Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form

Friday Focus

Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form

Issue 218 | November 2026



Highlights of this week's news at school and forthcoming events

Photo of the week #weareblythe



GO FURTHER AT SIXTH FORM

Year 12 had their work experience assembly and received details this week for Unifrog. This is a platform to support them in organising work experience but also careers guidance with opportunities to explore university, apprenticeship and employment opportunities.



YEAR 7 FESTIVAL OF ARTS

Across Year 7, students have been enjoying their creative curriculum and have been preparing for this year's Festival of Arts on Tuesday 24th November. Their enthusiasm and teamwork skills are shining across the different departments.

Parents and carers have been emailed so they can reserve spaces for the evening.

WELCOME

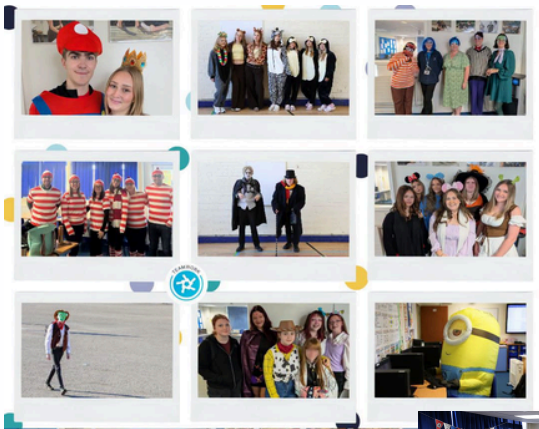
This weekend, tickets will be going on sale for our Year 7 Christmas Quiz and Chips which has been arranged by our student prefects for Wednesday 9th December. Starting at 5:30pm, there will be a number of festive themed rounds along with chips and refreshments provided. Tickets are £10 per team and families are welcome to join the fun. If you are interested in coming, please reserve your place through ParentPay or via reception.

All funds will go towards providing a festive afternoon tea for members of our local community.

Mrs Johnson
Headteacher

Pride, Respect & Kindness

CHILDREN IN NEED 2026



What a fabulous range of costumes from Year 11-13 students for this year's Children in Need event. Thank you to the staff who took part and to everyone who made donations.





SHREK UPDATE



Rehearsals are continuing with enthusiasm, energy and talent and we can't wait to see all their hard work come together on stage. It's shaping up to be a show full of laughter, music and a little bit of fairy-tale magic!

Due to the Year 7 Festival of Arts taking place in the hall, next week's Shrek rehearsals will just be for Shrek, Donkey and Fiona and no-one else needs to attend.

CHRISTMAS CAKE CLUB

The countdown to the festive period has officially begun as the Year 7 Christmas Cake Club was launched last week and Year 7 students have now moved on from weighing ingredients to baking their cakes this week, supported by Year 8 & 9 students. Well done to Team Reindeer and Team Elf - you were fab!









BOTTLE TOMBOLA DONATIONS

Thank you to everyone who donated a bottle and wore a hoodie last Friday. Your donations will go towards the Bottle Tombola at the Christmas Fayre towards the end of term. From little to large bottles, every donation counts and we are grateful for your support.

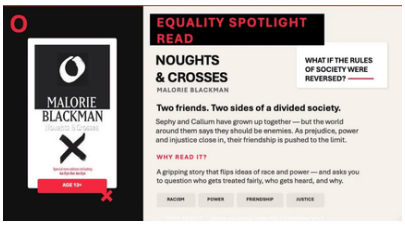
thank you

GOALKEEPER GLORY

A massive congratulations to Year 7 Heath L who recently took on the Christmas Truce qualifiers at RAF Cosford and performed excellently as first goalkeeper. They won all the matches Heath played in (six out of seven) and they qualified for the finals in Belgium in a few weeks! Well done!

THRIVE WEEK

All over school this week, students have been immersed in a world of THRIVE and working on their personal development skills and knowledge. In form time, form groups have had debates, read hand-picked Equality Reads and looked at how to restart a heart. At break and lunch on Wednesday and Friday, students were encouraged to speak to PRK champions to share something they were proud of in exchange for a cookie. EDI Champions have been busy delivering assemblies to all year groups on the importance of equality and they have helped to ensure all school charters have been updated and refreshed. Plus, staff have not missed out with opportunities provided by Mrs Hayes at the canteen for a treat at lunch and Ms Roberts delivering a session to advise our members of staff on how to prioritise their health and wellbeing.







READING ADVOCATE



Jacob E is reading The Maze Runner by James Dashner

The Maze Runner is one of my favourite books. I've already read all the books in the series because I love action thrillers and this one is full of mystery and danger. The story is about a boy called Thomas who wakes up in a strange place (called 'The Glade') with no memory of how he got there. He meets a group of boys who are trapped inside a huge maze that changes every night. They have to work together to find a way out, but there are lots of dangerous things waiting for them.

My favourite character is Minho because he's really sarcastic and funny, even when things get serious. He never gives up and always keeps going, no matter how dangerous things get. Even though I've read it before, I still really enjoy it and would definitely recommend the whole series!

★★★★★



APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR BLYTHE BRIDGE'S GOT TALENT!

Do you have a talent you would love to showcase? We are looking for the most talented students at Blythe Bridge High School to take part in Blythe Bridge's Got Talent.

Whether you're a:

- 🎵 Singer
- 💃 Dancer
- 🎸 Musician
- 🎩 Magician
- ⭐ Or have another unique talent

We want to hear from you!

Follow the application link and upload a 90-second video demonstrating your talent: Applications NOW OPEN! – Fill in form

Please contact Miss Perry if you have any questions or you need more information.

LOOKING FORWARD

AUTUMN TERM PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Year 7: Voice & Vigilance: Staying safe out and about
Year 8: Ethics, Democracy & Law: Parliament, parties and holding power to account
Year 9: Thinking & Choices: Data, algorithms and persuasive design
Year 10: Relationships: Equal relationships, values and long-term commitment
Year 11: Health & Wellbeing: Exam pressure, stress and healthy coping

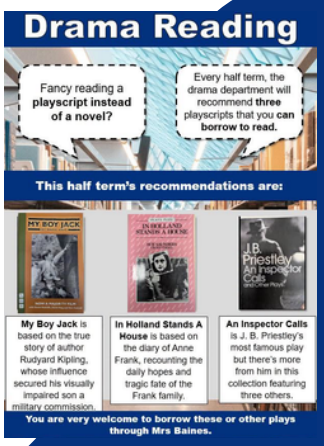
KEY DATES

Tuesday 24th November
- **Year 7 Festival of Arts**

Monday 30th November
- **Year 7- 11 Flu Immunisations**

Tuesday 1st December
- **Year 7 Carol Service**

Thursday 3rd December
- **Year 13 Leavers' Certificate Evening**
- **Year 8 Lille Trip Parents' Evening**



CAREERS SPOTLIGHT BENCHMARK 3 & 6

Mrs Baxter and Mr Goodwin took 15 of our aspiring teachers to the NEC in Birmingham for a fantastic day of learning, networking and exploring the future of education. Our students had the opportunity to engage with a wide range of industry professionals, discussing the exciting developments shaping education, including emerging technologies and the future of teaching and learning. It was a fabulous day, full of inspiration, new ideas and valuable conversations. We also made some fantastic new careers connections, which we look forward to developing further by inviting industry professionals to support and enrich our careers programme. A brilliant opportunity for our future educators to broaden their horizons, make connections and take another step towards their teaching careers! 🍎📚 Proud to be developing the teachers of tomorrow!



ASSEMBLIES

Year 7 - 13: House Assemblies



Group	Block 2 (5) 12th Oct-27th Nov
Year 7 Girls AC	Swimming
Year 7 Girls DV	Netball
Year 7 Boys AC	Rugby
Year 7 Boys DV	Football
Year 8 Girls AC	Netball
Year 8 Girls DV	Swimming
Year 8 Boys AC	Rugby
Year 8 Boys DV	Handball
Year 9 Girls AC	Netball
Year 9 Girls DV	Swimming
Year 9 Boys AC	Volleyball
Year 9 Boys DV	Rugby



REMINDER

A reminder for students to check their timetables and bring in the correct kit for their PE lessons with appropriate footwear. Please also remember to bring in ingredients for food technology lessons.

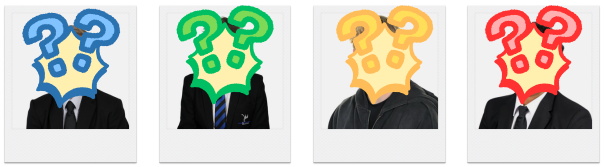
STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Equality assemblies this week were excellently led by our EDI champions. The School Charter has been renewed by our EDI Champions. We hosted a Proud Table on Wednesday and Friday at break and lunch times, where students and staff told our team of PRK champions something they have done that they are proud of in exchange for a cookie.



HOUSE UPDATES

The House Captains for 2026-2027 have been informed this week and the line up will be revealed next week in assemblies. Well done to all who were selected and those who applied!



MENU CHOICE



Those in receipt of free school meals are entitled to £2.72 per day.

plus
BLYTHE BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM
PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SHOP

If you are interested in purchasing second-hand items of uniform, please email t.matthias@bb-hs.co.uk and we will let you know what we have in stock. Donations are always welcome.



Free School Meals



Are you entitled?

From September 2026, the Government is expanding eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM). All children in households receiving Universal Credit will become eligible for Free School Meals, regardless of household earnings.

You may be eligible for Free School Meals if you meet any of the following entitlement criteria:

- Universal Credit

Aside from Universal Credit, children remain eligible if their parents receive:

- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- The guarantee part of Pension Credit

Households may also be entitled to a free school meal if:

- Are in receipt of income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Meet criteria set out in separate guidance for families with no recourse to public funds

There will be two categories of free school meal eligibility:

1) **Targeted free school meals** – for families with a household income of £7,400 or less. These pupils will attract Pupil Premium funding for schools therefore can also benefit from additional support such as the Holidays and Food (HAF) Programme and support with funding curriculum essential activities.

2) **Expanded free school meals** – a new category covering pupils who do not qualify for targeted FSM, but who are in households receiving Universal Credit.

Important Information for Families

Pupils on free school meals used to have their eligibility protected for 6 years however from September 2026 these protections for free school meals will end. Households must meet the FSM eligibility criteria from the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year to continue receiving provision and eligibility will be checked annually by the local authority. If you are already registered for free school meals this will happen automatically.

We strongly encourage eligible families to register for Free School Meals as it can provide significant benefits for both families and schools.

To apply, visit the Staffordshire County Council website below or scan the QR code.
www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/educational-awards-benefits/freeschoolmeals/apply-online.aspx