



THE MESSENGER



Dear Parents/Carers

It has been an exceptionally busy term and it is wonderful to be able to share a snapshot of some of the amazing activities and experiences which students have benefitted from. I am delighted that the range of extra curricular activities continues to grow and it is pleasing to see so many students actively engaging with these opportunities.

As always, it is humbling to see so many of our children actively contributing to fundraising, work within the wider community and contributions to the life of the school beyond what goes on in lessons. Easter is a very special time in the Christian calendar and provides an opportunity to pause and reflect. I hope that the coming holiday period will be a restful and peaceful one for everyone associated with our school community.

UPCOMING DATES

- End of term - 31st March
- Start of term - 17th April
- Year 10 Mock Exams begin 19th April
- Year 12 Exams start 8th May
- Rewards Trip 12th May



PRAYER CORNER

Wonderful God, my soul is filled with joy as I celebrate the Resurrection today! Thank you that you're alive, and that you want a relationship with me. I want to enjoy a relationship with you, as well. After Jesus rose from the grave on the first Easter, an angel told people "do not be afraid" (Matthew 28:5).

I can rise beyond fear this Easter by trusting you. I'm looking forward to new adventures together day by day. I love you, Lord! Amen.

SMITH'S MYTHS

A: A bolt of lightning is up to x5 hotter than the sun.

B: There are 32,000,000 seconds in a year.

C: Hummingbirds can fly backwards.

SCHOOL EVENTS



Year 10 Big Maths Quiz

We took 12 students to the University of Birmingham for the 'Big Maths Quiz' on Wednesday 22nd March. Students had the opportunity to put classwork into action, and got an insight into higher education, whilst competing against other schools in the West Midlands.

We had a great day out, the students enjoyed themselves, despite not being in the top three. They showed fantastic initiative, communication, endurance and resilience throughout the whole day.

Year 7 Career Talk

Year 7 were scheduled an extra assembly on 21st March to talk to an external visitor about his journey since leaving school. Ben Hunt was an ex pupil of Blue Coat Church of England Academy so it was really nice for pupils to see what they could achieve with hard work and determination. Ben has a successful fitness company called Core Attack Fitness Club and is doing very well for himself.

He was very complimentary of the pupils in year 7 and said they he would most definitely come back to speak to them again and that they represented the school very well. Well done year 7.

In the assembly he mentioned 3 A's that you need to think about- Can you remember what these are? Pupils that come and tell Mrs Athwal will receive Satchel points!

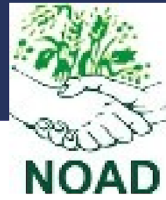
SCHOOL EVENTS

Lent Appeal

The charity chosen for our annual Lent Appeal this year is NOAD.

NOAD is a non-profit network, that provides low cost income generation skills and supports family farms and rural groups; mainly small farmers, unskilled landless labourers, tenants, women, disabled and ethnic minorities whose members face the challenge of deepening economic recession in the villages.

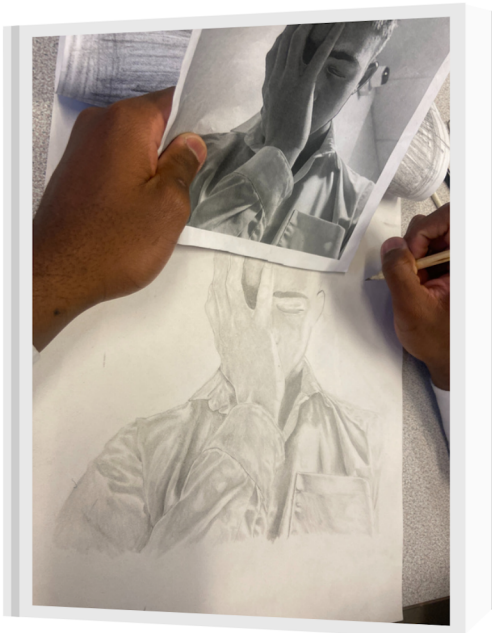
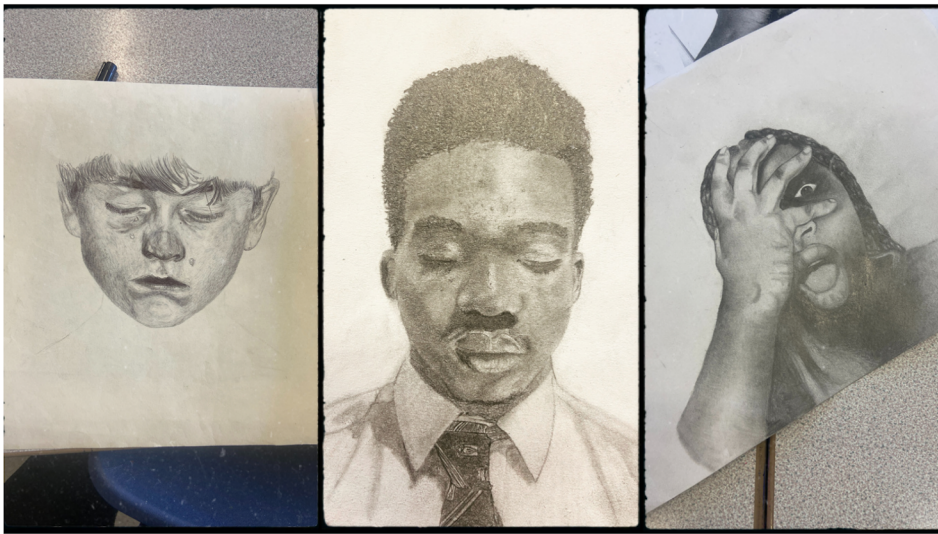
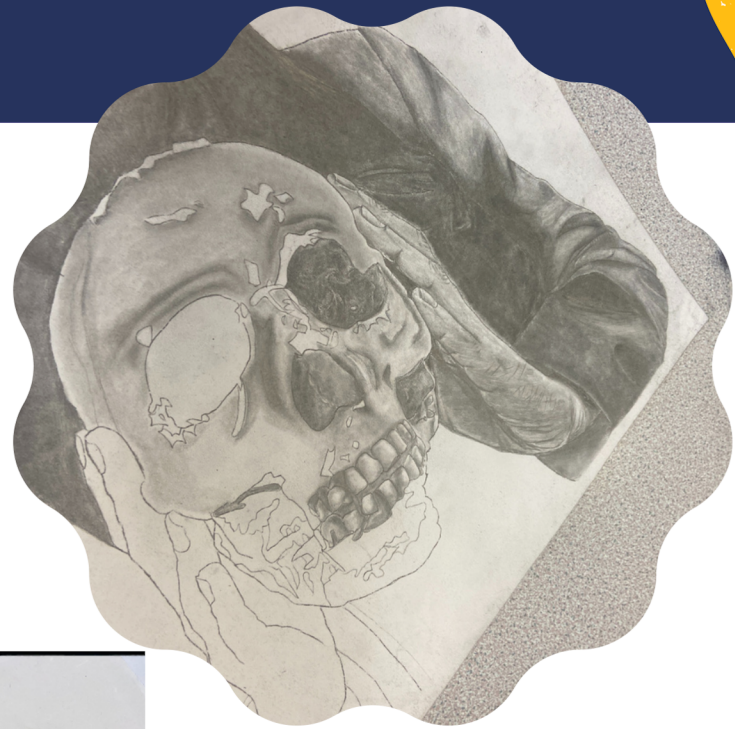
In order to raise money for NOAD, Miss Corker, Mr Pittaway (top right) and Mr Homer took part in our 'Soak the Teacher' event on Wednesday 15th March.



SCHOOL EVENTS

Year 10's Art Portfolios

Year 10 have been working hard this last month and have recently started their 60% portfolio under the theme Horror...using their newly developed photography skills to produce observations.



SCHOOL EVENTS

Year 8 Futures Day

Year 8 took part in futures day which allowed them to experience sessions about careers to help them in the future. They were able to take part in 6 sessions which covered the following:

Session 1: Staffordshire University A Student Life Talk

Session 2: Skills Training UK What do training providers offer?

Session 3: Identifying interests

Session 4: What are skills?

Session 5: What makes a great communicator?

Session 6: Your superhero CV.

Pupils engaged very well in the sessions and enjoyed it. Jacob provided the following feedback, "It was a good experience of how to show us what options we could choose when we leave school and move on to have better opportunities in life."

Year 11 Futures Day

Year 11 also had futures sessions planned for them to ensure that they are fully aware of options provided to them Post 16. They were involved in the following sessions:

Assembly on Post 16

Session 1: DWP Interview skills

Session 2: Apprenticeships

Session 3: Introduction to CV's.

Well done to year 11 who were so positive in these sessions and worked really well!

SCHOOL EVENTS

Year 9 & 10 Cricket Tournament

On 2nd March 2023, Blue Coat sent a team of Year 9 and 10 girls to the Black Country Under 15 girls cricket tournament.

They lost their first match comprehensively and Mr Dawes thought they were in for a long day, but after some tactical decisions, some excellent leadership from Rubaab and some amazing catches, Blue Coat grew into the tournament.

The girls won every single remaining match, drawing with Phoenix Academy. However, because the girls had scored more runs throughout the tournament, they won!

It was an amazing triumph and a win for simply trying and working hard together. Well done girls!

SCHOOL EVENTS

Year 10 Campus Experience Day

On 15th March thirty Year 10 students went to the University of Wolverhampton for a Campus Experience Day organised by Aspire to HE. The purpose of these days is to give students an understanding of what it is like to attend university. The Year 10 day looks at the different ways a student can settle into university life and in particular the range of societies that exist within a university campus.

Once the students had split into groups; they had to create their own club, design a poster, devise rules and a purpose for the club and decide on a strapline. They were also given a budget and had to design the space around their society spending their budget on amenities and items for the space. They could purchase pinball machines, a gym, TV & games consoles, a bar, pool table plus other items which would enhance the experience their society provided.

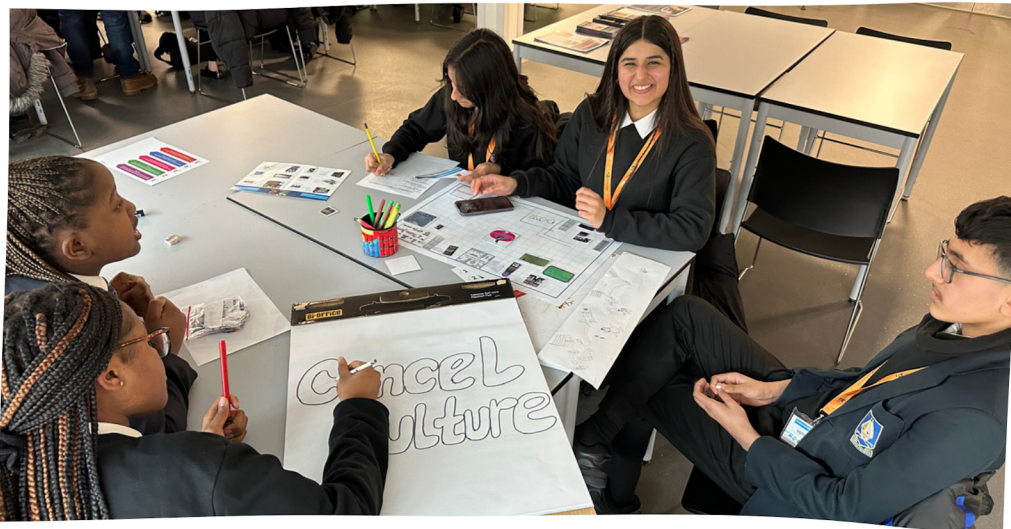
Finally, they had to present their society to the rest of the students with points being awarded for originality of idea, layout of their area, budget, strapline and of course the actual presentation itself.

1st place went to the 'Curry Club' for their society which taught people how to cook curry and then encouraged its members to cook for one another and form new friendships. Special mentions to Aaron and Sarah for their excellent presentation skills. 2nd place was 'Cancel Culture' – a debating club about contemporary issues. Honourable mentions given to Sam for his hilarious but informative style of presentation.

At the end of the day everyone climbed aboard the coach in good spirits after an enjoyable and informative day. We look forward to the Year 11 Experience Day.



SCHOOL EVENTS



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about iPADS

Apple debuted the first iPad in 2010, kickstarting the tablet market, and it remains the best-selling tablet to this day. Although Apple doesn't offer a child-specific version, iPads are hugely popular with youngsters due to their ease of use and endless choice of apps. There's a selection of models, with different-sized screens and distinct features – including the standard iPad; the iPad Air; the iPad Pro; and the iPad mini. Thankfully, they all offer parental controls so you can regulate how your child uses the device ... and how long they spend on it.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PHYSICAL DAMAGE

While some tablets (such as the Amazon Fire Kids editions) come with rugged shock-proof cases, iPads aren't built for rough and tumble. They're also more expensive than most other tablets, and any damage your child's iPad suffers could be costly to repair. Buying a child-friendly case and screen protector for the device could be a wise move, especially if it's being used by younger ones.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Like most digital devices, tablets have the potential to become quite addictive. You might find your child spending too long staring at their iPad, which could lead to irritability, mood swings and a loss of interest in more important tasks. If this happens, be sure to visit the built-in screen time settings and ensure you limit how long they're able to spend on the device each day.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

18
CENSORED

Even if it would never occur to your child to go searching online for age-inappropriate sites or information, there's always a possibility that something unexpected – perhaps a video that auto-plays or content incorrectly suggested by an algorithm – could appear on their tablet and upset them. You can help prevent this by adjusting the content settings (see our 'top tips' section below).

SIRI SUGGESTIONS

The parental controls built into iOS (the fundamental operating system of Apple devices) enable you to block access to most age-inappropriate content – but your child could potentially still bypass these restrictions (either accidentally or deliberately) by using Siri, Apple's voice-activated digital assistant. To avoid this, toggle the 'Ask Siri' functions to 'off' in the iPad's settings menu.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Before letting little ones loose on an iPad, it's a good idea to set up Family Sharing, as this lets you utilise the parental controls to manage exactly how your child is able to use the device. You can do this fairly easily by going into the iPad's settings; once there, you'll be able to add an existing Apple account (if your child already has one) or set one up from scratch.

APPLY SOME LIMITS

The 'Downtime' function allows you to tell the iPad to lock itself at certain periods (at mealtimes or before bed, for instance), while 'App Limits' removes access to certain apps once they've been used for a specified length of time each day. The iPad can display a reminder when these limits have nearly been reached, letting your child mentally prepare for the end of their gaming or viewing time.

STOP ACCIDENTAL SPENDING

To empower your child with an increased sense of freedom on their device (without giving yourself something else to worry about in the process) you could enable the iPad's 'Ask to Buy' feature. Whenever your child tries to download or buy an app, game or product, the iPad sends you a request to approve (or deny!) it. This option only becomes available if you've set up Family Sharing.

SET CONTENT AND PRIVACY RESTRICTIONS

The parental controls can stop the iPad from displaying explicit or age-inappropriate content (in apps like iTunes and Safari, for instance) when your child is signed into their account. You'll also be able to restrict the capacity to download and install apps, and you can specify permissions which prevent children from changing the iPad's privacy settings once you've selected them.

TRACK IT DOWN

Just like the iPhone, Apple's iPads have 'Find My' software to help you locate your child's iPad – or indeed, any linked Apple devices that have gone AWOL, including phones, watches and AirPods. If you enable 'Find My' in the settings menu, it will display the last known location of an iPad that's been mislaid, as well as giving you the option to lock a missing iPad that you suspect has been stolen.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and columnist.



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