

Hub News



Blue Coat
Church of England School
& Music College

Edition 1: Autumn 2021

This is the first edition of 'Hub News', a newsletter highlighting the work of the Hub at Blue Coat School. The Hub is Blue Coat's Inclusion Department and is staffed by specialists who support lots of different students who may need extra support with their learning or wellbeing.

MEET THE STAFF

Here are just a few of the staff who work in the Hub.

Mr Phipps is Senior Assistant Headteacher (Inclusion).

He oversees and leads all elements of inclusion, and also has other responsibilities in school such as Transition and Worship Services. Mr Phipps is a qualified SENDCo and is passionate about removing barriers for learning for all students.



Mrs Ram is the school's SENDCo and has a huge amount of experience supporting students in a number of school settings. Mrs Ram loves working with families to support our students and teaches Health and Social Care.



Mrs Brown is Senior SEND Administrator and often is the person people speak to when they call the Hub.



Mrs Brown works in the Hub's 'front office' and sees all students who come and visit the Hub. Mrs Brown is expert at keeping organised!

Mr Davies is the Student Support Curriculum Coordinator. He is usually based in the Hub main study area and his primary role is to make sure that any student who works in the Hub has a quality learning experience and keeps making progress. He's always speaking to teachers and organising lots of work!



Ms Sanderson is one of the newest members of the Hub. She is highly experienced at managing teams in high pressured situations, and also knows how to get the best out of the students. She is passionate, creative, and loves finding solutions to problems people face.



To contact any member of staff in the Hub please email directly (if you know their email address) or email send@bluecoatschool.com.

THE HUB GETS A MAKEOVER!



Staff and students are very

excited about the coming weeks as the Hub gets a makeover! We are looking forward to new furniture, zoned areas, new resources and sensory spaces. This refurbishment is really going to help meet the needs of our students even better. This is possible thanks to the backing of our Multi Academy Trust, Inspire, and the commitment of the team of staff. Our 'new' Hub will be finished during this half term.

Accelerated Reader

All students in Years 7 and 8 take part in a programme of study called *Accelerated Reader*. This well-named scheme is designed to improve students' ability and interest in reading and is run by Mrs P Davis.

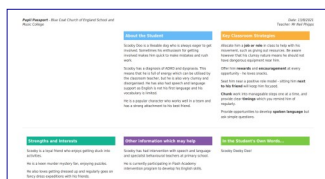


All students have a baseline assessment. Each book in the library—and in your house—has a specific 'colour band' and students are told which colour book band to read. Every time they finish a book, they take a quiz on the book and the progress is tracked. **Well done to all of our Year 7s and 8s** as they start on AR for the year.

Find out which book level your favourite books at home are by clicking here:

[Accelerated Reader Bookfinder UK & Ireland -](#)

STUDENT PASSPORTS: A NEW APPROACH TO STUDENT INFORMATION



Over the Summer, all students on the SEND register (and some other students too) had a Student Passport written. This document replaces the old Student Support Plans, and is a one (or two) page document which staff access through their registers. The Passport outlines things about the student such as their hobbies and interests, and also outlines what each student finds difficult at school. The Passport informs teachers what they should do in class to help support that student. Passports are 'live' so are regularly updated and are also shared with parents. If you have something to contribute to the Passport, let us know via the comments facility which is outlined on the email which parents receive.

Some students will also have a Plan in place. This Plan gives short term targets (eg to do with their reading or writing skills) and normally sits alongside an intervention or review meeting. Staff love accessing Provision Map through their registers and we have seen a huge improvement in communication already.

Learning Plans & Provision Maps
Provision Map



FLASH ACADEMY: HELPING STUDENTS LEARN ENGLISH

At Blue Coat, we are proud of our diversity and cultural backgrounds. There are over 40 different first languages spoken in our families.

Many of our students have to learn to speak and write English as well as go to all lessons.

That's where Flash Academy helps. The web based app helps students learn English right from the basics all the way up to Key Stage 4 and 5.

Students on the program learn English through playing games, putting words together and speaking the language. They enjoy using the program and students make rapid progress as a result.



FlashAcademy™

OUR STUDENTS SAY...

Our sixth formers have overcome lots of challenges and the Hub staff were there to help.

Some of our Post 16 students have this to say about the support they have received...

The Hub staff really helped me when I thought I couldn't cope at school. They were able to support with my mental health and wellbeing.

I was able to collect a laptop from the Hub office for my heavy writing lessons. This really helped me to gain confidence and be successful at my GCSEs.

I just want to say thank you for all the support and encouragement you gave me in my exams. I never thought I could do it but I got all the grades I wanted!

My intervention sessions gave me someone to help me and someone who understood my difficulties.



THE COVENTRY SEND LOCAL OFFER

Coventry's SEND Local Offer is a website providing information and support about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities to families. Parents, carers and others can find information about support groups, local activities and information which may be relevant to young people and their families. You can find answers to questions about SEND and watch videos to hear the experiences of people with SEND in Coventry.

The website is [Coventry's Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Local Offer | Coventry City Council](#).

NEEDS FOCUS: DYSLEXIA AND LITERACY

What is dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a common learning difficulty that can cause problems with reading, spelling and processing information. It also can have an impact on other skills as well, such as organisation or memory.

How common is dyslexia?

Dyslexia affects around 1 in 10 people. Some people have much more difficulty with their dyslexia than other people. Many people have symptoms of dyslexia (eg difficulties with spelling) but are not dyslexic.

What difficulties do people with dyslexia have?

People with dyslexia have many different symptoms.

Some of the most common ones are:

- Seeing letters backwards, upside down, jumbled or moving around the page
- Feeling sick or getting a headache after reading
- Needing to relearn words and sounds every time they are seen
- Finding organisation difficult
- Getting sensory overload or not being able to ignore distractions
- Stress, anxiety and tiredness as a result of high literacy strain

Is there anything good about dyslexia?

Yes! Dyslexic people have to often 'think outside the box' to keep finding solutions. As they face daily challenges which other people do not have, dyslexic people are often resilient and determined people. Dyslexic people are often creative, visual learners who have real strengths in areas that other people do not.

Can I get assessed for dyslexia?

Being assessed for dyslexia is a long process that can only be led by a qualified dyslexia assessor and can be done privately. We are fortunate to work with Mrs J Powell in school who conducts a range of assessments. There is a waiting list for assessment and needs are prioritised with classroom interventions being put in place first.

For more information on indications of dyslexia, visit the British Dyslexia Association at [Signs of dyslexia \(Secondary school age\)](#) for support.



SUPPORTING

DYSLEXIC STUDENTS

Teaching staff have had training on supporting students with literacy difficulties.

Staff will work hard to:

- Make Powerpoint back-grounds pale to reduce glare
- Keep instructions simple
- Use visual codes, icons and pictures to help put across meaning
- Print or send work in advance if required
- Provide key words
- Use simple fonts
- Use step by step approaches where helpful
- Give extra time to complete work
- Allow for creativity in home-work tasks if appropriate
- Keep copying to a minimum

...and lots more too.

If you wish to speak to a teacher, email them directly, or speak to the House team or the Hub.

OUR NEW YEAR 7s

Our newest Year 7s have been settling well into school life. Some of the students who have accessed the Hub say...

I really like the Hub because the people here are really nice!

I get help in the Hub with my Maths and English.

I have made lots of friends since I started coming to the Hub.

I look forward to seeing Mr Davies every day as he is funny!



MRS SHELLEY SAYS...

It has been so good seeing the Year 7s settle in at the start of term. All staff have received training on making sure they know the needs of all learners, and the new Passports are proving to be an effective way to support our students. The staff in the Hub are always so positive, and the refurbishment plans are very exciting!

