobile details and your child's Forename/Surname/DOB.



**Aspens** (Catering Menu) is available on iOS and Android.

Allowing you to view what's on the menu in school every day.

Once you have downloaded the App simply enter our schools unique pin:  
**16937594**



**Show My Homework** is available on iOS and Android or can be accessed online <https://www.showmyhomework.co.uk>

Allowing you to view homework tasks set for your child.

To login for the first time you will require a login code. These are given to students. If you require a reminder please contact the academy and we can re-issue login details.



### Parents Evening Booking System

<https://bluecoatcofeacademy.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/>

Parents Evening Appointments are made on the above website. Nearer the time parents are invited to login to the website via email and text message.

**We share all updates on our academy website, Facebook and Twitter accounts:**



[www.bluecoatacademy.org](http://www.bluecoatacademy.org)



[www.facebook.com/BlueCoatWalsall](http://www.facebook.com/BlueCoatWalsall)

It is widely recognised that the more involved parent/carers are in their child's education, the better the student performs in school. Blue Coat Church of England Academy is committed to improving communication between school and home; we are embracing the new technologies available to us to allow us to reach as many parents as possible. So it would be of a great advantage to your child if you were able to interact with the Apps and Websites listed here, in order to keep you fully informed of developments about your child and the Academy as a whole.