

# Welcome to Blue Coat CofE School

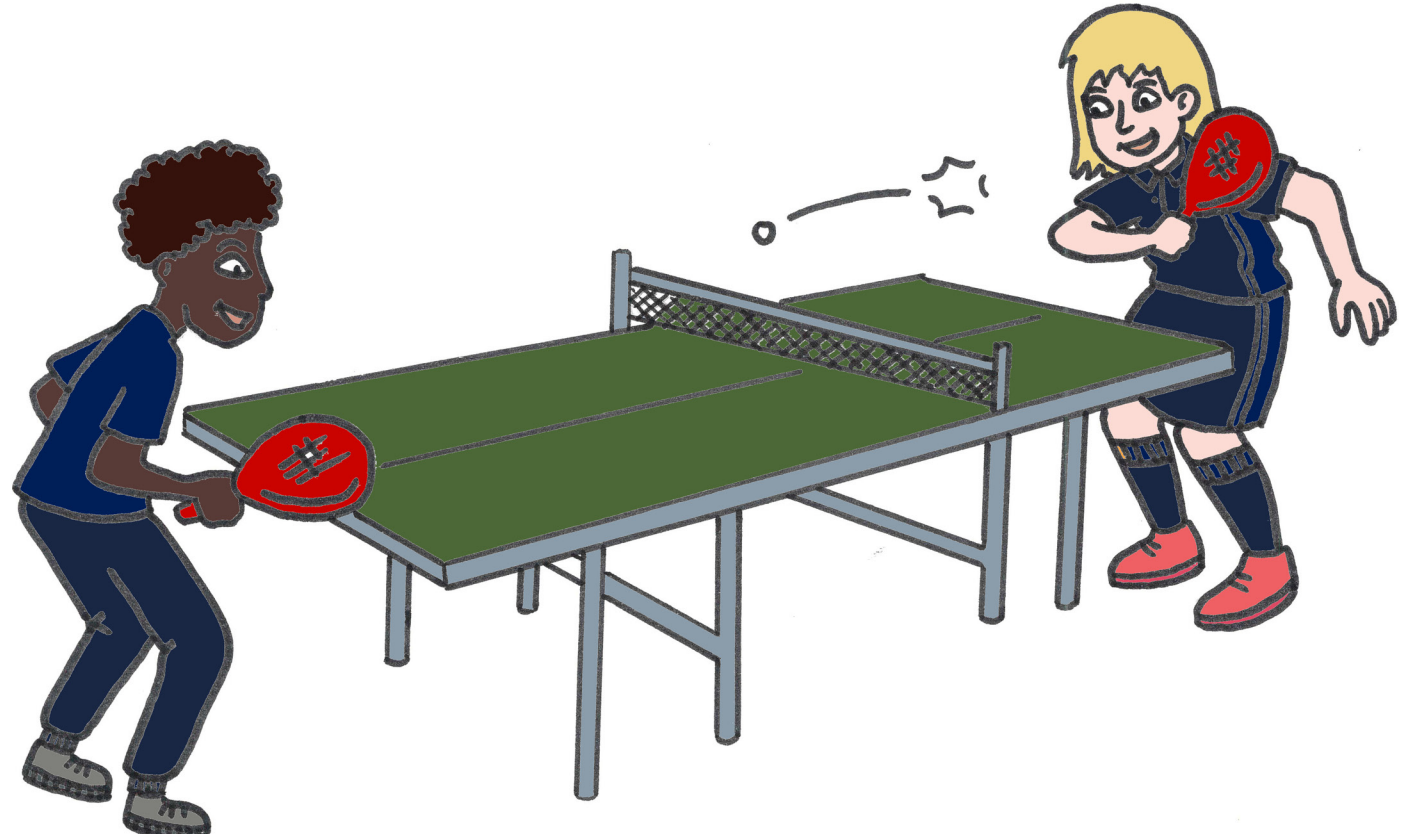


# Welcome to the Blue Coat family!

We are delighted to welcome you to Blue Coat School!

We hope this booklet helps you to feel confident about your transition to Blue Coat and helps you to know what to expect when you join us in September.

We know that lots of you will be excited and maybe a little nervous about joining us. Leaving primary school and moving on to secondary school is a big step but don't worry, we will do as much as possible to help you to settle in!



Your first day at school is Thursday 5th September and this is a special day as only you and other Year 7 students will be in school that day.

Don't worry if you don't know anyone when you start because there will be lots of other students in the same position and you will soon make new friends.



# What is expected of me at Blue Coat?

We are proud of our school community.

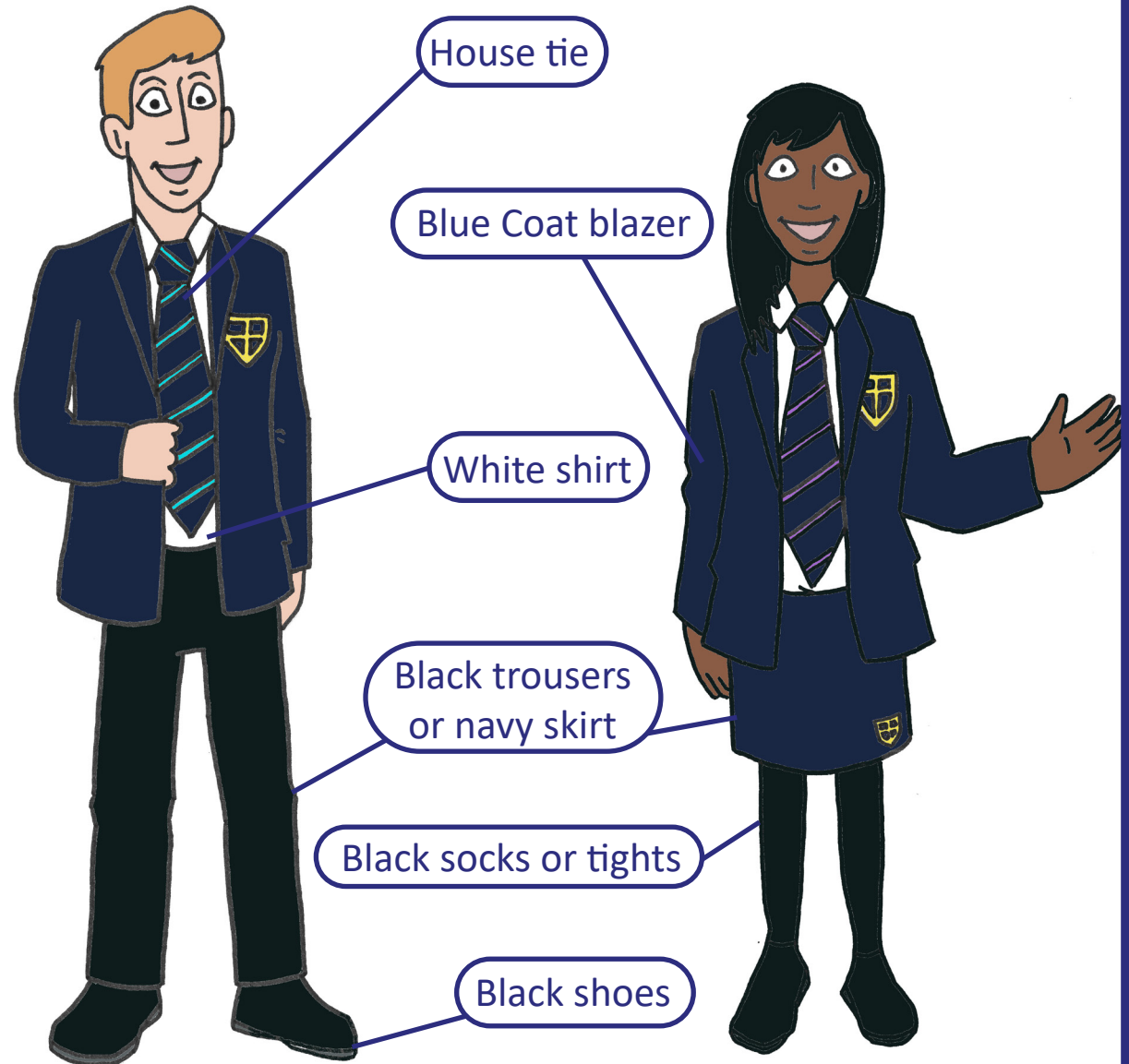
We are supportive and treat each other with respect and kindness.

We expect everyone at our school to live by our CHRIST values:

- Care
- Hard work
- Respect
- Integrity
- Servanthood
- Togetherness

## Uniform

We have high expectations regarding standards of presentation. You must wear your uniform correctly every day.



# What will I need to bring with me?

You will also need to bring equipment every day so you are ready to learn, such as:

- a pencil case with pens, pencils, a ruler, a rubber and basic maths equipment as well as a calculator.
- a drink (water or squash). Energy and fizzy drinks are banned.
- a reading book.

Some days you will need your PE kit or other equipment such as ingredients for food technology lessons.

Remember to check your timetable each night so you know what equipment to pack for the next day.

If you are having a packed-lunch from home, you need to remember that too.

If you are travelling to and from school by bus, you will need to remember your bus pass or bus fare.





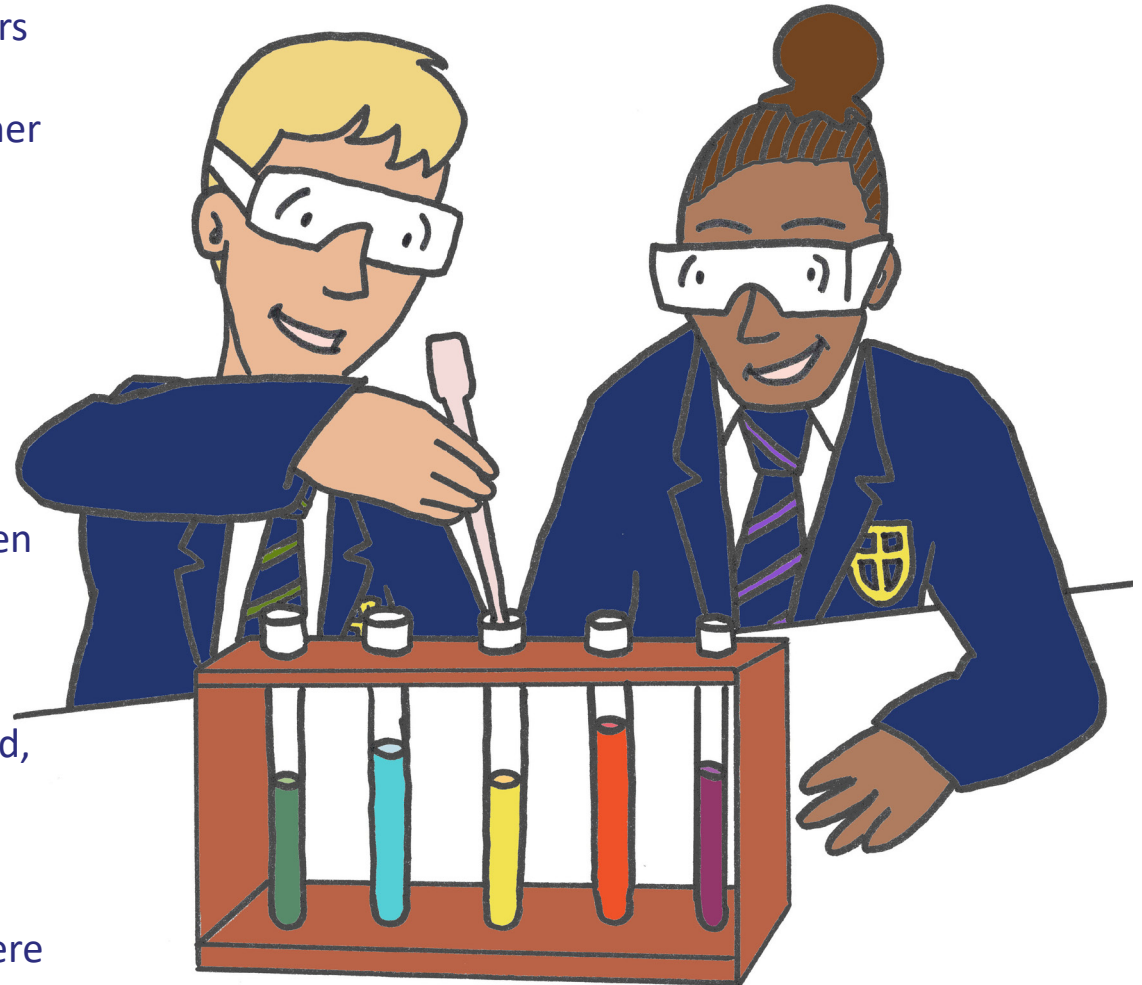
# What happens during the school day?

You will start every day with a Tutor Period - this is a 20 minute session with your Tutor and the other members of your tutor group. During these sessions you will have an assembly one day as well as taking part in other activities such as Worship Works, reading, discussions etc.

Every day you will have five lessons, you will go to different classrooms for lessons. You will also have a morning break and a lunch break.

We have a two-week timetable (which you will be given when you start school) where you will study English, mathematics, a language (either French, German or Spanish), science, art, music, drama, religious studies, computing, geography, history, technology (either food, textiles or product design), PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) and PE.

We have specialist facilities in lots of your lessons where you will use subject-specific equipment and resources.



# What other activities can I take part in?

There are lots of extra-curricular clubs and activities that you can join in with.

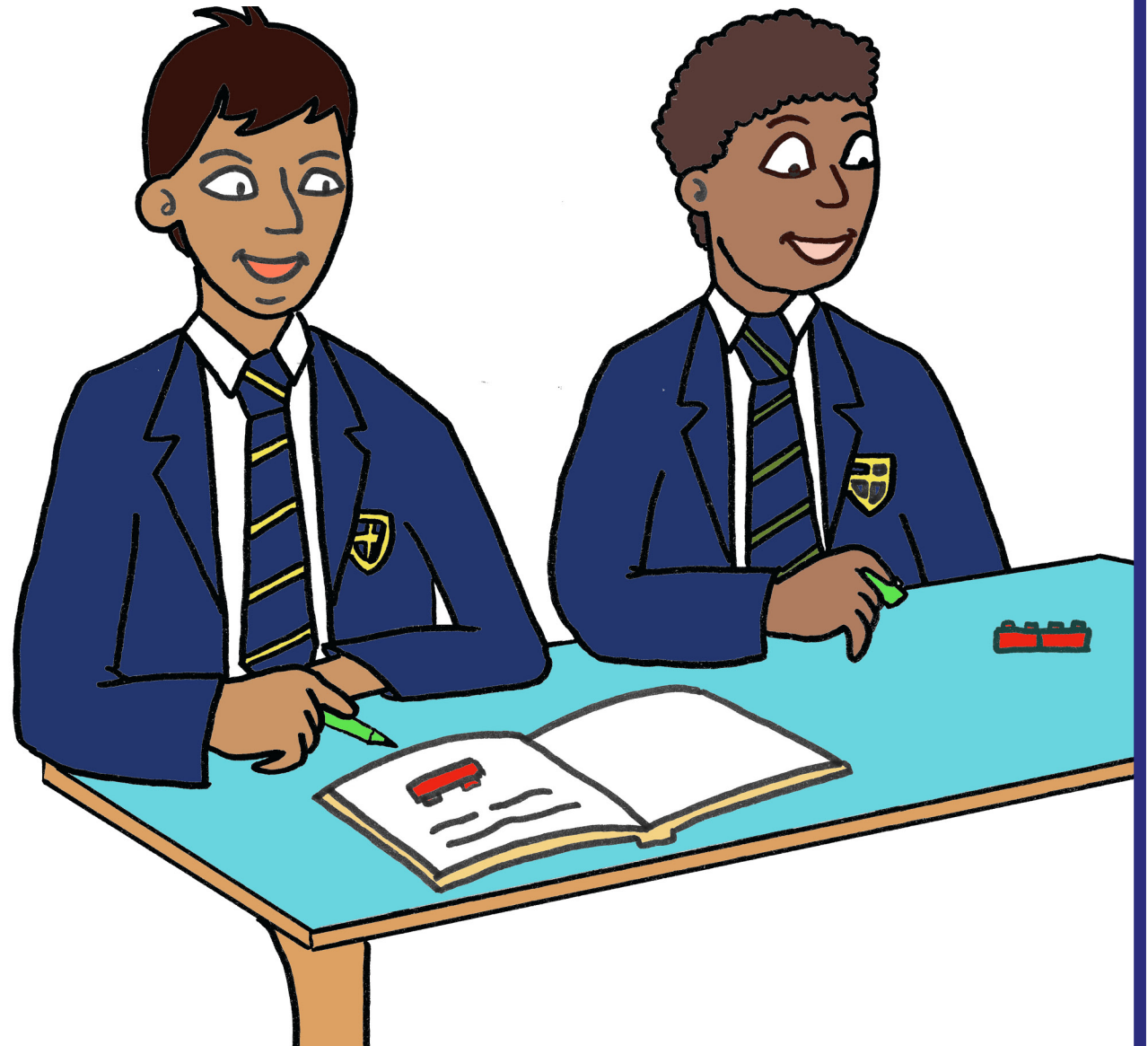
Clubs usually take place at lunchtime and after school.

There are many sports clubs throughout the year such as football, netball, cricket, badminton, rounders, multi-sport, tennis, athletics, volleyball and basketball.

We also have an Art Club, Coding Club, Homework Club, Lego Club, Book Club as well as different choirs you can join.

There are school productions where you are encouraged to show us your talents, which might be dancing, singing, acting or playing musical instruments.

Our clubs are great places to make new friends and find a new interest - why not try some of them?!



# What happens at break and lunch times?

At Blue Coat you can choose whether you bring a packed-lunch from home or if you use our canteen facility.

You don't need to remember money as we use a cashless system called Arbor - your parents/carers will be sent information about this in September.

Your parents/carers will take care of making sure there is some money in your account if they agree to you using the canteen.

If you get free school meals the money is added to your account automatically each day.

At break times and lunch times you are free to meet up with other Year 7 students - perhaps new friends or friends from your primary schools or maybe those you know from your place of worship or other activities and clubs.





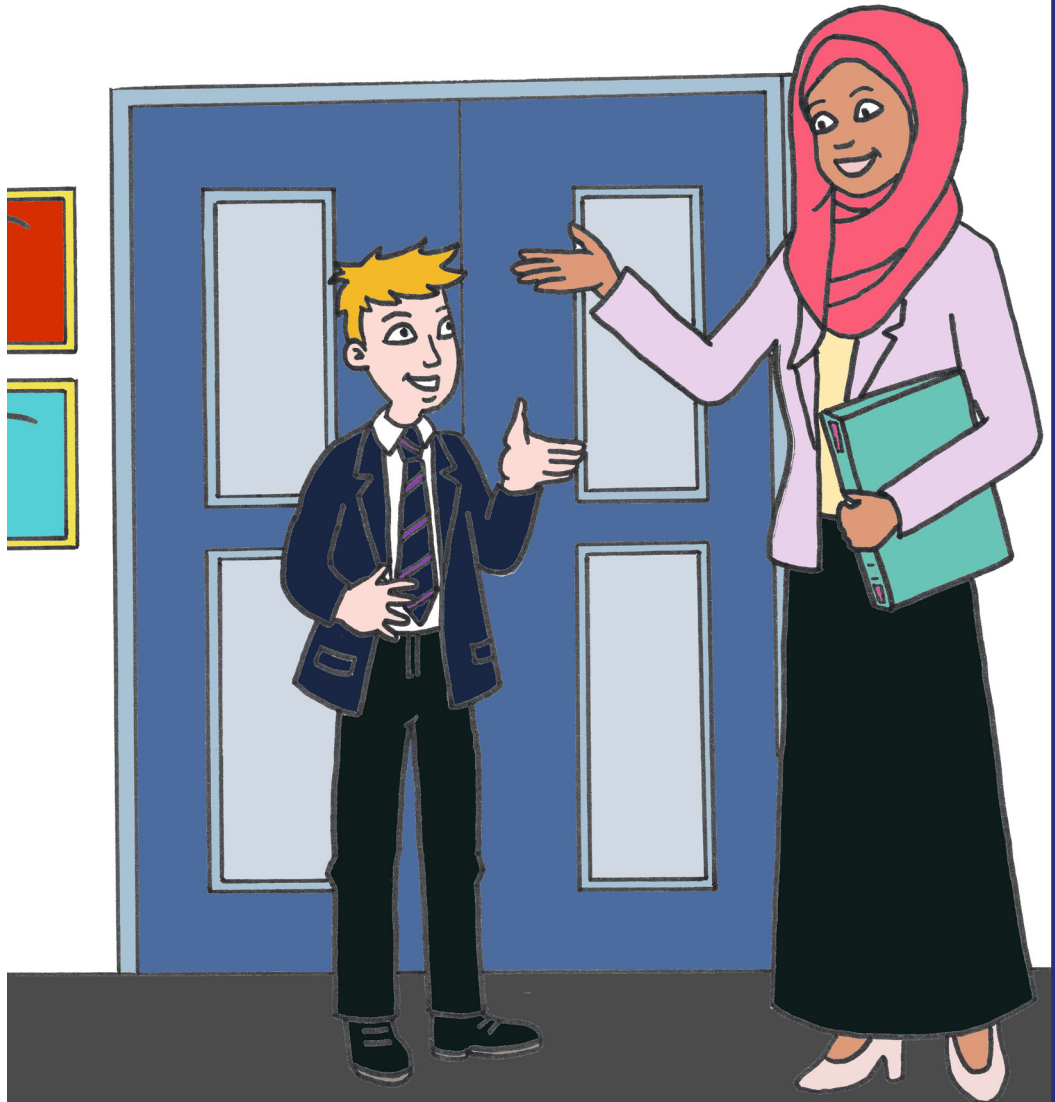
# How will Blue Coat look after me?

You will be part of a Tutor Group and you will be supported by your Tutor. You will also be part of a House and you will have support from your House Head and an Assistant House Head. We also have Mrs Gates - a dedicated pastoral member of staff to support Year 6's as they transition into Year 7. We have a school Chaplain who is also available for you to talk to.

In lessons you will be supported by your class teachers who will monitor your progress.

We understand that some children need support with their learning, and some need help with following the school rules or with medical issues that they might have. This is ok. We have an area called The Hub and staff there have training so they can help students with a range of needs.

We want you to do well and know that you can only do that if you feel happy and safe. There will always be someone in school to help you and whoever you speak to will give you time and space to speak and they will listen.



# Living life in all its fullness

John 10:10

Our school's vision is "Living life in all its fullness" - this is taken from a book in the Bible - John 10:10.

Whilst we know that it is important for you to live life in all its fullness when you are at school, we want you to do the same when you are outside of school too!

Whether you are part of a football team or rugby team or if you do athletics, martial arts, netball, swimming or any other sports outside of school this is something to be celebrated. You might learn an instrument, go to scouts or guides or maybe you help out in your local community.

Joining clubs and activities is a fantastic way to meet new people and make new friends with people who have the same interests as you.

We encourage all of our students to live their lives in all its fullness - take every opportunity that is offered to you and make the most of it!



# What advice would you give to me?

- Make sure you get an alarm clock or set an alarm on your phone so you are not late getting up for school! Lateness is not acceptable at Blue Coat.
- Make sure you get your uniform ready the night before and pack your bag ready for the next day - don't leave everything until the morning.
- Make sure you follow the school rules - they are there to make sure everyone is safe and able to learn.
- If you bring a mobile phone, make sure it is switched off and in your bag. Better still, don't bring your phone to school but if you must, then make sure you don't use it in school.
- Don't worry about getting lost in school - you will be given a map and a timetable so you will know where to go. If you need help, ask!
- Try to join as many extra-curricular activities as you can. You might find things you have never tried before that you really enjoy!





# I've heard of a school app - what is it?

We use an app called Arbor and on the app you can see your timetable, your achievement points, your homework and messages. We don't expect Year 7 students to get detentions however, if a student did choose to not follow the rules, appropriate sanctions will be given and displayed on the app.

You will be able to see which members of staff have given you achievement points - these are points for doing excellent homework for example, or maybe for making a good contribution in a lesson.

Your homework will be set by your teachers on Arbor and you will be able to see when you need to bring in things such as ingredients for food technology on the app.

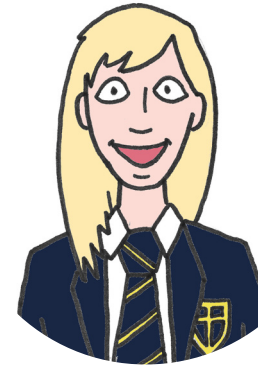
We will show you the app once you start school. Your parents/carers will be able to use the app too.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## ***How will I make friends if no one from my primary school is coming to Blue Coat?***

Most students don't know many other students when they start. Some students don't know anyone at all. We make a special effort to make sure that you settle in and make new friends. You will meet lots of other students in your different lessons – with 265 students starting in Year 7 at Blue Coat in September, there are 264 students for you to make friends with!



## ***When can I use the toilets?***

Usually you will not be able to go the toilet during lesson time as this disrupts learning time. Make sure you use the toilets during break times. We know that sometimes there are emergencies, so if you really need to go, ask your teacher. Students with a medical condition meaning they need to use the toilet more often will be issued with a toilet pass - your primary schools have already let us know this.



## ***What happens if I get bullied?***

You need to remember that Blue Coat isn't like schools you might have seen on TV dramas or in films. We do not tolerate bullying. If you feel anyone is being unkind to you, make sure you tell your Tutor, House Head or another member of staff. You could also tell an Anti-bullying Ambassador - these are students who wear a light green lanyard around their necks. Don't be afraid to speak up - we are here to help you!



# Frequently Asked Questions

## ***How will I know when the extra-curricular activities or trips take place?***

You will be told by your Tutor during tutor-time, or during an assembly. You will also be sent the details by email, as will your parents/carers.

## ***Will I get much homework?***

You will get regular homework but not for every subject, every day. Your teachers will ensure that you have enough time to do it. Homework is an important part of learning and helps you to develop independent study skills. Your homework will be listed on the Arbor app.

## ***Who do I speak to if I am upset or worried?***

You have lots of people at Blue Coat who care about you and are here to help you. You can speak to your Tutor, your House team, our Mrs Gates or our Chaplain, Lou. You can speak to any member of staff at Blue Coat - we will all be able to help!

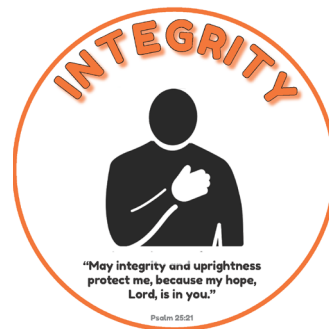




# Our Houses



# Our CHRIST Values



Our CHRIST values are very important to us at Blue Coat. We expect all of our students and staff to follow these values whilst at school. We would like you to follow these values at home too.





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*Illustrations by Miss I Manborde*