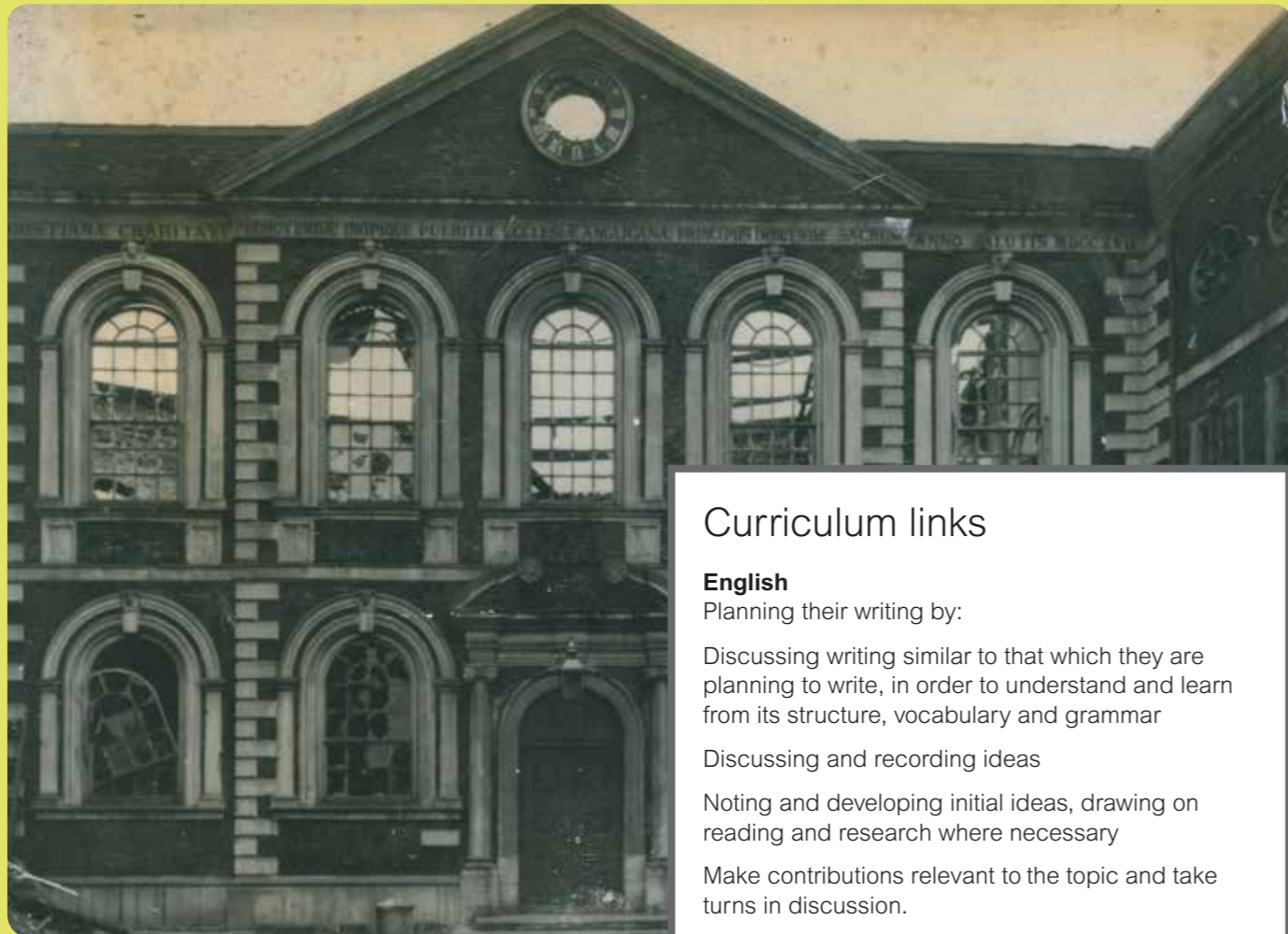


# Bluecoat and the Blitz



Bluecoat Bomb Damage, 1941 © Bluecoat

## Curriculum links

### English

Planning their writing by:

Discussing writing similar to that which they are planning to write, in order to understand and learn from its structure, vocabulary and grammar

Discussing and recording ideas

Noting and developing initial ideas, drawing on reading and research where necessary

Make contributions relevant to the topic and take turns in discussion.

### History

A study of an aspect of history or a site dating from a period beyond 1066 that is significant in the locality

Find out about the events, people and changes studied from an appropriate range of sources of information

### PSHE and Citizenship

To think about the lives of people living in other places and times, and people with different values and customs

### Art

To improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials

### Maths

Explore mathematical ideas in practical activities, using real situations to solve problems

Making nets and using scale

### Science

Learning about different materials and their uses

Developing scientific enquiry

## Summary

Pupils will learn about the impact that World War Two and in particular the May Blitz of 1941 had on Liverpool as a city. They will learn that the way buildings look and how they are used can change over time.

### Duration

Core activity: 3 x 1 hour sessions  
Extension activity: 2 x 1 hour sessions

### Aims and Outcomes

- Pupils will have learned about the lives of people from the past
- Pupils will have learned about architecture and how maths is used in everyday life

Powerpoints and resources available at [www.mybluecoat.org.uk](http://www.mybluecoat.org.uk)

## Background

Bluecoat is the city centre's oldest building and over its 300 year history it has been a school, an arts centre, a public library and a car show room. Although the front of the building looks very similar to how it would have looked 300 years ago there have been many changes to the building over the years.

During the Second World War, Liverpool was the most heavily bombed area of the country outside of London. The city had the largest port in the west of the country and was important to the British war effort. The German air force launched 68 bombing raids between July 1940 and January 1942 causing terrible loss of life and damage. This period of the war was called the Blitz and nearly 3,000 people were injured or killed and many more left homeless.

The docks were the main targets for the bombs but enormous damage was also caused to public buildings and people's homes. In early May 1941 many of the city's major

buildings were hit. Bluecoat suffered bad fire damage to the central part of the building and the east wing. It wasn't until 1954 that Bluecoat was restored by architects who had offices at Bluecoat and rebuilt the insides and carefully repaired the outside of the building.

The next major changes to the building took place in 2005 when Bluecoat closed for a massive building project with architecture company Biq Architecten. During the project a new wing was built and they also created new spaces in the building, such as the performance space. The building re-opened in 2008. Following on from the 2005 development, in 2017 we invited students from the Liverpool University School of Architecture to create their own re-designs of the new wing as part of our 300th anniversary year.

## Activities

### Starter question

This will assess the pupils' prior knowledge and also alert you to any possible difficulties or sensitive topics.

*How do you think living through a war could affect a community?*

### Core activity

During the May Blitz the Bluecoat building was badly damaged but there were many buildings and homes in the city and surrounding areas that were completely destroyed. The children will research how the Blitz affected their local community.

### Extension activity

Using the material available on our website about the changes to the Bluecoat building over the last 300 years the children will plan and create their own model for a re-design of Bluecoat.

The activity will have a focus on the importance of maths in everyday life and how architects depend on maths to create safe and beautiful buildings.

### End questions

These questions will ask the pupils to reflect on what they have learnt and ask them to apply this knowledge to the world today.

*Is there anywhere in the world today where people have to live in dangerous and war-torn areas?*

How might this be affecting their lives?

### Think About

- Do you know if anyone in your family was affected by World War Two?
- Can you imagine how the people in Liverpool felt during the Blitz?

### Talk About

- Do you know of any buildings that were damaged and destroyed during the war?
- Have you ever been to Bluecoat? If so, what did you think of the building?
- Why is maths important in everyday life? What different ways do we use maths in everyday life?

### Find Out About

- Can you find out more about the history of Bluecoat?
- How old is your school? Was it there during the war?
- Why was the Blitz called the Blitz?
- Can you find out more about how the Blitz affected Liverpool and the people who lived there?

If you enjoyed this resource you might want to look at *Art and Society* and *Bluecoat on Strike*