



THE MESSENGER



Issue 10

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is fantastic to see that this newsletter highlights some of the excellent work which is going on in school. The sense of things returning to normal is reflected in the range of exciting opportunities which students have been able to engage in over recent weeks. It is wonderful to see students being able to engage in such a wide range of activities both inside school and within the wider community. The next few weeks leading up to the summer holidays will be very busy as we combine the demands of this academic year with planning and preparation for next year. We look forward to supporting our current students to fulfil their exceptional potential while also preparing to welcome new students into the Blue Coat family.

PD Day

This half term, pupils participated in the fourth and final Personal Development day of the year. The content was designed to give pupils an enjoyable day, covering topics such as finance, relationships and developing their future employment skills. We were really impressed by the level of maturity shown by the pupils as they took part in the day, and by some of the brilliant work produced in individual sessions.

Upcoming Dates:

Mr Smith, Principal

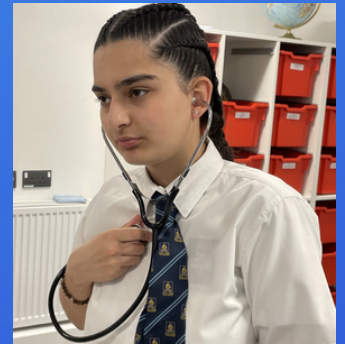
24th June
Diversity Day

22nd July
End of Term



Medical Mavericks

On Monday 9th May, Lily from Medical Mavericks came into school to deliver a KS4 Careers in Health Care session. One hundred and eighty students from Years 9, 10 and 11 were able to attend the workshops, which were completely interactive. They got to use the ultrasound machine to see if they were still growing, by looking for the presence of growth plates, took blood from Andy the Phlebotomy mannequin, performed an ECG and printed it out, performed keyhole surgery on a simulator, took their blood pressure and participated in a number of other activities that demonstrated the broad range of careers available in the NHS and the qualifications required. The students seemed to be in agreement that it was a great experience.



Smith's Myths

True or False?

The Queen is the only person in Britain allowed to drive without a licence.

Henry VIII had six wives.

Queen Victoria had nine children.

Queen Elizabeth II is the longest reigning British monarch.



Prayer Corner

God of the ages,
you are the beginning of our journey
and our strength as we pause along the
way.

Hold us by the hand as we grow,
show us where to seek you,
and guide our steps that we may find you.
Give us devoted hearts that we may love
you,
and your peace when we reach our
journey's end.

Amen

Trips are Back!

We are thrilled to see things returning to normal with school events and trips beginning to restart.

Trip to Oxford University

On 11th May, Mrs Napper and ten students from Year 10 met at Walsall Train Station to travel to Oxford University for the day. They journeyed with ten students from Shire Oak Academy and spent the day with Arron from Oriel College. The first hour was spent going over the factors that would give you an advantage when applying to Oxford or Cambridge, and these came down to two key points: firstly, picking the right course for you as an individual, and secondly, engaging in the 'Super-Curriculum', which is all about supporting your understanding of a topic by reading educational journals or books, watching YouTube videos / tutorials or TEDTalk videos and engaging with online and in-person activities. After this, students had an amazing lunch and were given a tour of some of the 39 colleges that make up Oxford University. This took them all around the town of Oxford, and they also saw many of the historic buildings, including the Bodleian Library and the Radcliffe Camera. The same students will also be visiting Cambridge University in October.



Year 12 Campus Experience at the University of Wolverhampton

On Friday 13th May, thirty Year 12 students took part in the Aspire to HE 'Campus Experience Day' where they were given guidance on continuing their studies at degree level. They created their own marketing campaign for the university, using their knowledge of social media and the strategies social media influencers employ to generate hits and awareness of their products. To support them in this task, the Year 12s were given an in-person tour of the Harrison Library and Student Union and they used the virtual reality headsets for a tour of the Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton Campuses, which caused great amusement for those watching! They then had to present their marketing campaigns to the judges, who scored them on a number of categories. Well done to the winning team composed of Amir, Carlos, Jacob, Ibrahim, Charlie and Thomas. The students left with a very positive opinion of their visit to Wolverhampton and a greater understanding of what life as an undergraduate looks like.

Star Mathematicians

Excellent work from our Half-Term 5 'Mathematician of the Week' winners! Valentina, Zineb, Lilly, Humaira and Ruby have received a Love2shop voucher from the Maths department. Well done!



Theatre Visit to 'Grime Boy' at the Birmingham Rep.

For the first time in quite a while, the Drama department was able to take a group of Blue Coat students to the theatre. 'Grime Boy', a new play by Birmingham's Poet Laureate Casey Bailey, depicted the rise to fame of two aspiring Grime artists.

The Black Box Theatre was filled with live music as we took our seats. The next hour and ten minutes were a roller coaster of ensemble performances, live rapping and a tense climax. Some of the students were lucky enough to meet the cast after the show. 'Fantastic' and 'I loved it!' were some of the comments Mrs Trafford received.

<https://www.birmingham-rep.co.uk/whats-on/grimeboy/>

Team Building

On the 27th April, all Year 7s participated in a unique project delivered by Pioneer Leadership Ltd. Pupils were split into groups with the aim of participating in a range of exciting team-building and confidence-boosting activities, which took place throughout the day. The day also helped our Year 7s to develop their leadership skills and communicate not only with each other, but also with their team's practitioners and a number of sixth form pupils that supported the delivery of the project. Well done to all the Year 7s who engaged so well in the tasks!



Year 10 visit to Wolverhampton University 'Performance Hub'

A Year 10 GCSE Drama group was lucky enough to be invited to watch the university undergraduates' second year performance. The show contained some interesting effects using projection and music and we also saw some stand-out performances. After the show ended, we were able to speak to the cast and have a tour of the lighting box, which gave us an insight into how the backstage works. It was a highly rewarding visit.

Normandy 2022

During the Easter break, an excited group of Year 7 and Year 8 students visited the region of Normandy in the north of France. After a very early start and an extremely choppy sail (!), we arrived at the château just in time for dinner and our first French lesson!

Students learnt how to order their food in French, and we were pleased to see them try new things they never had before, even snails!

During our visit, students tried different activities, including Aeroball, archery, rock climbing and an assault course. They also learnt how to make bread in the traditional French way, and many were very creative in their designs!

We visited a market, some shops and the seaside town of Granville, where students spoke in French with the shopkeepers, and picnicked on the cliff overlooking the sea. Finally, students saw the D-Day landing beaches, and visited the 360° cinema, where they learnt about how the Allied forces liberated France at the end of the Second World War. We were immensely proud of how well our students worked together and were willing to try new things and learn about different cultures. Booking for next year's visit opens soon. Watch this space!



Faizan:

"I liked the assault course and people should go on the French trip because it's a lot of fun. We did different activities like archery, trampolining, basketball and rock climbing."

Elizabeth:

"I really liked the rock climbing and cooking because they were fun and useful. I think people should go because it was ace!"

Amy:

"I really liked the French market and it was really sunny. Everyone should go on the trip."

Treasure:

"I really enjoyed France because of all the activities and the best parts were the 360-degree cinema and the town. I think everyone should go because they will have a really good time."

Abdul:

"I really enjoyed France because it was an adventure. I liked the Aeroball and playing loads of football. I'd recommend going 11/10."

Tambir:

"I really enjoyed France because we had funny moments like watching the 360-degree cinema and exploring the town. Future Year 7s should go on the trip because it is a really fun experience. I would recommend going 1000/10."

Adam:

"I really enjoyed the mud assault course and I would recommend everyone to go on the trip."

Demi:

"I liked all the activities on the trip, especially the mud assault course. I would love to go again."

Unifest Summer School

Congratulations to the following Year 10 students for their successful applications to the University of Birmingham and Unifest 2022 Summer Schools, which take place in the last week of term in July: Antoni, Taiwo, Kehinde, Vanesa, Olusayo, Jannat, Andra, Mason and Vincent. University summer schools are a great way to meet new people, build confidence and participate in new activities that will support applications for college, jobs, apprenticeships or university in the future.

Pathways for your Future

We currently have three students in Year 12 that are on 'Pathways to Medicine' programmes with Aston University and the University of Nottingham.

'Pathways to Medicine' are two-year programmes that provide additional support in the form of both in-person and online sessions for anyone aiming to pursue a degree in medicine, dentistry or veterinary science. There are also similar programmes in business, finance and architecture. If you are in Year 11 and think this sounds like a great idea, you should start to look over the summer for 'Pathways to...' programmes starting in September 2022 and get your application in quickly. Mrs Napper is available if you need help with your application.



Plan Your Revision

The Exam season has started!

For many students, starting revision is the biggest hurdle to overcome. Here are some useful tips:

1. **Create a plan:** break down everything you need to revise into small topics and revise just one topic at a time. By creating a plan, you are taking control of your revision.
2. **Set targets:** identify when you are going to revise each topic. Give yourself a time limit for revising each topic.
3. **Check progress regularly:** review your progress and set yourself a new time limit if necessary. Once you've met a target, set yourself a new one.

Key things to remember:

- Targets should be **achievable** and **manageable**
- Targets must be **short-term** and include a **time-limit**
- **Review** your targets, and when complete, set new ones
- It is important to **test** yourself to see if your revision is effective

For more useful tips during exams please visit:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coping-with-exam-pressure-a-guide-for-students>

Year 10 Computer Game Design Challenge



What have computer games ever done for our kids... apart from turn them into keyboard warriors with square eyes that only emerge from their bedrooms under the cover of darkness for a bowl of cereal or a cola fix. Well, as 60 of Blue Coat's finest Year 10 students found out on May 18th ... they can deliver a whole lot more... like teamwork, focus, drive, problem solving, multi-tasking, leadership and communication. Students were split into groups of six and pitted against each other, their task was to design a new computer game from scratch. The workshop in the St Matthew's Centre was led by The Inspirational Learning Group, who tour the country delivering an array of educational programmes. By 3pm it's fair to say the students delivered with animated presentations in a bid to convince the judges – Mr Howell and Ms Gardner – of the merit of their creations.

Dance Photography Workshop

This half term, a group of Year 8 pupils took part in a dance photography workshop, working with professional dance photographer and filmmaker Mark Anderson. This day-long project consisted of pupils taking part in physical dance and movement workshops, followed by creating their own still images of dance, considering not just the movement, but also the background and composition of the photograph. Both Mark and Mrs Haines were incredibly impressed with the photographs taken by the girls, and also the dance routine they created in the choreography.



We had a swash-buckling, a sword-fighting historical drama, a game based around Cricket Stars, an action-packed fighting spectacle, a blood-curdling drama focused on the BBC's gangland Birmingham drama Peaky Blinders. And then there was a quite magnificent presentation about banished Vikings trying to find their way home, and on another tangent had the group with rogue gingerbread cookies led by the fearsome central character Crumble. It would be remiss to continue this review without mentioning the excellent performances of the following students who led their teams magnificently: Britney Omorodion Egbon, Alizah Hussain, Mohammed Subhan Illyas, Jake Lees and Tarun Sangha.

The winning group comprised Antoni, Greta, Abid, Nimrah, Hafa and Zarak.

They put together an incredibly imaginative and futuristic project called: 'Nightfall Infiltration' - a strategy game where humans battle super-advanced robots who are putting Earth's very future on the line.

They scored highly on all four categories based on their response to the challenge, their branding, the promotion of their game and the quality of their presentation where Nimrah certainly shone.

They will now progress to the regional finals at the ICC in Birmingham on July 7.

A mighty six who might need some consoling (get it?!) if they don't come out on top.