

JHY/SHY

21st October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of our first Half Term, I wanted to write to you about some of the progress and events within the school.

Uniform

The new Year 7 students are proudly wearing the new Blue Coat School blazer and House tie and, although not compulsory for the other year groups, it is great to see some of the other students opting to also purchase a blazer.

I would like to take the opportunity to remind all parents to contact their child's tutor if there are any personal circumstances affecting their child wearing the correct uniform. This will enable us to work with you to support a swift resolution and ensure consistency.

Parent Code of Conduct

At The Blue Coat School, we value the relationship which we build with every parent/carers in our school community, whose support we are reliant upon in ensuring that we are successful in providing your child with the very best education.

Almost every parent/carers we work with conducts themselves impeccably, in a professional, supportive manner. We like to feel that you, as parents/carers feel part of our community and that the part you play in your child's education complements ours. However, there have been some occasions where staff members have been subjected to unacceptable behaviour from parents/carers.

As a result, I will be shortly placing a new parent code of conduct on our website and would seek your support in reviewing this. We want to work in partnership with you as a family and hope you will appreciate this policy seeks to support transparency in relation to our interactions and effective collaboration.

Student Support Centre / Toilets

The new student support centre has been successfully launched and has already started providing additional support to students for mental health and wellbeing. Our new family liaison worker is also based in the centre and has begun progressive work to support some families with their child's attendance and engagement in school.

Our new toilets will shortly be open for all students to use after October Half Term. We have provided information to all students via tutor time on the philosophy and layout of the toilets. The toilet area will have ten single, floor to ceiling cubicles. These will be complemented with open plan hand basins to use. Cubicles



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will be allocated, five for girls to use and five for boys to use. The cubicle doors will be clearly labelled, and we have informed students of our expectations for their use. We hope and expect that this new layout will ensure students can have easy and speedy access which ensures they feel more comfortable.

Open Evening

I would like to thank the many students who generously gave up their time to support us on our open evening. We had over a hundred students supporting the school and faculties and they were an integral part of the experience for younger children visiting.

Leave of absence for students

We need to make parents/carers aware of a change to the local authority's attendance policy which applies if you make a request for a leave of absence for a child during school time. This change requires schools to consider issuing a penalty notice even when the absence falls below the threshold and holidays have been scheduled on weeks containing Bank Holidays or INSET days. There is a new leave of Absence Form which must be completed for any requests to take a child out of school during term time. This is available on the school's website or paper copy from reception.

Celebration House assemblies

We have scheduled assemblies in the last week of this Half Term, whereby we will be acknowledging the attendance, attitude and engagement of our students. We launched a new rewards and House system at the start of the year and it is important to our culture that we acknowledge and reward students for their effort when representing our school house system.

Year 11 Information Evening

I would like to thank the many parents who attended our recent Year 11 Information Evening. The evening was an opportunity for us to communicate key information to parents regarding GCSE preparation, as well as sign post key avenues of support. We have a comprehensive programme of revision for students and I would like to encourage all students to start planning their attendance at as many of these sessions as possible to harness the support available to develop their outcomes.

Message from Chair of Governors, Mrs Pratt

It was an absolute pleasure to attend the open evening and to walk around the school to talk to many of our staff and students who were supporting the event. It was reassuring to hear such positive comments from the students about how they are enjoying their learning, how they like the 50 minute lessons, how the school has changed for the better in the past year and their aspirations for their GCSEs and future pathways. Everyone recognises we are on a journey of rapid improvement, and the evidence is now there to be seen. I was also very impressed by the quality of the school site and would like to thank the site team for all their noticeable efforts.

Governors continue to meet regularly and to bring challenge to the senior leaders. We have high expectations and question progress on a regular basis. We are in close communication with leaders of our Trust and can see the efforts they are putting into support the school's needs and development. We are very pleased to see

the dramatic improvement in behaviour, the reduction in suspensions and improved attendance - this is thanks to the combined efforts of the leadership team, the staff and yourselves in supporting the school, helping your children to understand the expectations and following clearer communication channels.

We are advertising for a new parent governor, so please do consider putting yourself forward for the role - it is really interesting; understanding how the school works, putting forward a parent/carer view and being able to bring the support and challenge that ultimately affects all of our community. No experience is necessary - just some time and a willingness to be part of the team for the good of all students.

INSET day

As per our school calendar I would like to remind you that Monday 3rd November is a school INSET day and as such no students are expected to attend school on this day.

The new Half Term will recommence for all students at the usual time on Tuesday 4th November

I would like to thank you for your continued support as we seek to make positive and sustainable developments within the school to enable your child to thrive. Students, staff and visitors regularly tell me they can already feel a positive shift in our culture and standards, and I hope this is echoed within our local school community

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Halsey', with a long horizontal line extending to the right above the letters.

Miss J Halsey
Headteacher