

FULLNESS LITE

"Living life in all its fullness."
John 10:10

November 2020



Blue Coat
Church of England School
& Music College

As you know, our school newsletter, *Fullness!*, was issued at the end of every term. Last month we decided to produce a mini version of *Fullness!* called *Fullness! Lite*. The feedback we had following this was that a smaller, more regular edition of the newsletter was preferred. We hope you enjoy reading this edition of *Fullness! Lite*. The next edition will be issued before we break up for the Christmas holiday.

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, we have had much to celebrate as a school community as students have been engaged in a variety of activities such as Black History Month, Show Racism the Red Card Day and our monthly SMSC challenges.

We continue to celebrate our CHRIST values, particularly those of Respect and Togetherness as we begin the half-term with activities relating to Interfaith Week. We are keen to ensure that celebrating the diversity of our school community is a feature of every day school life and are therefore delighted to inform you that we are working towards the nationally recognised Equalities Gold Award; this involves committing to a two year accreditation process enabling us to ensure that equality, diversity and inclusion is at the heart of every part of the school curriculum and wider organisation.

School life is always very busy as we continue to work together on priorities and projects to make Blue Coat even better, yet the joy is always to be found in our daily interactions with our students. One of my favourite moments last half-term was listening to our Year 11 students Deborah, Lorna, Kisannet and Miracle sing "Hallelujah" as part of Black History month and being reminded of just how talented and special our students are.

Thank you for all you do as parents and carers to support us.

Mrs Shelley
Headteacher

Certificate of Excellence

We are proud to be able to share with you the award of our 'Certificate of Excellence' by *SchoolGuide.co.uk*.

The School Guide star ratings are based on a unique combination of official performance data published by the Department for Education and Ofsted.

The School Guide issue certificates on an annual basis and we are already working hard towards next year's rating.



Since last month's edition of *Fullness! Lite*, we have gained around 50 new Twitter followers. If you are not one of our 650+ Twitter followers then you could be missing out on news and information from Blue Coat School. We Tweet most days so why not click on the logo and see what's been happening! Be the first to know about all things Blue Coat!



Joel's Surprise!

Coventry City Football Club spent a week visiting deserving fans and surprising them with the League One trophy which the club won last season. Joel Wright, in Year 10, was selected to receive the surprise as he is not only a big City fan but also a student who represents the school's values and is an excellent role model.

The Sky Blues in The Community team hoped to boost the mental well-being of those they visited and Joel was certainly happy to see the trophy close-up - something that most fans never get to experience! If you click on the image you can see Joel with the trophy and Mr Phipps speaking about him and why he was chosen.



Say no to racism



At Blue Coat we will not tolerate any form of racism and each year we support *Show Racism the Red Card* - a national anti-racism initiative. Here, you can see Mr Johal with some of his Year 8 PE students wearing red and holding red cards displaying the *Show Racism the Red Card* message.

Young Artist Exhibition

One of last year's Year 13 students, Michael Salvo, who studied Fine Art at Blue Coat, has had his work selected to appear in The Young Artists' Exhibition at The Royal Academy. Michael's work can be seen by clicking on the image. We are very proud of Michael and we wish him well at University.



We are working towards our

EQUALITIES AWARD
BY EQUALITEACH



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

Care Hard work Respect Integrity Servanthood Togetherness

The Wednesday Wave

We have all read in the media recently, and seen news articles and television programmes about loneliness and isolation. In the last few months over 30% of adults have said their mental well-being has been affected by loneliness and isolation. Those living alone and in care homes are often worst affected and at risk from chronic loneliness. To help combat loneliness, there is a little-known, but growing campaign called *The Wednesday Wave* - to help to combat loneliness and isolation. The idea being that those people showing *The Wednesday Wave* poster in their windows, can receive a wave from 3pm on a Wednesday by passers-by. As we are in school at that time and unable to take part, we made a film which will hopefully be seen by people feeling lonely and isolated and we hope it helps to cheer them up a little, and let them know we are thinking of them. To see the Year 7's taking part in *The Wednesday Wave*, click on the image. To see more about the campaign please click on the logo.



Our SEND Mentors

As part of our ongoing support for students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, our Learning Support Assistants are now mentoring students on the SEND register.

As part of this, the mentors meet with the students for a meeting every few weeks where they talk about learning and any challenges the student may be having. The LSA then supports that student, shares any actions with the teacher, and communicates to home.

Learning Support Assistants are visiting classrooms to check students' learning and keep an eye on how they are getting on. Although COVID-19 guidelines prevent LSAs from spending time working closely with students in lessons themselves, this new approach means that our LSAs are now able to see more students each day. They offer more targeted support, using their experience and knowledge of the student to have a direct impact on their learning, progress and well-being. Students feel valued and listened to, and teachers are able to use the expertise of the LSA to better meet the needs of those they teach in their classrooms.

Why I love Blue Coat

by Soliana Fikadu, Year 12

One thing I love about Blue Coat is its diversity. It's the first thing I noticed when I started here and it's something you can't say about every school. That's why I always look forward to Black History Month, because it's a time to celebrate this diversity and appreciate how beautiful every culture is.

A lot of people think of 'boring assemblies about slavery and Martin Luther King Jr' when they hear about Black History Month - of course, it's important to learn about the negative parts of black history, but we need to remember that there is more to black history than that.

We have to remember how far black people have come since slavery and we got to celebrate that last month.

Over the past few months, I have learned so much about black history and realised how important it is that we learn about it, as Nelson Mandela said 'education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.'

Black people may be a minority group in this country, but that doesn't mean we have zero influence here. Think about all the amazing black people that have set foot in this world and made their mark: activists, politicians, scientists, inventors, musicians. Let's celebrate that. Think about all the trends black people have set: hair, fashion, music, and dance. Let's celebrate that.

Look around our school and appreciate the range of cultures and religions. Let's celebrate that. We are young, gifted and black. Let's celebrate that.



Covid-19 Updates

As we navigate through this ever-changing world where national Covid regulations change almost weekly, we endeavour to keep you up-to-date with everything being done in school to keep our community safe. All updates are emailed to parents/carers and they are also on our website. To view the page where all of our Covid-related updates are, please click the on the image.



Face Masks

Face masks **MUST** be worn by students in all communal areas in school, as well as on public transport and in indoor public places (unless someone is mask exempt). At the beginning of the school year, students were issued with two Blue Coat branded blue face masks. If any student has lost these masks, they can wear a plain navy, plain black or a disposable face mask.

Not wearing a mask (unless exempt) is a breach of the school's Behaviour Policy. If a student forgets their mask, they must go to reception with 20p for a replacement disposable mask. If they do not have 20p, they can bring it the next day. After 24 hours, their parent/carer will be asked to pay for the mask (cost 45p to cover the admin fee) on Parent Pay. There is a face mask payment option for all students on Parent Pay - this is in case the 45p needs to be paid. Parents/carers will be notified and an alert will also be sent on Class Charts. Blue Coat cotton face masks can be purchased from Andy Blair Schoolwear for £4.



Acceptable face masks

Christmas Card Competition

Our annual Christmas Card design competition is now underway. Students can read more about how to enter by looking at the announcement on Class Charts or on their email. We have some great entries already! Theme - Equality: Christ came for us all. Closing date 20th November.



Contact Information - Keeping in touch

Now, more than ever, it is important to stay up-to-date with information that we send to parents/carers. We email 2-3 times a week on average, often more. In cases where we need to send students home for self-isolation, we send emails to parents/carers explaining the details. It would be helpful to us if parents/carers checked their emails daily so nothing vital is missed.

Please ensure that if you change email address, phone number(s) or home address, you email admin@bluecoatschool.com to inform us of the changes.

If you haven't yet downloaded and registered to use the *School Gateway* app, please download it from your regular app store (click on the logo for more information) as we can keep in touch with you, and you with us, much more easily via this app. Thank you.



Support from Coventry City

We were delighted to receive video messages from two of Coventry City's star players in support of our work in Black History Month. Defender, Fankaty Dabo and striker Amadou Bakayoko kindly send us a video explaining why Black History Month is important to them. The videos were played during tutor time and can be seen by clicking on the image below.



Remote Learning

Obviously we hope not to have to send any student home to self-isolate and of course we hope that none of our students or family members contract Covid-19 meaning they have to self-isolate. However, if that is the case then we have set up our Remote Learning page on the website (click on the image, right). On that page there are detailed explanations on how to access Microsoft Teams (for online lessons).



Remote Learning

Uniform Update

As you will know from our Covid-19 Risk Assessment, we have to have windows and doors open to create more ventilation in the attempt to try to rid ourselves of coronavirus. During the winter months we recognise that this could create discomfort in lessons for students, particularly as temperatures drop. With this in mind, we have temporarily amended our uniform and behaviour policies to allow students to wear plain navy sweatshirts or cardigans. They can be round or v-neck. Knitted round or v-neck cardigans or jumpers are also allowed. We DO NOT allow any logos, hoodies or zips. For more information and to see our full uniform requirements, please click on the images below. We hope this change gives parents/carers the option to purchase more affordable items.



It's YOUR Newsletter!

Following feedback from readers after we issued the previous edition of *Fullness! Lite*, we have decided to produce another mini newsletter, rather than produce just one larger one at the end of term. So that the newsletters are useful and meaningful, we would be interested to hear what you would like to see in future editions. If you would like to give your ideas or feedback, please click on the image below. We would like to hear from ALL readers, not just parents/carers but students and other members of the Blue Coat Community or readers from outside of the school.



GCSE POD

Online Revision and Catch-up Tool



Video for Year 10 and 11 parents and carers

Black History Month Messages

Our students wanted to share their thoughts on this year's BHM across all aspects of our community, including some very special messages to our Trust primary schools. To see them, click on each of the images.

