



# Blue Coat Church of England Academy

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Principal: Mr D Smith  
Headteacher: Ms V Owen

17<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July marks the end of a successful year where the excellent work which goes on in school has been recognised by a 'Good' judgement from Ofsted and an 'Excellent' grading from our most recent SIAMs inspection. The end of the school year will mark some significant changes with a number of staff moving on to new challenges. Miss Owen will be leaving to take up a new post as Headteacher in a secondary school in Devon. There are no immediate plans to replace the post of Headteacher due to the financial challenges which all schools are currently facing. There will be some reorganisation of roles within the existing Senior Leadership Team to ensure that all of the key responsibilities are appropriately covered. As Principal, I will continue to lead the Academy Trust developments and the management of the business side of the school and supported by Mrs Devlin, Senior Assistant Principal, and the rest of the Senior Leadership Team. This will ensure that we maintain our focus on supporting students to achieve the best possible outcomes and making Blue Coat the best it can be.

On the last day of term, school will commence at the normal time and lessons will run as normal during the morning. Students will return to forms after period 3, a phased dismissal will then commence from 12.15p.m. onwards. The normal canteen service will be available during an extended mid-morning break.

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July students will again be welcome to attend school in the dress of cultural significance which they wore on Diversity Day recently. We had arranged for a 360 photobooth to be available on Diversity Day but not all students were able to get photographs taken so we have arranged for a return visit on 21<sup>st</sup> July. Year 12 will also get the opportunity to work with the Performance Poet Dreadlock Alien who proved to be a big hit with Year 10 on Diversity Day.

The last day of term will be a fundraising non-uniform day, with a minimum donation of £1 per student. All monies raised will contribute to our fundraising for Diversity Day activities in 2024.

On both of these dates, it is important that students come properly prepared for school with a bag and equipment as normal. Lessons will operate as normal.

## Heating Replacement Programme

We have been very fortunate to successfully bid for funding through the Government's Condition Improvement Fund to replace the heating system within the main building. Work will commence as soon as we break up. This will mean that we will not have the normal access to the main building during the summer holidays. **There will be no access to Reception outside of term time.**

## Walsall Holiday Programmes

Walsall are running a series of free holiday programmes this summer, including two which we are hosting at Blue Coat. Details have been emailed directly to eligible Parents/Carers. Further details can be found at: <https://go.walsall.gov.uk/children-and-young-people/holiday-activities-programme-haf/register-haf-2023>



### **Birmingham Street Crossing**

After many years of trying to secure some improvements to the crossing between our sites on Birmingham Street, I am pleased to be able to inform you that a road safety improvement programme will be completed over the summer. I would like to express my thanks to Valerie Vaz our local MP who has been very supportive while trying to secure support and funding for the project.

### **Collection of Exam Results**

Years 12 and 13 – A Level results will be available on Thursday 17th August 2023 at 8.30am.

Year 11 – GCSE results can be collected on Thursday 24th August 2023 at 9.00am.

**Please collect all results from the Tonks' Building.**

### **Uniform**

Uniform is something upon which we pride ourselves. Please ensure that your child wears the correct uniform, with the Blue Coat badge. If buying new shoes for your child this summer, please ensure they are plain black with no logos and definitely no training shoes. All students must be in full uniform for the start of the new term. Should you have any queries regarding the uniform, please do not hesitate to contact the school before the end of term. I appreciate all of your support in ensuring students adhere to our Uniform Policy.

The school P.E. uniform can only be purchased from school, orders can be placed via School Gateway which you can register for and log into via the school website:

[www.bluecoatacademy.org/parents-carers/online-payments](http://www.bluecoatacademy.org/parents-carers/online-payments)

**Orders can be collected from the school reception between 2.00 – 3.00p.m. each day during term time.**

Please make sure that orders are placed as soon as possible if you want items of P.E. uniform before the end of term. **There will be no opportunity to purchase P.E. uniform between 26<sup>th</sup> July and 5<sup>th</sup> September due to the limited access to the main building as a result of the heating works.** Cash and contactless purchases of items of P.E. uniform can also be made at these times.

### **Autumn Term**

The academy re-opens for students next term on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023. There will be a phased return to school to accommodate various induction activities which are taking place, which gives us the opportunity to settle Year 7 into the school and accommodate some focussed work with Years 11, 12 and 13, before the rest of the school return. I would remind you that no students are allowed to leave the site at lunchtime.

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September – Students in Years 7, 12 and 13 only return to school

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September – Students in Year 11 return to school, along with Year 7, 12 and 13.

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September – All Year groups in school at normal time. Church Assembly will run as normal – all students should attend in full school uniform.

As always, I am very much looking forward to continuing to develop good relationships with parents/carers to ensure that we are providing the best possible learning experiences for all students. I know that I, along with all of the staff and governors at Blue Coat Academy are grateful for your continued support over the past year and look forward to working with you again next year. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy, restful and peaceful summer break.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Smith  
Principal