

THE MESSENGER



Dear Parents & Carers,

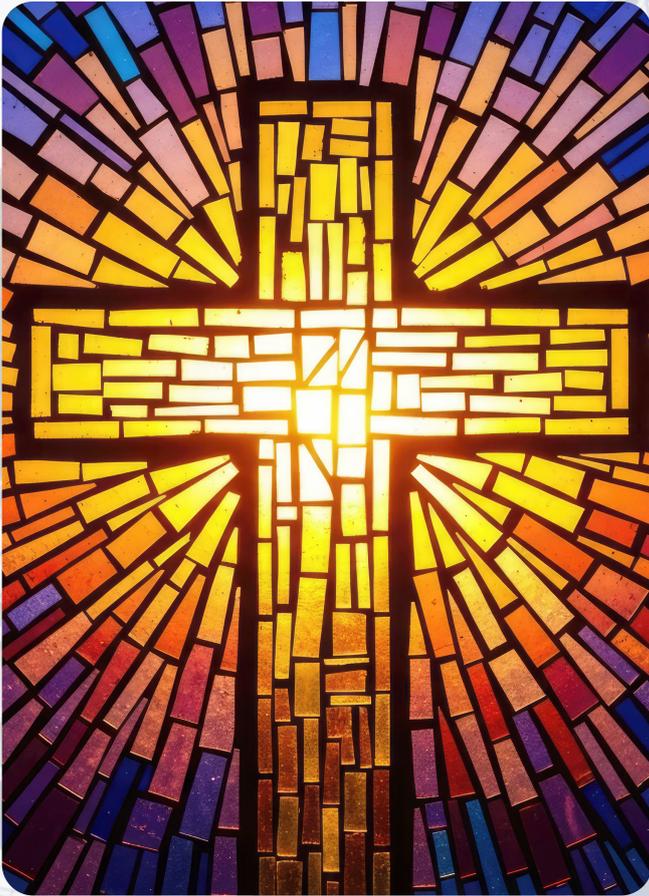
As we approach Easter, it is nice to be able to celebrate the excellent work which goes on in our school and also recognises the achievements of our students. I am delighted that we have been awarded the Right Respecting School Gold Award along with the Global Neighbours Silver Award - there are very few secondary schools across the country who have achieved both of these awards. It is testament to the commitment of everyone in our school community to live out our values, day in, day out.

We have experienced challenges over recent weeks with false, malicious and ill informed postings on social media. These highlight the need for us all to work together to question and challenge the rise of false information circulating on different online platforms.

This brought to mind Psalm 15 verses 2 and 3: "The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart; whose tongue utters no slander, who does no wrong to a neighbour, and casts no slur on others."

I appreciate the support of those members of the community who are committed to the principles of truth, honesty and integrity which helps to challenge the malicious intentions of a very small number of people seeking to undermine the excellent work which goes on in our school. As we approach the Easter season, following on from Eid, it is an opportunity to take time to celebrate the diverse nature of our community and to focus on all of the things which we have in common regardless of age, background or religious beliefs.

Mr D Smith, Principal



PRAYER CORNER

*Lord, renew us in faith this Easter.
Help us let go of doubts,
embrace new beginnings,
and walk in obedience and love,
reflecting Your presence in our lives.*

Amen.

SAVE THE DATE

Easter dates to keep in mind:

- **Sunday 29th March Palm Sunday**
- **Thursday 2nd April Maundy Thursday**
- **Friday 3rd April Good Friday**
- **Sunday 5th April Easter Sunday**
(service times at St Matthew's Church can be found [here](#))

- **Monday 13th April all students back to the Academy**

- **Monday 27th April GCSE Examinations start**

- **Monday 4th May 2026 Academy closed for May Day Bank Holiday**

- **Monday 25th May 2026 - Friday 29th May 2026 half-term break**

Spring Term Highlights

YEAR 7 DEDICATION EVENT

FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2026



Celebrating the start of your journey within the Blue Coat family.

This special event is a chance to celebrate the wonderful start our Year 7 pupils have made in their journey at Blue Coat CofE Academy. We will recognise their hard work and efforts over the last few months, and you will see pupils receive their Blue Coat badge.

First Year 7 Dedication Event at St Matthew's Church

This special event was a chance to celebrate the wonderful start our Year 7 pupils have made in their journey at Blue Coat Church of England Academy.

Blue Coat Festival 2026 370th Anniversary "Centuries of Service"

The Blue Coat Schools and St Matthew's Church came together on Blue Coat Sunday to wrap up a week-long celebration commemorating 370 years of Blue Coat in Walsall.



WALSALL FC'S AARON PRESSLEY AND HARRISON BURKE TALK RESILIENCE & INTEGRITY ON AND OFF THE PITCH



Walsall F.C. Players

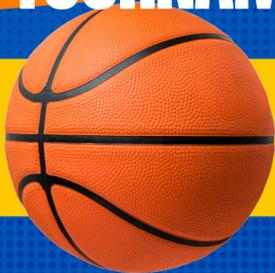
Year 8 & 9 students were lucky enough to meet two Walsall FC players. The students were able to engage in a Q&A session, receive some accolades through the Assist 2 Achieve and Cyrile Regis Legacy Trust sessions and even got to have their booklets signed. Thanks Walsall F.C!

Sports Highlights

FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY 2026

BASKET BALL 3V3 TOURNAMENT

THURSDAY
5TH
MARCH
2026



2ND PLACE
WINNERS!



QUALIFIED FOR

THE BLACK COUNTRY GAMES

BCA ATTEND PROFESSIONAL WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL MATCH



AT UNIVERSITY OF WORCESTER



RIGHT 23: CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES: GOVERNMENTS SHOULD REMOVE ALL OBSTACLES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES TO BECOME INDEPENDENT AND TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE COMMUNITY.

THE ARBOR APP

Calling all Parents & Carers, a gentle reminder to download the Arbor App



<https://login.arbor.sc>

Access your child's
academic progress

Stay updated on
school events

Update your own
contact details

Report absences

Workshops, trips & visits

Eco-Committee Club
RSPB BIRDWATCH
Wednesday 7th January 2026

WILDLIFE WALK & BIRD SPOTTING




MOST PREVALENT BIRD = MAGPIE

Eco-Committee Club
meet every Thursday 3pm - 4pm

Thursday 8th January 2026





Year 8 STEM Workshop
delivered by In-Comm Training




NSPCC




Number Day 2026

IT'S MATHS, BUT NOT AS YOU KNOW IT.

Friday 6 February

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

NSPCC 2026 National Charity for the Protection of Children. Registered Charity (England) 230465. Scotland SC037737 and Jersey 384. Photographs by CCE and Caroline Nicholson on behalf of the NSPCC. 2025/26/24

YEAR 11 POETRY LIVE TRIP AT BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY HALL

MONDAY 26TH JANUARY 2026




EACH EVENT INCLUDED THE POET LAUREATE, SIMON ARMITAGE. HE IS ONE OF BRITAIN'S BEST POETS, WITH A SUPERB EAR FOR LANGUAGE. THIS WAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR SIMON READ HIS WORK FROM THE ANTHOLOGY.

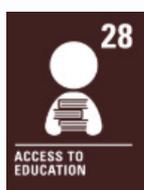
OUR PUPILS ALSO HEARD FROM JOHN AGARD, CAROL ANN DUFFY, IMTIAZ DHARKER, DALJI NAGRA AND LIZ BERRY.



WORLD BOOK DAY Can you guess the teacher from the book clues?



WORLD BOOK DAY Can you guess the book from the costume?

Right 28: Secondary and higher education should be available to every child.

Right 29: Children's education should help them fully develop their personalities, talents and abilities.





Revision Advice

PUPIL PROGRESS >>>
PASSION. PURPOSE. POSITIVITY + PROGRESS

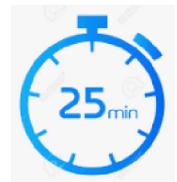
Frequently Asked Revision Questions

Is it good to revise for long periods of time or for shorter bursts?

Answer: almost always in shorter bursts.

Studies have shown that most people have an attention span of 20-25 minutes. If we push ourselves to work beyond this, our focus and productivity usually drops. It's good for your brain to take regular, short breaks!

Tip: keep snacks and water nearby that you can consume during these breaks to help boost your energy!



Where should I work?

Answer: set up at a tidy desk or table in a quiet room (the School Library or Walsall Library would work as well)



Working on your bed or on a sofa puts your brain into relaxation mode. This will make it harder for you to focus! It can also work the other way round – if you begin to associate your bed with revising, your brain will struggle to switch off when you are trying to sleep.

What should I do with my phone? And TV?

Answer: keep your phone in another room, and stay away from the TV or devices!

Avoid having your phone close to you while you revise. Instead, use it as a reward after a couple of hours of work! You should also avoid having the TV or Netflix on in the background. Even if you think you are still focused, your brain may still be picking up what's going on in the TV show. This will make your study far less effective.



Is it a good idea to copy or read your notes to learn them?

Answer: no, not really. Studies show this wastes around 95% of your time.

Doing activities that force you to engage with your notes in different ways are much more effective. You could:

- Explain your notes to others (family member or friend)
- Record yourself reading the notes out loud and listen back
- Test yourself with **practice papers** or **other questions**



Easter Services

Join us at St Matthew's as we celebrate the hope of Easter

Palm Sunday

Sunday 29th March

8.45am | Parish Communion
10.45am | All Age Worship
1pm | Asian Congregation

Maundy Thursday

Thursday 2nd April

7pm | Holy Communion

Good Friday

Friday 3rd April

10am | Walk of Witness | Town Centre
12-3pm | Church open for private prayer
7pm | Good Friday service

Easter Day

Sunday 5th April

8.45am | Parish Communion
10.45am | All Age Easter Celebration
1pm | Asian Congregation

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



Blue Coat Church of England Academy

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Easy Fundraising



We are proud to be part of the Blue Coat Family and a UNICEF UK Rights Respecting School