

# School Information

## Main School

### The School and our students

The Blue Coat School is a Church of England 11-18 Academy. We admit 249 pupils per year in Year 7. The school's oversubscription criteria for admission into Year 7 gives priority to practising Anglicans; the school welcomes, and admits each year children of all faiths and denominations. The intake is truly comprehensive, including high achieving children and an increasing number of children with complex special needs. Our students, drawn from across the full ability and socio-economic range, are our greatest asset. We have worked hard to build an excellent climate for learning. Students' commitment, enthusiasm and the care that they show for each other extends to their attitude to learning, their behaviour and their desire to achieve.

### The Curriculum

The curriculum follows the National Curriculum as a minimum entitlement, and offers 2 languages and drama throughout KS3. Students all take English Language and Literature, maths, double or triple award science, religious studies, either history or geography, either French or German and two other GCSE options in KS4. The school is organised on a fortnightly timetable of 5 one hour lessons per day, with 25 minutes for tutor and assembly time. We do not 'band' young people: through flexibility, choice and differentiation we aim to personalise the curriculum for all learners. We aim for intelligent grouping rather than pure setting.

Tables showing the number of one-hour periods allocated to each subject. As of 2016, and in the light of changes to curriculum specifications nationally, pupils will be starting their GCSEs in the January of Year 9, and will therefore make their subject choices at the end of Year 8.

We are committed to increasing the time allocation for core subjects, and ensuring that all our students can maintain on breadth of study including 4 options in addition to the core.

KEY STAGE 3 CURRICULUM (YEARS 7-9)	YEAR				
	7	8	9	10	11
English	6	5	7	8	7
Mathematics	6	6	7	8	6
Science	6	6	9	10 (11)**	9 (11)**
Technology	4	4	4	4	5
Creative/Expressive Subjects	6	6	4	4	5
History	3	3	4	4	5
Geography	3	3	4	4	5
Religious Studies	3	3	4	4	5
Languages	6*	6*	4	4	5
Physical Education	4	4	4	2 (1)**	2 (1)**
Well-being & Citizenship	2	2	2	1	1 (0)**
Information Technology/ Computing	1	2	4	4	5

\* All start with French in Year 7, adding German part-way through the year. Practically all pupils take both French and German in Year 8

\*\* Pupils taking Triple Award Science have one timetabled PE lesson but also do Sports Leaders. In Year 11, Triple Scientists have Wellbeing in a collapsed timetable arrangement.

## Key Stage 4

All students take EBacc, unless there is a very good reason why they should not. All students take either Dual or Triple Award Science. Students take either French or German, and either History or Geography. They have a free choice of 2 options from the list below to complete a Key Stage 4 curriculum of 10 (or 11) GCSEs.

### Key Stage 4 Options on offer

Art & Design (Fine Art)	Textiles
Business Studies	Art & Design (Photography)
Construction	Child Development
Engineering	Drama & Performing Arts
French	Food Technology
Geography	German
History	Health & Social Care
ICT – Computer Science	Media Studies
Music	Physical Education
Product Design	Sociology

## The Sixth Form

We have a very successful Sixth Form with 393 learners on roll. 60% have come through Blue Coat, and 40% have joined us in Year 12 from schools across North Manchester and the surrounding area. Entrance is based on achievement at GCSE and we offer over 30 academic A-levels. The Sixth Form is multi-talented, multi-faith and multi-cultural.

From September 2017, all Sixth Form students will follow a full 2-year linear programme in 3 A-Level subjects, together with an elected component from a Futures Pathway which includes options such as Pre-U Global Perspectives, Core Maths or an AS in a fourth Level 3 subject. The Blue Coat Sixth Form provides a study programme for all our students which offers personal development, increased breadth, and which aims to extend student study beyond their 3 chosen A Level subjects. The curriculum is designed to give Blue Coat students an edge when completing higher education and professional applications. 4.5 hours per week are dedicated to teaching each subject, with an additional 2 hours per week being planned into the timetable for the delivery of the Futures programme.

Students also attend a fortnightly wellbeing session and a lecture. A small cohort also takes the EPQ and General Studies in Year 13.

The Sixth Form operates as an integral part of the school community, the students mixing with learners from all Key Stages and modelling the behaviours and values we want for all our young people. Business dress is expected of all Sixth Formers, as is attendance at all morning and afternoon registration sessions, and study on-site. We aspire for our Sixth Formers to be community leaders and encourage them to take up school leadership roles wherever possible; there are literacy support projects, mentoring opportunities, leadership and coaching roles, and chances to lead reflection and worship, for example. Take-up and completion of the Gold D of E award is exceptionally high.

We are a high-performing Sixth Form with high standards and expectations of our learners. Blue Coat is the highest ranked state school in Oldham and the sixth highest in the region. Progress measures are strong and achievement rates are also high, with over 90% of our students going on to study at university, many to Russell Group universities, including Oxford and Cambridge (6 successful candidates for 2017 entry).

ADVANCED LEVEL SUBJECTS	
Applied Science	Mathematics : Pure Maths with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mechanics</li> <li>• Statistics</li> <li>• Decision Mathematics</li> <li>• Further Mathematics</li> </ul>
Art and Design	
Biology	
Business Studies	
Chemistry	Media Studies
Computing	Music
Design and Technology (Product Design)	PE and Sport
Economics	Photography
English Language	Physics
English Literature	Psychology
English Combined	Religious Studies
French	Sociology
Geography	Theatre Studies
German	
Government and Politics	Core:
Health & Social Care	General Studies The EPQ is also offered as part of the core provision
History	

## Co-curricular activities

Our commitment is to the development of the whole person. We invest heavily in an extensive range of co-curricular opportunities to enable young people to develop talents, skills, emotional intelligence and confidence.

**All** staff are encouraged, and expected, to contribute to these opportunities. Music, sport, art, Drama, Christian Union, Duke of Edinburgh are all well-established, as are clubs in most departments. We take pupils out – on visits, trips, exchanges, holidays, into the wider community, to universities, to other schools and colleges, into the workplace. Every year we take all our Year 8s to France for a week to study the curriculum in a residential, completely different setting. This experience, which examines aspects of the relationships between British and French history, culminates in a carefully prepared visit to the war graves. It is an experience that changes children’s – and adults’ - lives.

This is a dynamic and exciting school. We need a lot of energy – and we reap the rewards.

## Pastoral care, guidance and support

All staff model the behaviours we want our young people to learn. All staff nurture young people to be the best they can and are meant to be. All teachers have a pastoral responsibility, as form tutors or Directors of Learning, who head the year groups. There is a specialist team of pastoral officers who support attendance, behaviour, home-school links, advice and guidance, and who lead on multi-agency working. Learning Mentors work with individual pupils and groups of pupils to ensure all make progress in learning.

## Ethos and Worship

As a Church school, what makes us distinctive is our Christian ethos. Worship is central to the life of the school and, as Ofsted said, “the strong Christian ethos of care for all, which is woven into all elements of the school’s life and activity, has helped to ensure outstanding provision of equal opportunities.” All our students, of all faiths and denominations, attend and take part in worship.

All staff are expected to support the Christian ethos of the school and to model Christian values. Form tutors are fully supported by pastoral heads and the chaplain in leading or facilitating a daily act of worship with their pupils, and all teaching staff are expected to attend assemblies, and school and church services.

Our young people support a wide and extensive range of charitable causes and staff are encouraged and expected to support their enthusiasm and commitment.

## The Staff

The school is led and managed by the Headteacher, three Deputy Headteachers, the Director of Business and Resources, five Assistant Headteachers, the Finance Director and Data Analyst, 21 academic and pastoral heads/team leaders, 9 administrative and technical team leaders, a teaching staff of 97.33 full-time equivalent, and a support staff team of 68. We are one staff and we work as a team for the benefit of our pupils to create an environment in which everyone feels valued, respected and able to succeed.

## The Estate

The school first opened in 1834 and the imposing and refurbished neo-gothic building still houses the administrative centre of the school, the library / resources centre, and the Modern Languages department. The school is expanding and our estate is increasing and improving to meet that need. In the past 2 years we have created a new school hall and brand new facilities for music, drama, and food technology and we have made major improvements to facilities in other technology disciplines. In summer 2014 we moved into a new 14 classroom building, with the consequent domino effect of being able to relocate departments in re-engineered and refurbished accommodation, including 2 new additional laboratories, a new textiles room, and seminar rooms.

All teaching rooms have a networked PC, digital projector, whiteboard and sound. IT resources across the school are of the highest standard. Connectivity is industry and business standard. The school had developed an award-winning VLE – Bloodle – which visitors can view from the website – which makes a major contribution to the effectiveness of departments and teams, and students’ learning.

## System Leaders

Blue Coat is a National Teaching School and lead school of the Northern Alliance ([www.northern-alliance.net](http://www.northern-alliance.net)) which extends over 6 Local Authorities. We are a lead provider of Initial Teacher Education, lead and QA NQT provision in the borough, and lead CPD in teaching and learning, management and leadership, and post-16 development and improvement. We have established a Multi-Academy Trust which 2 primaries have joined. We anticipate that this will increase to an 8-school MAT over the next 3 years, providing business security and school improvement resilience for the future.



