



THE MESSENGER



Dear Parents & Carers

We can look back at a range of exciting events over the last half term which are detailed in this newsletter and also look forward to the coming weeks in the lead up to Christmas. Prize Evening will be one of the highlights of the coming half term as we celebrate the achievements of students from the last academic year, focussing on those who completed qualifications last summer. We also look forward to our preparations for Christmas, including our OAP Christmas Party on 11th December.

UPCOMING DATES

- First day of term – 6th November
- Y13 National School Leaver Festival – 8th November
- Prize Evening – 16th November
- Sixth Form Parents Evening – 23rd November
- OAP Christmas Party – 11th December
- Y7 Panto – 19th December
- End of term – 22nd December



PRAYER CORNER

Dear Lord, as I begin a new school term, I will fear not. You have commanded me to be strong and of good courage! I won't be afraid or discouraged because you are with me wherever I go. In my last school term, you were with me and in my new school term you are still with me. You watch over me and I know you will strengthen me daily.

SMITH'S MYTHS

A: White-faced capuchin monkeys greet each other by sticking their fingers up each others' noses.

B: New Zealand has more dogs per person than any other country in the world.

C: The hagfish is the only animal that has a skull but no spine.

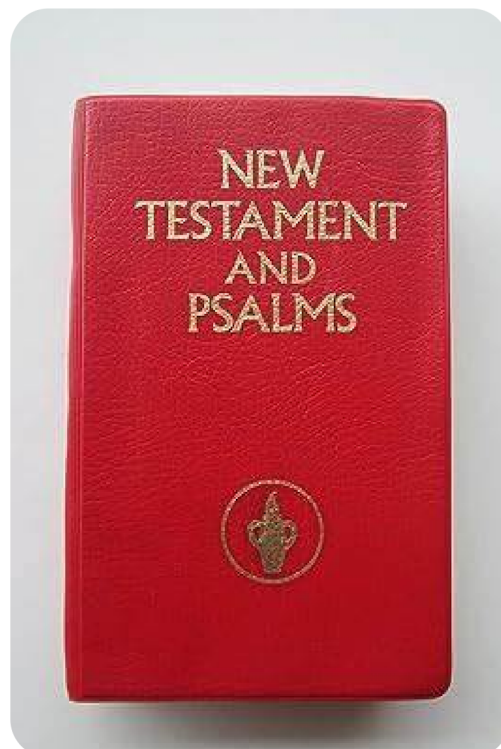
SCHOOL EVENTS

'Good News for Everyone'

Earlier in October we were pleased to welcome three representatives from the Walsall and West Bromwich branch of Good News for Everyone (formerly Gideons UK). Our visitors led an assembly with year 7 students and then offered each student a copy of the 'New Testament and Psalms' as they left the hall.

"For many years school pupils across the UK have been offered a 'New Testament and Psalms'. This little red book, part of the Christian Scriptures, has been accepted by most young people regardless of their faith or no faith. At different times in life many have turned to it and found it to be a source of advice and help, comfort and hope."

To read more about Good News for Everyone please visit their website: <https://goodnewsuk.com/>



WORKSHOPS

Y9 West Midlands Police Violence Reduction Partnership

This half term has been busy with us having visitors in to work with our students.

Year 9 did a workshop working alongside West Midlands Police Violence Reduction Partnership. They immersed themselves into a virtual reality experience, where they looked at the danger around knife crime and the consequences of carrying weapons. The work they did in this workshop will help develop knife crime curriculum for other schools in the West Midlands.



WORKSHOPS

Y7 Streetwise

The Year 7s took part in a workshop called 'Streetwise' which focussed on the potential consequences of lapses in concentration and risk-taking behaviour around roads. The covered issues included distractions such as using phones and listening to music, as well as 'messaging about' with friends. During the presentation they looked at characters being distracted from safe road use, examined the potential consequences, and highlighted the importance of paying full attention on the roads at all times.



WORKSHOPS

The Anne Frank Trust

We have also had a selection of students take part in a workshop delivered by 'The Anne Frank Trust'. This looked at discrimination and the impact this has on all people involved. It also looked at the importance of challenging discrimination and the consequence of what could happen should it be left to go unchallenged. Students were able to have discussions around their own experiences and look at historical events that have seen discrimination against different groups of people.

You can find out more about The Anne Frank Trust through their website <https://www.annefrank.org.uk/>



SCHOOL TRIPS

Geography Trips

In the final week of September and the first week of October, our amazing Year 10 - 13 Geographers took part in their fieldwork trips. Year 10 and Sixth Form visited Carding Mill Valley, which, for once, involved no rain at all! They hiked up a mountain valley, had lunch next to a waterfall and spent a full day both in and around the river conducting various tests.

Our Year 11 and 13 Geographers then visited Leicester, conducting a variety of fieldwork methods to assess quality of life in different areas of the city. Many of them also conducted their own tests on the many fast food options available for lunch as well! Both days were so much fun for all involved, the pupils were both thorough in their research and excellently behaved.

12 Social Media Online Safety Tips

FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

With Christmas only a few weeks away, many of you will be using social media to share your excitement with friends and family. Being active on social media is a great way to show others how much fun you're having, but it's important that you know how to use these apps safely and securely so that bad things don't happen. By following our safety tips below, you can make sure that your personal information stays private, your postings are positive and that your social media use overall is responsible, healthy and most of all enjoyable.

1

DON'T ACCEPT FRIEND REQUESTS FROM STRANGERS

Make sure that you set your profile to private so that people you don't know can't find you online. Always tell a trusted adult if a stranger or somebody you don't know sends you a message or a friend request.

2

NEVER SHARE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION WITH PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW

Keep your personal information personal. Sometime people online aren't always who they say they are and might ask you to share things that you don't feel comfortable sharing.

3

DON'T SHARE EMBARRASSING PHOTOS OR VIDEOS OF OTHERS ONLINE

This could really upset them and could get you into a lot of trouble. Always think twice before posting anything on social media and treat people online as you would in real-life.

4

NEVER SEND NAKED PICTURES OF YOURSELF TO OTHERS

This is illegal if you are under 18 and you could get into trouble with the Police. If you are being pressured by someone, always say no and tell a trusted adult. Even if you think it is innocent fun, the photo could be shared with other people and you won't be able to control who else sees it.

5

CREATE A POSITIVE ONLINE REPUTATION

Always be kind and polite when posting comments on social media and only upload pictures and videos of things you are proud of. This forms part of your digital footprint. Everything you do online can be tracked and monitored and could affect what people think of you in real-life if it is negative.

6

LIMIT YOUR SCREEN TIME

Social media can be addictive, and it is easy to keep checking newsfeeds or your notifications every 5 minutes which can affect your behaviour and stop you from doing other things. Remember to only use your phone at certain times of the day, turn notifications off at bedtime and go out and have as fun as much as possible. This will keep you fit and healthy and make you appreciate there's more to life than just what's on social media.

7

BLOCK ONLINE BULLIES

Sometimes people might say nasty things to you online or post offensive comments on your pictures or videos. If this happens, always tell a trusted adult who will help you block them from your profile and support you in taking further action.

8

REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

If you see something on social media that you don't like, offends you or upsets you, you should always report it to a trusted adult. You should also report it to the social media app who will be able to remove the content if it is against their user policy and can block the person who posted it.

9

ONLY USE APPS WHICH YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO USE

Before downloading any new social media app, always check the age-rating. If you need help, ask your parent or carer to make sure that the app is safe for you to use and never download anything which you are too young for as it may contain content that isn't safe for you to see.

10

ALWAYS SECURE ALL YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILES WITH A PASSWORD

This will help to keep your private information safe and won't allow others to access your profiles without your permission. Make sure your passwords are memorable and personal to you but something which other people can't guess, and always share them with your parents just in case you forget them.

11

ASK PARENTS TO SET-UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS' FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

When you download a social media app, you should always ask a trusted adult to help you set it up for the first time. This will help you control who sees what you post, who can contact you and make sure you are able to enjoy using the app safely and securely.

12

ALWAYS TALK TO YOUR TRUSTED ADULT IF SOCIAL MEDIA IS MAKING YOU UNHAPPY

Sometimes, social media can make us feel bad about ourselves or sad that we aren't the same as someone else or doing the same things as someone else. Remember, if you ever feel this way, it's really important to talk to your trusted adult(s) like your parents, carers, other adult family members or a teacher, all of whom will be able to support you and discuss your feelings with you to help make you feel better.

FOLLOW US!

Social Media

Follow us on social media to get school updates, information on local events, careers information, revision tips, updates on newsletters and much more!



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BlueCoatWalsall>



Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/bluecoatacademywalsall>



Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BlueCoatWalsall>



LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/11207595>

LinkedIn Alumni Group:

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