



# Blue Coat Church of England Academy

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Principal: Mr D Smith

21<sup>st</sup> March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the Easter break, I wanted to take the opportunity to outline the arrangements for the end of term.

As previously communicated, on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025 only Years 11 and 13 will be in school as we are running a Road to Success Day to support their final preparations for the summer examination season, which requires additional staffing to make the day run as smoothly as possible. Students in other year groups should not attend on this day.

This is a similar event to the ones run in previous years which we have been able to fit around the Easter holiday but as Easter is later this year, we have had to select a date which meets the needs of the students preparing for final examinations. This is a day entirely focused on Year 11 and 13. The day is split into sessions for each subject, often in smaller groups, and is designed to provide focused feedback to students in preparation for their final push towards the exam season. Combined with lunchtime and after-school interventions these are the final touches that in previous years have seen positive outcomes for our students taking exams.

The day will run to normal school times. Year 11 are required to wear their full school uniform (not PE kit). They should also bring equipment including a pen as well as a school bag. There will be a variety of resources to take home and use for independent learning and revision. As a celebration of the work they have already done and are about to embark on, lunch will be provided free of charge.

Details of the summer examinations timetable are now available on the school website:

<https://www.bluecoatacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Exam-Timetable-Summer-2025-No-ESOL.pdf>

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025** will be the last day of term for all year groups, which will be a fundraising non-uniform day, with a minimum donation of £1 per pupil. All monies raised will be donated to Change into Action, a local charity supporting rough sleepers. A lunch service will be available as normal but at an earlier time on the last day of term. Dismissal on the last day of term will be at approximately 12.00pm.

All students will then return to school, as normal, on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

The school will be closed on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025 for the early May Bank Holiday.

## Eid

Please remember that only one day of absence for the celebration of Eid will be authorised, which we expect to be Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. We plan to make the day after Eid (Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April) a special celebration within the school community when everyone will be able to join together to mark the occasion. All members of the school community will be invited to attend in cultural dress, we will also have special theme day in the school canteen and we will launch Diversity Day 2025 in a special assembly.



### **Holidays in Term Time**

There have been a number of instances over the last term where families have disputed the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices in relation to leave taken during term time. As a school we will not authorise holidays which are taken in term time and any unauthorised leave which is taken can result in sanctions being applied, which includes the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices by Walsall Council.

### **Change of School Information Management System - Arbor**

We will be moving to a new system – Arbor with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025. We will continue to use Satchelone alongside Arbor and expect that this will improve the efficiency of systems in school and support us to improve communications. There are likely to be a few teething problems so please bear with us during the changeover.

Once the changeover is complete we will be launching the Arbor app which we would like all parents/carers to download as this is the most efficient way to share updates.

### **Recycling**

We have recently introduced a new system in school to promote recycling. One of the key elements is to ensure that we separate recycling, general waste and food waste. We would appreciate it if you could ensure that your child understands the importance of separating waste and help us to recycle more effectively.



### **Cost and Price Increases**

Recent times have been very challenging for us all with rapidly increasing costs. As a school we have faced very sharp increases in a number of areas. Unfortunately, due to rising costs from suppliers there will be some increases in costs over the coming months which will see increases in the cost of P.E. Uniform and school meals. In an effort to support families, we have managed to negotiate a phasing of the price increases as follows:

- From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025, new prices will be charged for all items of the P.E. uniform.
- Increases in the cost of school meals will be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025.

I appreciate that increases in costs will be challenging for families to manage and we have worked with suppliers to keep rises to a minimum. Following feedback from students and parents/carers, a new, more robust, style of track pants for P.E. will be available for September 2025.

### **Uniform**

Thank you for your support this term to ensure that your child looks smart each day. If you are getting new school shoes for your child over the Easter break, please ensure they are plain black with no logos and definitely no training shoes or plimsolls. Please refer to the information below regarding uniform expectations and I would draw particular attention to the expectations regarding hoodies, track suit tops, piercings and hair styles. More details are available on the school website:

<https://www.bluecoatacademy.org/school-uniform/>

I would again like to express my gratitude to you, parents and carers, for the support you have given to your children over this term. We appreciate that many students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 will be preparing for examinations during the summer term and that Easter represents an important time in their preparations.

Yours faithfully,



Mr D J Smith  
Principal

# Easter Services – St. Matthew's Church

<https://www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/>



All services take place in Church unless otherwise stated

## **Palm Sunday**

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April

8:45am Parish Communion  
10:45am Morning Praise  
6:30pm The Evening Service

## **Maundy Thursday**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April

7pm Holy Communion

## **Good Friday**

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April

10:00am Walk of Witness (Town Centre)  
12pm – 3pm Church open for private prayer and reflection at the cross  
7pm Good Friday Service

## **Holy Saturday**

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April

4.00p.m. 48 Hours in Jerusalem (St. Gabriel's Church, Walsall)

A new, original production, stepping into the lives of Jesus' followers as they face life without their Master.

## **Easter Sunday**

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April

8:45am Parish Communion  
10:45am All Age Easter Celebration  
1.00p.m. Asian Congregation