



Blue Coat Church of England Academy

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Principal: Mr D Smith

23rd May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Term Dates 2025/26

Over the course of the past few months, we have been reviewing the rhythm of the school year and concluded that we need to make some changes to ensure that we maximise the use of the time we have available in school with the students. The length of the Autumn Term has, for a long time, been a challenge to schools and the productivity of students has been difficult to sustain over such a long period of time. I am also aware that the placement of training days across the year can have a disruptive impact on the weeks where they fall. It is with all of this in mind that we have agreed a plan with governors to include a two week half term in October. We will only take one traditional training day at the beginning of the school year to carry out statutory training with all other staff training being spread across the whole of the year, outside of normal school time, which we also think will be beneficial. We will continue to align with the term dates for Walsall Council as far as possible. The term dates for 2025/26 at Blue Coat will be:

Autumn Term 2025

Term starts: Monday 1st September 2025

Half term holiday: Monday 20th October 2025 to Friday 31st October 2025

Term ends: Friday 19th December 2025

Spring Term 2026

Term starts: Monday 5th January 2026

Half term holiday: Monday 16th February 2026 to Friday 20th February 2026

Term ends: Friday 27th March 2026

Summer Term 2026

Term starts: Monday 13th April 2026

Half term holiday: Monday 25th May 2026 to Friday 29th May 2026

Term ends: Tuesday 21st July 2026

Parent Governor Election

Following the recent request for nominations, three parents have put themselves forward for the parent governor vacancy. We will therefore need to hold an election. Parents and carers will be sent a personalised email which will outline details of the process, a unique access code to submit votes along with the candidates statements.

The deadline to submit votes is Friday 13th June 2025



Arbor Parent Portal and App

Thank you to everyone who has already signed the Arbor App. Just a reminder that everyone who signs up by the end of the day on Friday 23rd May 2025 will be entered into a prize draw for a £50 Amazon voucher.

The Arbor Parent App allows you to:

- Access your child's academic progress: View attendance, exam timetables and reports in real-time.
- Stay updated on school events: Receive notifications about important school announcements, events and calendar dates.
- Report absences
- Update your own contact details

The Arbor Parent Portal and App is designed to be user-friendly and accessible on both iOS and Android devices. A welcome email was sent to all primary guardians just before Easter. If you have any questions or need assistance with the app please don't hesitate to contact the Academy via email – bcacomms@bluecoatacademy.org.

Sports Day

We are excited to announce that our annual School Sports Day will be held on **Monday 23rd June** at the Alexander Stadium, Birmingham. This will involve Year 7- 10 as well as Year 12 also attending. This much-anticipated event is a wonderful opportunity for students to showcase their athletic talents, team spirit, and sportsmanship in a fun and supportive environment. The event will feature a range of exciting track and field activities, including sprints, relays, long jump, and other inter-house competitions. It promises to be a memorable day for all involved.

Students are expected to arrive at school at 8:40 as normal in their full Blue Coat Academy PE Kit, either PE tracksuit bottoms or shorts weather dependent. Your child will be allocated a house for sports day with an assigned colour; we would like students to wear a t-shirt of that colour if possible. If you do not own one, we would like your child to wear their PE top, and they will be given a bib to wear when competing. Students will be travelling to the stadium by coach for this all-day event. We aim to return to school by approximately 3:00pm, in time for the end of the school day. If your child is expected to arrive later than planned, we have a prepared message ready to notify parents and guardians accordingly.

We expect all students to represent the school positively. Usual school rules apply, and excellent behaviour, good sportsmanship, and mutual respect are expected throughout the day. Staff will be present at all times to ensure student safety and welfare.

End of Term Arrangements

We break up for half term at normal time on Friday 23rd May 2025 and return to school at the normal time on Monday 2nd June 2025.

Due to some planned changes around the school site, the summer term for students will end on Thursday 17th July 2025 at 3.00p.m. This will allow time on Friday 18th July for staff to focus on preparing areas of the school where improvement works will be carried out over the Summer holidays. I apologise for this change but I am sure you will appreciate that we want to ensure that everything is in place to avoid any delays at the beginning of term in September.

Yours sincerely



D. Smith
Principal