



School Description

The Blue Coat School is a big, outstanding (Ofsted 2008 and 2011) co-educational Church of England 11 – 18 Academy in the Diocese of Manchester. It is the lead school of the Northern Alliance Teaching School (www.northern-alliance.net) and of the Manchester Nexus SCITT (www.manchesternexus.com).

In 2015 Blue Coat established The Cranmer Education Trust, a Multi-Academy Trust which now includes Blue Coat, two primaries (East Crompton St. George's and Mayfield) and Manchester Nexus (the SCITT). The Cranmer Education Trust is set to open a new free school in Oldham in September, 2022 to meet basic, social and educational needs in the borough and another secondary school is likely to join the Trust in September 2020.

Blue Coat is located in the town centre of Oldham. Founded in 1834 (before Oldham was incorporated as a borough) as an orphanage for boys by a successful local businessman and Anglican philanthropist, Thomas Henshaw, Blue Coat has been, variously, a boarding school, a secondary modern, a comprehensive and, since 2011, a converter academy. The Henshaw Trust owns the land and estate, a campus of 8 separate buildings ranging from the beautiful Victorian-Gothic Grade II listed Henshaw Building at the heart of the estate, through some less impressive 1960s additions, (which we are steadily improving), to some lovely modern developments, including the stunning Brian Clarke building (opened in 2014), named after the artist of stained glass who was born locally, and who maintains close contact with our art department. This building has spectacular views across the town to the Pennines. From the 1990s science building, named after Patrick Steptoe, the pioneering doctor who successfully developed IVF at Oldham Royal, we can see out to Manchester and south to Jodrell Bank. Departments are suited around the school, and each year group has a social area.

It is a busy site. We have currently 1305 pupils in Years 7 – 11, and 413 in Sixth Form. The school is now an 8-form entry, with a current PAN of 245. Blue Coat is the second most over-subscribed school in Greater Manchester. Over 30% of our pupils travel from Tameside, Manchester, Rochdale and Derbyshire (Glossop), and some from further afield; the remaining 70% come from all over Oldham, for the strong Church of England faith and ethos, and because the school has a record of outstanding educational provision. Blue Coat welcomes children of all faiths and denominations. Because the school was so oversubscribed, the governing body created a form of entry reserved for children of "other faith" backgrounds. Entry into the Sixth Form is based on academic criteria, with the requirement that all students must respect and uphold the ethos of the school.

Visitors repeatedly say that the ethos of the school is the first thing they notice. Worship and reflection are at the heart of the school day. All students and teaching staff take part whatever their background. This is what brings our community together and makes us what we are. The school has a lay chaplain, a scientist, who sets the framework and provides resources for worship and reflection, and all senior staff (and others) lead school assemblies. Directors of Learning take Year group assemblies, and all tutors lead reflection with their forms. We celebrate the great Christian festivals of Easter and Christmas and hold Eucharistic worship twice a year in Advent and Lent. Worship at Blue Coat is lively, interactive, challenging

and fun! The faith ethos of the school is supported by an exceptionally strong and vibrant Religious Studies department. RS is compulsory up to GCSE and contributes significantly to a lecture programme for sixth formers. Our young people throw themselves generously into charitable causes, and the stewardship that is central for people of all faiths.

The school's intake in Year 7 is fully inclusive. We have quite a high proportion of pupils with EHCP's or Statements (2.2%). The proportion of pupils with EAL is increasing, mainly as a result of inward migration into the northern boroughs of Greater Manchester. Currently, in Years 7 – 11, 15% pupils are Pupil Premium. In terms of prior attainment, the entry is skewed towards predominately high and middle PA, which means that Blue Coat has always – as it should – performed well on threshold measures. (See DfE's performance tables). Our focus is progress, and we are pleased with the progress measures achieved since the introduction of Progress 8, although we know we can do better.

All students take EBacc, unless there is a very good reason why they should not, and our EBacc entry is amongst the highest in the country. Triple Science is strong: Blue Coat was a specialist Science College and even though specialisms have gone, this remains central to our identity. The arts are exceptionally strong. Blue Coat has a famous brass band, and both the band and the school choir have performed at The Royal Albert Hall. All of our Year 9s take Bronze DofE as part of the curriculum. Large numbers continue into Silver and Gold Awards; Blue Coat is the largest DofE provider in the North West and one of the largest in the country.

Our parents tell us that what they particularly value about Blue Coat is the co-curricular provision, which Ofsted has also commended. This includes DofE, sport, music, drama, clubs, trips, competitions. Every year we take Year 8, and their curriculum, to Belgium for a week. At Christmas, we try to model family fun that doesn't cost anything – the staff put on a pantomime for pupils, and run parties with games, which even the coolest Key Stage 4 pupils enjoy. The Blue Coat ethos is that this is what we do: we build relationships, we give our young people the best possible start, we model behaviour and generosity of spirit.

The staffing establishment is large – 109 teaching staff (105.7FTE) and 79 support staff, but there is a powerful central ethos that we always put the children and young people first in everything we do – and the staff next, as the people who make that possible.

What the Trust and Local Governing Body is looking for is a passionate, inspiring educational leader who can help take Blue Coat into the next stage of its development. The school is big, diverse, and still growing. It is a Church of England school without compromise that serves and welcomes all communities. It is a highly regarded local institution, with a growing national reputation. It leads a Teaching School Alliance.

We want the best possible candidate who will commit fully, focus totally, with the Headteacher, on Blue Coat students, who will give Blue Coat their all, and who will secure its future as an outstanding school in every possible respect within a school-led system and all the partnerships and collaboration that enable Blue Coat to thrive and make such strong provision for young people.

The deadline for applications is **3.20pm on Wednesday, 25th March, 2020.**

Interviews will be held on **Wednesday, 1st and Thursday, 2nd April, 2020.**

What do others say about Blue Coat?

“All the school’s outcomes are outstanding; students make excellent progress academically and in developing a wide range of skills and attitudes that prepare them thoroughly for life beyond school.” OFSTED 2012.

“Every aspect of Blue Coat is outstanding! As a parent, I feel my child has been privileged to attend Blue Coat.” Parent quoted on SchoolsNet.

“The curriculum provides a high degree of flexibility and choice so that students are able to pursue their interests and maintain a broad and balanced programme that maximises future options. There are outstanding opportunities for students to develop skills as leaders and future citizens” OFSTED 2012.

“.. brilliant in every aspect. My son is enjoying Blue Coat school and is already achieving (at A level) higher than I expected. I just want to thank the teachers, who are doing the best job...” Parental feedback.

The Blue Coat School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service check.

Cranmer Education Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (registered No. 07687709, VAT 118109926). Registered Office: The Blue Coat School, Egerton Street, Oldham, OL1 3SQ. “The Blue Coat Church of England School” and “The Blue Coat School” are business names of Cranmer Education Trust.

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