

Hub News



Blue Coat

Church of England School
& Music College

Edition 2:
Christmas 2021

Inspire Education Trust
Together we achieve, individually we grow

It's nearly Christmas! In the Hub we love Christmas so much and the last few weeks have been busy with putting decorations up, making Christmas cards and generally spreading Christmas cheer. We also love Christmas though because for Christians it is a really important time to remember that God came as a baby in the person of Jesus—and that is the best gift of them all!

READY READERS

So many Year 7s and 8s have been awarded with Ready Reader certificates for improving their reading this term. One of our Year 7s said



At the beginning of year 7 I hated reading books; they did not interest me at all. But as I started Accelerated Reader, I feel like I can read anything in my colour range and level, it has given me more confidence. It makes me happy when I have passed the quizzes on the books I have read, and it makes me want to read more than ever

WELL DONE!!!

PARENTS HAVE SAID...

We love receiving feedback from parents. Recently some of our parents have commented...

I just wanted to say that [Staff Member] has been an absolute superstar. She has given us support above and beyond what we expected and made our daughter feel confident about school again.

Hub staff have helped my child settle so well into Year 7.

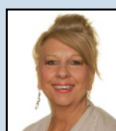
The new Passport is very clear and is just what is needed.

It is lovely to see that the strategies my child needs are so easily accessible. Thank you!

MEET THE STAFF

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

Mrs Head is the Sensory and Physical Support Lead and also coordinates all the interventions which go on in the Hub. She loves adventure and fun, and seems to know everything about pretty much everything! She never loses her cool and is always calm no matter the situation!



Mrs Boyd is the Inclusion Early Help Lead. That means she works with families who might need help, and gives long term help to families and students who sometimes find things in life a challenge. Mrs Boyd also coordinates support from the charity TeenVine, and works with our Young Carers.

Ms Toman is one of the newest members of staff in the Hub and has moved from another role in the school. She has loads of experience working with children who need support, and she is loving her new role helping our students. She loves spending time with her family and is passionate about justice and equality.



Mrs Richards is one of the most experienced members of staff at the school, and has worked in Inclusion for a number of years. She is a skilled artist and technician and loves helping students with their practical work as well as finding out what helps them in other classes as well.

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: MAKEOVER UPDATE

In the last edition, we announced the investment from our Trust into refurbishing the Hub and updating all of our facilities. This work is ongoing and all of the changes are very exciting for the staff and students. Already there is a new atmosphere in the area which is changing the way the Hub operates for the better.

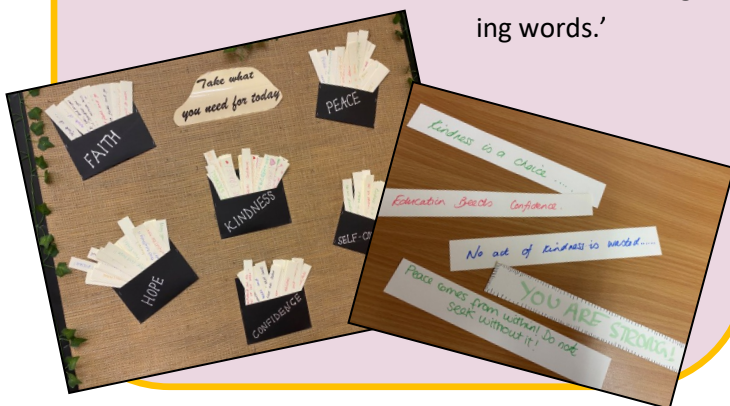
In a future edition we will unveil the finished product, but for now here is sneak preview of some of the exciting changes.



THE WELLBEING WALL

Students have been writing positive messages as part of a new board in the Social Zone. That means if anyone needs any words of encouragement, they can take the slip and keep it, or just read it to one another.

Ms Sanderson, who worked with the students on the activity, said 'I was astounded at how encouraging the students were and their words which were so wise. They loved the activity and we all love the encouraging words.'



CHRISTMAS IN THE HUB

It was Christmas in the Hub before December started. The staff worked really hard after school to transform the area 'overnight'.



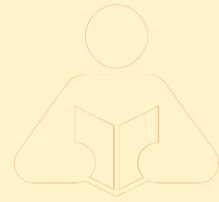
Students have also been making Christmas cards for each other and have loved doing this in their social time. The staff are eager and excited to celebrate Christmas with the students—although Mr Phipps isn't sure if everyone is ready for his karaoke rendition of 'Mistletoe and Wine' just yet!



NEEDS FOCUS: READING

Even secondary school students need support with reading.

We place reading for pleasure as one of the most important things to help students learn. All students should always have a book with them to read during tutor time.



Created by Magdalen
from Hour Project

What if your child doesn't like reading?

Try some of these tips to help your child read.

- Choral/paired reading is where you read something together at the same time. This helps build reluctant readers' confidence.
- Mirror reading is where you read something and the child then reads it back to you.
- 'Jump In' technique is where you read and then when you say 'jump in' the reader takes over or just starts reading along with you.
- Read together but ask your child to read the dialogue. Perhaps they could put on voices!?
- Play TV shows with the subtitles on to help them read along and get used to language.
- Use non fiction such as biographies or fact books, or graphic novels, to help engage your child.
- Use the Coventry library service's free audio books app Borrow Box to listen to books: [Coventry City Library - BorrowBox](#)

CONSOLES FOR CHRISTMAS?

Lots of people will unwrap a new console for Christmas.

For any parent, this can be hard trying to work out how to keep your child safe whilst playing games. It is important to know how to set up parental controls and prevent unwanted spending or from playing inappropriately aged games. PEGI provides age classifications for who can buy games and who they are suitable for. You should keep an eye on the age ratings of games to make sure they are suitable.

<https://pegi.info/>

Parental control information can be found using the following links:

Nintendo: <https://www.nintendo.co.uk/Hardware/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls-1183145.html>

Xbox: <https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/community/for-everyone/responsible-gaming>

PS5: <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/ps5-parental-controls-spending-limits/>

CLUBS AND GROUPS

It is great to have clubs back running this term. Here are a couple of the things our students have been getting up to:

Homework club in the Hub takes place twice a week after school on Mondays and Thursdays and often has a dozen students from all years working on homework and getting support.

Mr Davies runs a number of the school football clubs and always makes sure that students feel welcome no matter their ability. Each year group is on a different night.

To find out about these clubs, email the SEND email address on page 1.

BIG SHOUT OUT TO POST 16

Our friends in Post 16 have their tutor rooms in classes which are attached to the Hub. Our sixth formers are all really kind and polite and often help out with our Hub students. Recently, they ran a charity event and brought treats into the Hub for the students. It is great to have so many role models around to support our students. Thank you to Mr Malhi and the Post 16 tutors for all their work. The students made Thank You notes to express their gratitude.



INTERVENTION FOCUS

What is Lego Therapy?

Lego Therapy is a specific intervention which takes place for one hour per week, over six weeks usually. There are usually three students in the intervention.

What happens in the intervention?

Each student is designated a role. One student is in charge of the resources, one is in charge of the instructions, and one in charge of the building. Students take it in turns throughout the weeks.

What is the purpose of the intervention?

Students develop their communication skills and confidence talking to others. They develop problem solving skills, and also make friends. And, importantly, have fun making something together!



STAFF TRAINING

The staff regularly receive training on matters which are relevant and important to our young people.

Most recently staff have been taking part in training put on by the Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust. Topics in this training include Mental Health Awareness and safety. Staff have also trained on access arrangements and supporting in exams and assessments, which is very important at this time of year when there are a large number of important exams!

Need some advice on parenting? Check out this advice page at the Council: [Advice and helplines](#) | [Positive Parenting](#) | [Coventry City Council](#)

This A1 painting (pictured) was produced by a young man in Year 11 who recently arrived into the country with no English at all. He had never painted before he came to Blue Coat. This beautiful picture is a response to 'Spring' by Damien Hurst. Everyone is so proud of how well he is working to learn English and how positive he is about school.



CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS

Here are a few other things the staff are celebrating this half term...

We are so proud of our Year 7s and how well they are settling into school life. They are so well behaved in the Hub and are really getting a lot out of the interventions. (Miss McGrath)

Every week staff nominate students to receive a 'Fab Friday' phonecall. I always have so many nominations because we love celebrating success. It is the highlight of my week to call parents to let them know how well their child is doing. It always puts a smile on my face!

(Mrs Earle)

Big shout out to Grace who is helping out in the Hub, making sure students have everything they need, and always helping out younger members. She is so helpful and kind to others! (Ms Sanderson)

MRS SHELLEY SAYS... At the end of a long term, it is so good to be able to

celebrate all of the achievements in this newsletter, giving you a snapshot of some of the huge amount of work which goes on to support our students no matter their needs. There are so many success stories of students who have made progress as a result of support from the Hub, and the recent refurbishments are very exciting indeed. It's brilliant to celebrate our School Values and see students grow in confidence.

