



THE MESSENGER



Dear Parents & Carers

As we approach Easter, Eid and Vaisakhi, it seems fitting that this edition is a celebration of a range of activities which have taken place over the course of this term. It has been a short term but we have packed a lot in! You will see that the activities have involved students from all year groups. There is a strong commitment from staff in school to provide a wealth of opportunities to students which exposes them to new and different situations, contexts and experiences. I hope that everyone in the school community will enjoy the special celebrations in the coming weeks.

UPCOMING DATES

- First day of term - Monday 8th April
- Road to Success Days (Y11 and 13 only) - 8th and 9th April
- End of half term - Friday 24th May.



PRAYER CORNER

Dear Lord, I want to thank you for Christ's resurrection. I want to celebrate him not only today but every day. Because he lives, I can stay hopeful even amid troubles. I know that my faith and trust are not in vain, for Jesus is alive. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

SMITH'S MYTHS

A: There are 8 Narnia books in total.

B: Jacqueline Wilson has written over 100 books.

C: A yoctosecond is one trillionth of a trillionth of a second.

SCHOOL TRIPS

Narnia Performance

In January Mrs Trafford took a group of Year 8s to see The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe. Here is our picture taken in front of the enchanted wardrobe. The production saw the cast work as an ensemble singing, dancing and playing musical instruments to transport us to the magical world of Narnia and our front row seats helped us to immerse ourselves in the production. The costumes were a particular highlight with lots of fine detail and the White Witch who flew above our heads. A thoroughly brilliant morning was had by all those that attended.



Wolverhampton Grammar School

Every year Wolverhampton Grammar School has a writing competition for young people to submit short stories. This was the first year Blue Coat CE Academy has entered and the theme was "heroes". The students who attended all wrote fantastic stories about kind and generous people who could be called heroes and were chosen as finalists in the competition.

Pelumi was a runner-up in the year 8 category and received a signed copy of a book by the author Paul Dowswell!

The students had a great time and have already said they are eager to enter the competition again next year.



SCHOOL TRIPS

Auschwitz-Birkenau

Four Year 12 History students took a one day trip to Auschwitz-Birkenau for a mind-opening visit, subsidised and facilitated by the Holocaust Education Trust.

It was a cold, wet and windy day but one that will stick with the students for a long time to come. They did embrace all aspects of the trip. With the weather conditions, the students were able to sample some of the challenges that the prisoners would have faced.

One student was asked just before the tour of Auschwitz-Birkenau whether it was what he expected. His response was "I knew it was bad but it's so much worse than I thought". He also said "I'll never forget this walk into Birkenau."

Upon our return to Blue Coat, the Year 12 students took part in an assembly sharing their reflections of the trip. As part of this the students also have the opportunity to complete an ASDAN qualification on the visit.



"זיכרו רק כי הייתו חף מפשע
 וכן, במוכם, בני תמוהה של יום זה,
 גם לי, היו פנים של
 זעם ושמוחה ורומים,
 פשוט מאוד, פנים של בן אדם"
 בנימין פונדאן, טרנס באושוויץ ביזנאן, 1944

"Remember only that I was innocent
 and, just like you, mortal on that day,
 I, too, had had a face
 marked by rage, by pity and joy,
 quite simply, a human face!"
 Benjamin Fondane, murdered at Auschwitz-Birkenau, 1944

British Science Week

British Science Week took place in March. As it is the 30th anniversary of British Science Week, the theme of this year's Science Week was Time! To celebrate, the Science department has been challenging their classes to make accurate clocks using water or pendulums in lessons.



SCHOOL TRIPS

Jacqueline Wilson

On World Book Day this year, 15 students travelled to Wolverhampton to see Jacqueline Wilson on the release date of her new book 'The Girl Who Wasn't There'. Each student received a signed copy of the book and heard Dame Jacqueline share her writing secrets (which detailed that she usually writes whilst in her pyjamas!). We hope the students enjoy their signed books and that we can facilitate spaces for more students next year.



Discover University Day

On Tuesday 19th March. The Level One Pathway pupils attended a 'Discover University Day' at the University of Wolverhampton Gorway Road Campus.

The aim of the day was to give SEND students a further understanding of what university life entails. This included workshops, guidance, and a tour of the university.

It also gave the students a valuable insight into further education, and the opportunities available to them for when they leave school.

Y10 Maths Big Quiz

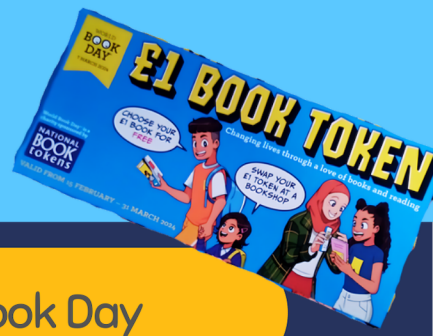
On 12th March Mr Wright took eight Year 10 Mathematicians to the University of Birmingham where they competed against about 40 other schools from around the region over 6 rounds of mathematical knowledge and reasoning questions. Not surprisingly they were great and they performed really well.

The boys team did however win one of the spot prizes by guessing the closest to the number of passengers passing through New Street Station each day (about 165,000). The girls team would also have won a spot prize as they guessed the height of the of the BT Tower in Birmingham to within 1 metre (150m) but unfortunately the round was cancelled as a few of the other schools decided to google the answer - something that ours would not even contemplate.

Big congratulations to:
Mohammed, Ikhlās, Jewel, Alessia, Greater, Divine, Kian, Jayden.



SCHOOL EVENTS



National Careers Week

To celebrate National Careers Week, on Friday 8th March many of our staff dressed up as either their dream job as a child, or a job they used to have before coming to Blue Coat Academy. We decided to have a competition to see which member of staff was voted as the best dressed, and which department was also best dressed.

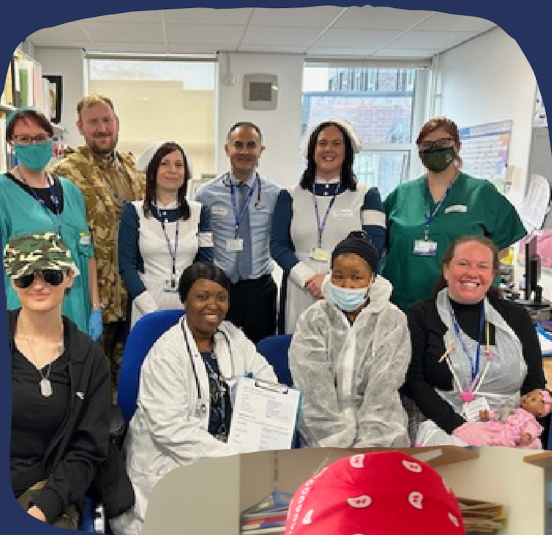
The best dressed staff member was: Mr Gardner!

The best dressed department was: SEND.

The students were also given a Careers Week competition, which was to fill out a sheet asking them to name members of staff who'd had unique jobs before working at the school, with the top three prizes being an Amazon Echo.

The winners were:

1. Audrey
2. Helen
3. Alishba



World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day this year, the students had lots of fun being creative in the school library over lunch time. Some decided to create their own masks, either inspired by their favourite book characters or those found in their own imaginations. They were very proud of their designs and their colouring to mark the special day.

During the day, a school-wide quiz took place in which all staff carried literary characters and books such as 'The Gruffalo' and 'The Wonderful Wizard of Oz' around their necks for students to hunt down as answers to their question sheets. The first prize for this quiz will be an Amazon Echo, so congratulations if this is you!

Students were also given £1 Book Tokens, which they can trade in at booksellers for £1 off their chosen books, or swap it for a free copy of a selected book.



SCHOOL EVENTS

Y7 Football Tournament

On Monday 4th March we took 8 of our year 7 footballers to a 6 a side football tournament at Joseph Leckie, with Walsall Academy and Grace Academy also in attendance.

The boys were incredible throughout, starting our first game against Walsall Academy. The lads came out hungry, scoring the first goal within the first minute of the game and continued this desire to win, ending with a **4-0 victory** to Blue Coat.

The second game started, and the boys kept their composure playing some beautiful football with great movement and communication throughout. We came out on top with a **3-0 victory**.

The 3rd game was a tough one, the boys played with a bit too much confidence and lost their touch. We kept Joseph Leckie out but could not score, the game finished **0-0**.

We then had a short break and Mr Roper gave a great speech which got the lads fired up. We were unstoppable, playing with great confidence and determination the boys just kept on winning.

4th game - **5-0 Blue Coat**

5th game - **4-0 Blue Coat**

6th game - **3-0 Blue Coat**

Meaning Blue Coat won the tournament by an outstanding margin whilst not losing a game all night or conceding a goal. Can we please give praise to the following pupils on their amazing achievement:

Haider, Ansumana, Harley, Jj, Sirat, Korey, Abdul-Hakim, Quinn.



Sixth Form Fixture

On the 13th March the 6th Form boys played a game against Joseph Leckie.

The lads started off playing with a lack of confidence and communication, making silly mistakes and not really creating much, this eventually led to a penalty being given away - Joseph Leckie 0-1.

Usually when we conceded the boys are quick to throw their arms up and moan or just give up, but not this time, they gave an incredible reaction and switched their mindsets to pushing themselves and believing they could win this game.

It was like seeing a new team, they were playing the ball around and giving each other great encouragement to keep pushing. 10 minutes pass and bang! Tyrone slots it into the bottom corner to get us to **1-1**.

Joseph Leckie couldn't hold any of our lads back, Luke played with great direction and using his pace, Aryaan using his skills and passing to create those chances and Tyrone running around like a headless chicken to get the ball back non-stop, the half-finished **4-2 Blue Coat**.

Second half started and the boys kept the energy and enthusiasm at a high, not giving any chances away and finishing their own chances, Luke got another two goals to secure his hattrick, Tyrone scored another one, Aryaan two, and three assists and Rizwan ended up getting 2 goals also.

Making it outstanding score of **9-2** to Blue Coat Academy, making this our first win!

Congratulations to the following pupils:
Shariq, Aryaan, Rizwan, Kemani, Elijah, Rafael, Tarran, Luke, Murtaza, Kamal, Tyrone, Terique, Elliot.

SCHOOL EVENTS



Chinese New Year

On Thursday 8th February we celebrated Chinese New Year at school by having Chinese food served in the canteen.

Our pupils were treated to a delicious selection of Chinese style food including spring rolls, Kung Pao Chicken, Hoisin Noodle hot pots, and mandarin & cinnamon upside down cake.

The children really enjoyed trying some new foods and learning about the Chinese celebration. We're looking forward to our next food themed day which will be an Italian theme, on Thursday 25th April.



Number Day

On Friday 2nd February we held our annual Number Day event where students get a maths sheet with 8 questions and must identify the staff (who are wearing numbers) with the answers. Donations for the event are given to the NSPCC.

Our overall winner was Brandon. Our runners up were: Charles, Fiza, Fathima, Georgiana, Destiny, Khadijah, Oluwapelumi, Rozina, Jubaer, Hassan, Eman, Zeenat, Nayela, Nafisah, Brooke, Nimrah, Jake and Antoni.

Our Times Tables Rockstar winner was David.

Congratulations to all students involved.

YMSA

Well done to Zunaira who has submitted an entry for The Young Mathematical Story Authors (YMSA) competition 2024. This is the world's first annual international competition set up to encourage young mathematics learners (8-15 years old) from around the world to embed their mathematical learning in a meaningful and engaging context through creating their own mathematical story picture books. Results will be announced on Friday 31st May 2024 and we wish Zunaira the best of luck!

SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

Virtual Reality

Some of our Year 8 students take part in a virtual reality workshop. The workshop addresses issues around carrying knives and the consequences of this. The students wore Virtual Reality headsets and immersed themselves into a real-world scenario where they faced multiple dilemmas in which they had to make a choice. Each choice has a variety of different outcomes, highlighting to them that actions have consequences. Students were then able to discuss their choices as a group and explore the issues in greater depth.

Other pupils from across the school took part in a workshop focused on gang culture and criminal exploitation.

Next Term

Following on from a very successful Prince's Trust workshop back in November entitled enterprise challenge. We have a group going through to the regional finals to represent Blue Coat at the next stage of the competition. Watch this space for an update on how they get on in May when we head to Edgbaston to compete.

Y7 – Smashed

Our Year 7 students took part in a workshop called Smashed, in which the students observe, explore and reflect on vital underage drinking themes including:

- The social and emotional causes
- The impact on young lives
- Social influence and decision making
- Where and how to help yourself and others

This was an engaging and interactive workshop which really got our students thinking about their choices around alcohol and the impact peer pressure has on them.

Anne Frank Youth Conference

We took a group of 6 students to represent Blue Coat at the Anne Frank Youth Conference held in Manchester. Throughout the day we worked alongside students from across the country. They took part in workshops focusing on empowering them to challenge all forms of prejudice and discrimination. At the end of the day each group delivered a 2-minute presentation telling a story of prejudice and discrimination to inspire others to be the voice against it. Students also had the opportunity to meet a survivor of the holocaust who spoke about their story of survival and continuing to fight against prejudice.



SCHOOL NEWS

Update Your Data

It is important that you keep school up to date with any changes to your contact information. The easiest and quickest way to do this is via the **SIMS Parent Lite App** which is available on iOS and Android. The app allows you to view the current data stored in our system and to request changes electronically.

Invites to register for the app have been sent to all parents for whom we hold email addresses.

Parents/Carers can access the SIMS Parent website by going to <https://www.sims-parent.co.uk> or via the SIMS Parent app.

Once the SIMS Parent app is downloaded onto a mobile device, an icon will be available on the device menu that will take you directly to the app.

Registration for SIMS Parent is completed via the SIMS ID website, where you can select the account provider you wish to register and sign in with. Parents/Carers should register with the email recorded in our MIS system which will be the email the invite is sent to.

Please note that your activation email is unique to you and should not be used by anyone else. If you require an additional login then please contact us at school. Your activation email will expire after 14 days if it is not used, please contact us on updatemydata@bluecoatacademy.org if you require a replacement after this date.

If you do not receive an invitation email but you would like to, could you please email updatemydata@bluecoatacademy.org with your email details – please include your child's Forename/Surname/DOB.



**SIMS
PARENT**

Foyle Young Poets of the Year Competition

Do you enjoy writing poetry in your own time?

Are you interested in winning the opportunity to be mentored by published poets?

Blue Coat students are being invited to enter the Foyle Young Poets of the Year competition for 2024. The competition is open to anyone aged 11-17 and poems can be on any topic, although they must be written in English to qualify for entry*.

The Foyle Young Poets of the Year competition is **free to enter** but all entries must be **no more than 40 lines in length**.

All entrants will receive an e-certificate for participating in the competition.

Interested? Visit the competition website at <https://foyleyoungpoets.org/>

Good luck!

*You can include phrases in your mother tongue or another language.



SCHOOL NEWS

Blue Coat Festival

The Blue Coat Festival was a very special celebration of the Blue Coat Community. It was wonderful to welcome 'Old Blues' to special tours of the school and St. Matthew's Church on Blue Coat Saturday, which was followed by an inspiring evening concert of students old and new. We then came together to Celebrate Blue Coat during the Blue Coat Sunday service with students from all three Blue Coat Schools playing a significant part in the service.

We want to continue to keep in touch with our former students so if you'd like to give us your contact details please visit our website:

<https://www.bluecoatacademy.org/blue-coat-alumni-the-old-blues/>

Millie Tanner

As we approached the end of term we welcomed British Team Cyclist Millie Tanner to Blue Coat. After putting Years 7, 8 and 9 through their paces on a fitness circuit, Millie led an assembly with each year group and shared her inspirational story about her life as a international athlete and the work and dedication she puts in to continue on the GB team. Millie also answered student questions and was very impressed with the questions - some of which she had never been asked before. We will continue to collect sponsor money after half term.



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