



BLYTHE BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL  
& SIXTH FORM  
A FOUNDATION TRUST SCHOOL

# SUMMER

# Newsletter

## Art in Motion



**Our Art in Motion and American Summer Soiree evenings were a huge success. Please turn to page 36 and 46 for more details.**

# Headteacher's Welcome

The Department for Education recently published the Schools Bill in response to the White Paper 'Opportunities for all'. In one of their policy intentions, it states that 'By 2030, all children will benefit from being taught in a family of schools, with their school in a strong multi academy trust or with plans to join or form one'. By January 2022, 83% of Staffordshire secondary schools were academies.

As you know, over the years our school has regularly reviewed school status which resulted in Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form converting to a foundation trust school in 2012, and in 2018 becoming associate members of John Taylor Multi Academy Trust. Through this partnership, we have benefited from a range of opportunities including CPD and links to the National Forest Teaching School. We are now in a position to be able to formalise this ongoing relationship by becoming full members of the trust. In the autumn term we will contact all stakeholders as we enter a formal period of consultation to answer questions and embrace the views of all. By working together, it is clear that the Trust have values and ethos aligned to ours and we are excited about the positive impact it will have moving forward.

We made it to the end of the summer term, and at the end of this academic year there feels even more to celebrate than ever before. We have had an uninterrupted year in terms of no lockdowns but students, parents/carers, staff and governors have still faced many challenges and I am beyond proud of what we have achieved together. Congratulations to all our students who sat formal examinations this year, they respected the process and did their very best, we could not ask for anything more. I, and the whole team, have been humbled by all of the kind and thoughtful messages of support, more recently during our Ofsted inspection, but also the small impromptu messages that just drop into the inbox to say thank you are so motivational and much appreciated.

This week we have said fond farewells to the staff who are leaving us. Mr Aston has achieved qualified teacher status this year and moves on to a full-time teaching position at a local school and Mrs Newman, who has just completed her second year in the science department, has secured a role with pastoral responsibilities at a school in Stoke on Trent. Miss Powell will be missed by the dance department as she takes on a full-time teaching position in a school in Cheshire and Miss Smith is leaving us to join the local authority in a role supporting students who are electively home educated. We wish everyone well for the next steps in their careers. Finally, Miss Perry will commence her maternity leave at the start of September and we hope she enjoys a well-earned rest over the summer.

I wish you a safe and restful summer and look forward to welcoming you all back in September.

**Mrs R Johnson**

**2 Headteacher**



## Keystage 3 Drama Club

Stephen Lawrence was only 18 when he was killed on the streets of Eltham, London in 1993.

I was doing my GCSEs as a sixteen-year-old in rural Derbyshire. I had never met Stephen but his death stuck with me and has continued to do to this day. I struggled with the idea of someone dying on the street, stabbed simply because of the colour of their skin, a future taken away because of someone else's views. I was the same age as some of the killers and that blew me away.

Whilst most people my age know of this case, it was clear that the students of today don't. And yet they are the ones who now study citizenship at school, they are the ones who are taught in institutions that have to have an anti-racism policy, they are of the age where knife crime is more prevalent than ever and yet it feels like the lessons that were learned about Stephen's killing haven't been really learned.

We need to not forget what happened to Stephen all those years ago.

We need the 16-year-olds of today to know that knives and racism wreck lives.

We need change.

### Cast

#### Year 9

Matilda A

Ava H

Carly S

#### Year 8

Meadow A

Scarlett B

Lily F

Isobel M

Rory S

Mrs K. Baines

#### Year 7

Freya A

Lily H

Tom Ke

Nancy L

Taio M

Lana R

Isabella W

### Backstage

Assistant Stage Manager - Zach C

### Costume, props and refreshments

Amaya A

Aimee B

Leila F

Jorja H

Ruby L



# Young Poetry Competition

Day by Charlie K

(Entry in Foyle's Young Poet Competition 2022)

The stars will shine at night and the sun will shine bright  
When day comes to rule over us,  
Fierce and strong,  
And almost never wrong,  
Never will it go,  
It will always have its glow,  
But you better know  
Its ready to shoot its bow,  
This unfortunate person will never know,  
Until the unlikeness may glow,  
It will never go away not even on Christmas day,  
Although day will always have its way,  
But to be honest it does deserve its rule,  
Because it is the magnificent tool  
Of life.





# Young Poetry Competition

**Rest Not Until Repentful by Daniall L**

**(Entry in Foyle's Young Poet Competition 2022)**

It maintains pace as you slow down,  
It takes no notice of a smile or a frown.  
It bears no sympathy, and it holds no need,  
It exists not for colour and it matters not what creed.  
You will run, it will walk. You will rest, it will walk.  
You will wander, it will stalk. You will wonder, it will talk.  
You are the slaughterhouse, the journey its feed,  
It will grow on you patiently like a suffocating weed.

Green with envy and black with hate,  
It's in the corner of your eye as your pupils dilate.  
It carries one intention upon its hunched back,  
Persistence it contains, speed it does lack.  
But if one day you rest for too long, or ponder a minute older,  
You may feel its grieving hand rest upon your weary shoulder.  
Its claws may dig in deep, or they may sooth you calm and gentle,  
But its presence will rest not, until your soul is made repentful.

It's born with you and lives with you whether close or far behind,  
Whether it sees in manifested spirit, its intentions are far from blind.

It won't speed up, it won't slow down,  
A shadow cast in darkness.  
A demon in God's gown,  
The universe's abscess.  
A moving menacing clock,  
As you may stumble backwards.  
A sheperd herding its flock,  
A farmer shooting the black birds.  
The devil in faiths image,  
Caring not of good health.  
Because you will see it spares no victims,  
When you meet death itself.

# History

## History Curriculum

As the year comes to a close our students have been continuing to excel across the history curriculum, and have been studying some fascinating content.

Year 7 have been concluding their studies on Tudor and Stuart England with a short depth study on the English Civil War. Year 8 have been learning about the growth of democracy in the United Kingdom looking at the Chartist movement, Liberal Welfare Reforms and Suffrage movement. Year 9 have begun studying their GCSE content by exploring the 'Historic Environment' medicine study. Students have been looking at medical treatments in the British Sector of the Western Front in the First World War. The students have engaged with source material and studying areas from blood transfusions, to plastic surgery and the infamous forehead flap! Year 10 are now well into their depth study on Elizabeth I, focussing on the challenges a female monarch would have faced during her reign. Specifically Mary Queen of Scots and religious upheaval.

Finally, our Sixth Form have ended the year with the opportunity to go to Keele University for taster sessions in their undergraduate programme. Year 12, and future Year 12 students, have enjoyed a trip to the UK Houses of Parliament and Supreme Court too. We were delighted to welcome back a number of Year 11 students who will be joining us for their A Level studies next year.

Lastly our congratulations to all those nominated for awards at their respective celebration evenings.

Nominations and winners:

### Year 7

**WINNER - Karina H -** Karina is an outstanding historian. She embodies the values of pride, respect and kindness in every lesson and produces some excellent work. What sets Karina apart is her ability to develop sophisticated extended writing that explains in detail the consequences of different historical events. Well done, Karina!

**Sophie C -** Sophie is an incredibly hard-working historian. She is a true role model for her peers. In lessons, Sophie is quietly focused and determined to achieve her best, she consistently challenges herself and has produced some outstanding work. Sophie is a pleasure to teach and a budding historian. Well done, Sophie!

# History

Amelia Downey - Amelia is a passionate and hardworking historian. She has achieved some of the best assessment results in the class and has produced some outstanding work. What sets Amelia apart is her desire to extend her knowledge through independent research. Her enthusiasm is infectious! Well done, Amelia!

## Year 8

WINNER Will H - Will is a really keen young Historian. He is always contributing to lessons and making insightful comments or answers to questions. His enthusiasm and passion for the subject really show through in both his class contributions and his written work. Will shows a great amount of pride in his dedication and hard work during lessons and is always kind and respectful in his class contributions, many of which help develop the understanding of his peers.

Leila F - Sophie is an incredibly hard-working historian. She is a true role model for her peers. In lessons, Sophie is quietly focused and determined to achieve her best, she consistently challenges herself and has produced some outstanding work. Sophie is a pleasure to teach and a budding historian. Well done, Sophie!

Joshua S - Joshua regularly makes excellent contributions to class discussion, showing his depth and breadth of knowledge. He is an inquisitive student who is keen to question the learning to expand his own knowledge. Well done, Joshua!

## Year 9

WINNER Iona M - Iona embodies pride, respect and kindness, our school culture & ethos in all her actions. But most impressive is her approach to her history studies. Iona is focused, quietly determined, and asks inquisitive questions in all her lessons showing a real thirst for learning and enjoyment of it. Iona is a Pleasure to teach and a wonderful historian. Well done, Iona!

Ellie H - Ellie regularly makes excellent contributions to class discussion, showing her depth and breadth of knowledge. Ellie engages in every lesson with a determined and hardworking attitude. Well done, Ellie!

Chloe H - Chloe is an incredibly hard-working historian, regularly making excellent contributions to class discussions and looks to deepen her understanding. Chloe shows a great amount of pride in her work and is a true role model to her peers. She is quietly thoughtful to the sensitive topics we study and shows empathy for others. Well done, Chloe!

# History

**WINNER Kate C** - Kate has a real talent for history. She has a keen interest in what happened in the past which is reflected in the work she produces. Her writing is sophisticated and detailed, and she has taken on board all of the feedback given to improve even further. Katie is an absolute pleasure to have in the classroom, she is a great role model for others and always embodies the values of pride, respect and kindness. Well done, Kate!

**Kieran Snape** - Kieran is a delightful young man who has all the values we expect of our students. He is always kind and respectful toward staff and his peers, helping and looking out for other. He takes great pride in his work and always gives 100% effort in his history lessons. I count myself very lucky to have Keiran in my class.

**Freyja Clarke** - Freyja can always be relied upon to produce work of the highest standard. She takes real pride in her work which, in turn, has resulted in some excellent progress in history. Freyja is focused, determined and keen to learn about the past. Freyja is an absolute pleasure to teach and always embodies the values of pride, respect and kindness in every lesson.

Have a great and restful summer holiday.

**Mr J Biggs**

**Head of Year 10**

## iDEA Program 2022

Over the last half term in IT, Year 10 students have been following the 'iDEA' program which is a collection of courses that enable students to develop their digital, enterprise and employability skills. Students must work through a series of online challenges to gain Bronze, Silver and Gold level awards. iDEA is the digital and enterprise equivalent of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Bronze is beginner, silver intermediate and gold is advanced. Over 20,000 badges have already been awarded in the last five weeks in topics as varied as social media ethics, fake news, crisis management, GIF making and blockchains.

These industry-recognised awards support career progression and offer a flexible mix of topics. Students choose units of study to support their particular interests and ambitions for the future. The iDEA programme covers five key areas:

Citizen, Worker, Maker, Entrepreneur, Gamer

**Mr G Broomhall**

**8 Curriculum Leader of Business & IT**



## Head of Year Comments

What a fantastic first year at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form Year 7 have had. They have thrown themselves into an array of activities and we have seen so many of them excel throughout this year. Thinking back to last summer, we welcomed 140 of the year group for the summer school. From their first day, they have grown so much, not just in height but also in their confidence, their resilience and their self-awareness.

Students have participated in events from Bikeability, Festival of Arts, football fixtures, competing in the county athletics, Christmas church service, to the hobbies exhibition, the list could go on! My favourite of all was the celebration evening. Celebrating the successes of the children and seeing them get the recognition was amazing. Watching the video of achievements from throughout the year and handing out the awards for pride, respect and kindness.

Next year will be another challenging year. Form tutors will be moving with our students; however, I will be passing on the year group to a new Head of Year in September. I am proud to pass them over as there is so much potential in every single student and I am looking forward to seeing each and everyone one of them shine as they continue to move through our school.



Miss K Fargher  
Head of Year 7



# Year 8

## Head of Year Comments

The summer term has flown by and it has been a pleasure get to know the Year 8 students. We have the most wonderful students and to be a part of their learning journey has been a privilege. There have been many successes both in and outside of school and I have no doubt that this will continue as students move into Year 9.

As always, I would like to thank the Year 8 pastoral team who work tirelessly to support our students and to ensure that any barriers to students own learning is removed, and also parents and carers who have shown outstanding support throughout this academic year.

It was lovely to welcome so many of you into school for the Year 8 celebration evening which was certainly one



of the highlights of this academic year. Form tutors were able to deliver their reasoning behind their stars of the year nominations and it was a joy to hear how pride, respect and kindness was a common theme for many of our students. A huge congratulations also to our subject nominees and winners, as well as to students who had achieved the best behaviour for learning averages and the highest achievement points in Year 8. The evening ended with the three students who had been nominated for the pride, respect and kindness awards as well as the outstanding contribution to school award. I look forward to celebrating even more successes with Year 8 moving forward. Can I please take this opportunity in wishing you all a restful and well deserved break and I look forward to working with you all again throughout the next academic year.

**Mrs L Cartlidge**

**Head of Year 8 and 11**

## Head of Year Comments

As we come to the end of Year 9, and our first full year of continuous schooling, I take the time to reflect on what has come and gone this past year.

Without doubt there have been challenges along the way, but it gives me great pleasure to congratulate everyone on their efforts and achievements since September. Academically, it has been great to see the progress being made by our students and constantly being told how strong our express groups is. The recent celebration evening was a chance to reward students for their hard work, and I know that the number of students who deserved to be there was much higher. It gives me confidence to see so many students ready to tackle the move to KS4 and the start of their GCSE courses in September, and I wish you all the best of luck with this transition.

I have also been impressed with the efforts of students in an extra-curricular context. From representing the numerous sports teams to the charity work and representation on the PRK committee, it has been exciting to see so many of you get involved in the wider school community. This was also reflected in the recent "Out to Work" day, where Year 9 students spent a day in industry. The feedback received by the school was superb, and I know that many employers would be happy to have students return for their work experience week in Year 10. This was followed by the Year 9 drop down day, where students had the opportunity to experience work with in different environments with both the Army and Hitachi a particular highlight.

As with the end of any academic year, it gives us time to reflect on what has gone and what is to come. This summer is important for all students as it gives them the time to prepare for the start of Year 10 in September. In their July report, I have spoken about the importance of seamless transition and the need to rise to the challenges and show greater resilience in light of the importance of the next two years. I am confident that every student will return ready, and hit the ground running for the start of their GCSE courses.

I wish to thank you all for making my job, as your Head of Year, so rewarding over this past year. Seeing you all mature into fine young people has been a highlight, and it gives me great honour to think that I have the opportunity to take you through this next chapter of your educational pathway. Please, go and have a great summer break and I look forward to seeing you all on our return in September.

**Mr J Gibbons**

**Head of Year 9**

**Teacher of Health, Sport & Exercise**

# Year 10

## Head of Year Comments

As the year comes to a close the last couple of weeks have seen some significant highlights for Year 10.

Well done to all those who participated in the Geography field trips, Mr Knight was delighted with the enthusiasm shown, and perseverance even in wet weather!

Congratulations to all students who completed their Duke of Edinburgh awards this term. Mrs Townshend has been effusive in her praise of your hard work and determination during your recent expeditions.

I also want to praise the GCSE Psychology students who completed their GCSE course and examinations, you should be particularly proud of yourselves for this achievement.

This term saw the appointment of our prefects for next year. With over 80 students gaining their 5 nominations from staff and applying for the roles I was delighted recently to appoint 72 prefects, I know they will all do us proud.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the 56 students nominated in our recent Celebration Evening. It was a wonderful evening, and pleasure to reward so many fantastic students and to speak to families. Well done to you all!

Have a great and restful summer holiday.

**Mr J Biggs**

**Head of Year 10**

## Head of Year Comments

Five years of making memories has come to an end as we say goodbye to our fantastic Year 11 students. The last five years have not been easy, with many challenges faced along the way but our students have shown great resilience and determination throughout.

The behaviour and conduct throughout their GCSE examinations was exemplary and we wish them all the very best of luck moving forward. We look forward to welcoming back a number of students into our Sixth Form and for those that are moving onto pastures new, we hope that you keep us updated on your forthcoming successes.



As I am writing this, the final plans are being put into place for your prom and I would like to take this opportunity in thanking Mrs Jones for everything that she has been doing behind the scenes. Yearbooks will be made available on results day for those who have ordered them. On a final note, can I thank you all for your constant support.

It has been a privilege to know so many parents/ carers over the last five years and to have welcomed you all into the Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form community. It is due to such crucial relationships that we have formed with you all that has enabled your children to be the success that they are today.

**Mrs L Cartlidge**

**Head of Year 8 and 11**

**Curriculum Lead of Philosophy and Ethics**

# Sixth Form

This term Year 12 have had a focus on careers in citizenship, the focus has included looking at universities and how to prepare an effective personal statement or application for a degree, apprenticeship or employment. Our students on the higher achievers' programme received 1:1 support and guidance from our Keele University ambassador focusing on 'making an effective competitive application' with personalised feedback and support. We took all Year 12 students to the UCAS convention which was hosted at Staffordshire University in June. Students were able to talk to staff at different universities, attend a range of subject and general talks about university and pick up prospectuses. This was followed by a week of work experience, students have secured a range of placements which will provide invaluable insight into potential career pathways along with the opportunity to develop necessary communication and interpersonal skills.

Students who were successful in securing a place at Staffordshire University Student Life event are currently at the university summer school gaining further insight into life as a university student and support for applying to their chosen courses.





# Sixth Form

An evening of glitz and glamour took place on Friday 15th July as the DoubleTree by Hilton hosted our Year 11 prom. Students certainly dressed to impress and we were blown away by the many different modes of transport that students took to the venue. To see the smiles on our Year 11 faces and a heaving dance floor was a joy to see. Year 11 have been an amazing year group who will hold a special place in my heart therefore to be a part of this rite of passage has certainly been a highlight of my teaching career. Behaviour was exemplary therefore it was no surprise to hear such lovely comments regarding our students from the staff at the DoubleTree by Hilton. A special thank you must go to the staff who chaperoned, as well as Mrs Jones without whose organisation and creativity, the prom would not have been the success that it was.



**Mrs L Cartlidge**

**Head of Year 8 and 11**

**Curriculum Lead of Philosophy and Ethics**

# Year 7 Stars of the Term

**7CFL** - Michael F - This student has had a brilliant year. They have consistently shown all the school's core values of pride, respect, and kindness and this is reflected in the 1500+ achievement points they already have. Michael have also fully engaged with school life and attended numerous extra-curricular clubs. Well done on a great year!

**7ERJ** - Lucie G - This student has grown into a mature and modest young person. They display pride, respect, and kindness in everything that they do. Every Friday evening, I check the BfL scores and without a doubt I know they will be towards the top. They never let their standards slip and exceeds our expectations each week. As the year has progressed so has this student's confidence. It has truly been a pleasure to see their confidence flourish during our citizenship lessons and I am looking forward to witnessing their future endeavours and successes.

**7KWY** - Harvey T - Harvey is one of the most friendly and kind mannered young gentlemen I have had the pleasure to meet. He is enthusiastic about his lessons, always willing to contribute and tries hard in whatever he does. I have been hugely impressed with Harvey's resilience in coping with illness and recovery. He has not let this phase him even a little. He is a model student for displaying the school's core values of pride, respect and kindness.

**7JBY** - Hayden O - This student had a rocky start to their first year at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form, however, through great personal effort and tenacity, they have made friends, successfully taken up a new instrument, worked well in all their lessons and has settled into school well and made a very positive contribution to Blythe.

**7LKB** - Jasmine S - This student has had a phenomenal first year at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form. There are so many things I could say to show how in awe I am of this student for their positive attitude, kind disposition, and fierce resilience. If it is possible for a person to have 'kind bones', this student certainly has them. The genuine care and thoughtfulness they show to the whole school community at such a young age, is commendable. The smile on their face, which is present every single day, no matter the circumstances, has the potential to brighten a whole classroom. This student is so highly regarded by their teaching staff that nearly half of their behaviour scores are judged as outstanding, and they have already exceeded the achievement point threshold for the gold award!

# Year 7 Stars of the Term

I am so proud of everything you have achieved this year. Jasmine, I will look forward to watching you develop, thrive, and achieve throughout your time at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form!

**7NG** - Liam O - This was a hard choice however I think this student has shown resilience as not all things have run smoothly for them. Their conduct and behaviour are exemplary and they contribute thoughtfully to lessons.

**7PSH** - Nicole S - This person has won this award for their resilience and determination towards their first year at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form. They have hit a few bumps along the way but they have not let that stop them from getting up and coming in every day. Not only has this person achieved so much academically but also personally and socially too. Everyone in 7PSH would agree that this person thoroughly deserves this award as they are such a well thought of member of the form.

## Head of Year Awards

**Pride** - Evie H - This student shows pride in all that they do as well as always wears their uniform with pride. They always thank their teachers at the end of each lesson as well as asks if there is anything that they can do to help. They constantly take pride in their work and always has a smile on their face. You are an absolute credit to our school.

**Respect** - Beau N - I have been incredibly impressed by this student this year. They have approached this year in a way that others should take note of. This student thought it would be challenging starting high school, but they have taken everything in their stride. They always speak to staff and students with respect, they respect the learning environment and they have come on leaps and bounds this year. What a great asset to have in the year group.

**Kindness** - Jessica C - This student always ensures everyone is OK. They are one of the first to help any student that is struggling and has been a constant help to those in their form. They never complain and always have a smile on their face. They can often go unnoticed but the kindness of this individual has shone through this year.

**Miss K Fargher**

**Head of Year 7**

# Year 8 Stars of the Term

8SGF- Lily F- Lily has been an outstanding student since the start of year 7, not just academically but in all other, important, aspects of school life. She always gives 100% in all of her work, even in the subjects she finds difficult! Her positivity is infectious and she always has a smile on her face. She is an excellent role model for any student at this school and this award is thoroughly deserved.

8LN- Josh S - Josh epitomizes our ethos of pride, respect and kindness. From the very first day at School, he has thrown himself into the Blythe Bridge community and persistently strives success in everything which he applies himself to. Josh has also shown great kindness and maturity through supporting his peers and always offering a helping hand to his teachers. Through his PRK work, Josh actively makes constructive contributions towards ensuring that Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form is a positive experience for all.

8AS- Rory S is a much valued member of the form for his quiet enthusiasm and cheerful nature. Since being the form tutor for 8AS I have greatly enjoyed chatting to Rory; he is highly empathetic and kind with his classmates. He was recently chosen to be 'in the Spotlight' which he said was 'highly embarrassing for an introvert!' but he spoke fluently about his hobbies and has gained confidence as a result. It is a pleasure to see Rory succeeding at school; his achievement points reflect his excellent work ethic and attitude in every subject.

8SL- Grace B - Grace is an incredibly well-mannered and studious young woman who exemplifies our ethos of 'Pride, Respect and Kindness'. Since the start of the year, Grace has been a role model with her behaviour and work ethic and has achieved a significant amount of positive behaviour points on SIMS. Her hard-work and perseverance has not gone unnoticed; she has impressed her teachers and won the respect of her peers through her conduct and positivity and I have no doubt that she will continue to impress and inspire those around her in throughout her academic career. Well done Grace, we are all very proud of you!

**Mrs L Cartlidge**

**Head of Year 8 and 11**

**18Curriculum Lead of Philosophy and Ethics**



# Year 8 Stars of the Term

8HBL - Chloe B - Chloe is an absolute star. She epitomises our school values of pride respect and kindness. Everyday, without fail she smiles at every member of staff she encounters, asks about their day and how they are. She also shows immense kindness to all of her classmates, showing concern for other students who are upset, regardless of whether they are her friend or not. Chloe is also at the top of the school behaviour averages every single week, normally achieving well over 10 1s. She is also the top achievement point scorer in 8HBL. A very well-deserved award.

8LRO Amaya A- Amaya is an absolute star, She helps in form daily and is continuously positive. She is the embodiment of Pride. Respect and Kindness. She leads by example at all times and contributes to many school activities. Most of all her positivity shines on us all, so even when we are having a bad day we cannot help be lifted by Amaya's presence. We are lucky she is in our form!

8SAL Ellie W - what can I say about Ellie. She is fiery, intelligent and has a lot to say (most of the time it is about the work). Ellie has matured leaps and bounds this year and has really come into her own. Her personality has really shined through this year, and I have enjoyed seeing her grow in confidence and in skill. I had the pleasure of teaching Ellie for four different subjects this year, and although Ellie probably got a bit sick of me, I have really enjoyed watching her grow in confidence and progress in lessons. Ellie puts 110% in every piece of work I give her. Ellie is a key speaker in Citizenship and is always willing to give her opinion about important themes. She is a role model for her peers, and for our form. You have also thrown yourself into the deep end with sports, something that you were reluctant to do, but you did so for your friends. Again, this shows the character that you possess. Thank you for your hard work this year Ellie.

8HH Hannah F - you are my form star of the year. You are such a polite, kind and helpful young lady. and it has been a real pleasure to become your new form tutor. You are a model student with 100% attendance, you've achieved 1106 achievement points this year and you've not had one behaviour point which you should be very proud of. You demonstrate pride, respect, and kindness daily through everything that you do. You always look smart and bring the correct equipment with you to school, so that you are ready to learn. You are proactive and you take responsibility for your own learning. You handle challenges with maturity and seek help when you need it. You always hand in homework on time and all your teachers say what a lovely exemplary student you are. Your e-planner is always enjoyable to read. I'm proud to have you in my form. Congratulations.



# Year 11 Stars of the Term

**11NC-** Emma R. Emma is without a doubt a mature, respectful and kind student who has an excellent attitude towards everything and particularly her academic studies and school life.

**11AK-** Evie H. I can only think of positive words to describe Evie. Courteous, positive, friendly, driven, kind, respectful and a superstar. This list goes on. Evie is an absolute pleasure to have in the form group and is a fantastic human being.

**11KMP-** Oliver L. Oliver is a truly outstanding student. He produced some excellent results in his mock examinations and is all set to do very well in his GCSEs. Oliver is kind to others and has a great laid-back sense of humour and takes everything in his stride. Oliver gets involved in many school activities and will always help others out. If I had to select one student in my form who is the most likely to lead the country, it would be Oliver!

**11KF-** Holly M. Holly has been a fantastic role model for her peers and our younger students. Holly has consistently represented our school values and puts every effort into her work. She is kind to other students and respects all members of our school community.

**11KC-** Cadence K. Cadence is always consistently striving for excellence in and out of school. A little gem with a very promising career!

**11GM-** Leo P. Leo has been a fantastic form King and has led his loyal subjects firmly but fairly and shown them how to remain positive through challenging times.

Leo has provided much needed important information through his lectures on topics as diverse as the origins of Croatia, the seven modern wonders of the world and the creation story.

His enthusiasm during form time is uplifting and refreshing and Leo will undoubtedly become a legend in his own right.

**11LLM-** Abbie G. Abbie has shown incredible resilience and kindness over the year. Abbie has always engaged well in citizenship and is always willing to help. I have been impressed with her efforts in reading with the younger students and how she has managed her studies this year. Even attending revision sessions on a Friday afternoon! I cannot fault Abbie's work ethic and all of her efforts have really stood out this year.

**Mrs L Cartlidge**

**Head of Year 8 & Year 11**

**Curriculum Lead of Philosophy and Ethics**

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# Attendance

## **Students with 100% Attendance from September 21 - 8th July 2022**

### **Year 7:**

Paige B, Ellysa H, Jacob H, Natasha H, Maximus S, Bradley S, Jake S, Phoebe W

### **Year 8:**

Grace B, Olivia B, Ella R, Charlotte S, Shimano S

### **Year 9:**

Chloe J, Owen L, Phoebe S, Jayden W

### **Year 10:**

Georgina B, Reuben D, Zack D, Elliott H, Lucy H, Janice H, Samuel S

## **Attendance**

School attendance has obviously been affected by the pandemic and absence due to Covid is unavoidable. With restrictions lessening, we want to take this opportunity to reiterate our expectations from September 2022.

The Department for Education (DfE) announced in 2015 that any student whose attendance falls below 90% will be classed as a persistently absent student. This equates to just over 3 days of absence per half term and applies if the absence is authorised or unauthorised. Therefore, if a student misses 19 or more days over an academic year, they will be classed as persistently absent.

The DfE state that if over five academic years a student has attendance of 90%, the child will miss the equivalent of half a school year which puts them at a huge disadvantage. Research suggests that 92% attendance (17 days missed from school each year) equates to a drop of 1 GCSE grade in every subject. Missing school means missing out on learning and this can have a detrimental impact on a child's attainment as well as their personal development. In certain circumstances, non-attendance can also raise safeguarding concerns and lead to poor mental health.

Parents/carers have a legal responsibility to ensure their child attends school regularly however, if a child is unavoidably absent from school then parents/carers are expected to:

Telephone the school office on the first day of absence, and on each subsequent day, to report the reason for the absence and the expected date of their child's return to school.

When requested, provide medical evidence or other appropriate documentation that supports the level of absence.

# Attendance

## **Term Time Holidays**

Taking holidays in term time can affect a child's education as much as any other absence and we would appreciate parents' help by not taking children away in school time. There is no automatic entitlement in law to taking time off in school time to go on holiday and family holidays are not considered to be "exceptional circumstances" therefore cannot be authorised.

Examples of exceptional circumstances where leave may be granted by the headteacher during term time are:

If a parent is service personnel and is returning from a tour of duty abroad.

Where an absence from school is recommended by a health professional as part of a parent or child's rehabilitation from a medical or emotional issue.

The death or terminal illness of a close relative.

Religious observance.

To attend a wedding or funeral of a close relative if the circumstances are truly exceptional.

As I am sure you are aware, as a parent/carer you have legal responsibility for ensuring that your child attends school regularly. In some circumstances, you could be referred to the Local Authority for a Penalty Notice to be issued under Section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996 for failing to ensure the regular attendance of your child. This is in line with Staffordshire County Council's Code of Conduct.

## **Punctuality**

All students are expected to be in school at 8.45am in good time for Period 1. Any student who arrives after this time is marked late in the register. Two lates per week result in a 30-minute detention after school. It is essential you ensure that your child arrives on time to prevent disruption to your child's own learning and that of others. 5 minutes late per day equates to approximately 17 hours of learning lost over a year. Late after the registers have closed (9am) is classified as an unauthorised absence. Unauthorised absences due to poor punctuality can result in a referral to the Local Authority and could result in a Penalty Notice.

We understand that there may be rare occasions when your child is unavoidably late. On these occasions, please make sure that you contact the school to inform us of this.

We would like to work with you to ensure that your child attends school every day and is on time. If you feel there are issues which are preventing them from doing so, please contact us directly so we can address them together.

**Mrs D Moore**

**Attendance Officer**

# Eco Garden

## Eco-Garden at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form

The eco-garden at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form has a bit of everything, from chickens and rabbits to growing our own food, we have it all! It is kept clean and tidy by a willing group of student volunteers. We even have our own wild area to attract bugs! The garden team this year have planted over 240 trees. This was an outstanding achievement of which we are all very proud. We planted all these trees around the border of our school fields in support of the green canopy initiative. The eco-garden was designed for outdoor learning and we have started to build more seating areas and an outdoor classroom for people to enjoy it. We also do litter picking in the woods and school grounds on a regular basis to keep our school environment clean.



I first joined the garden expecting quiet digging and slow calmness. However, soon after walking inside the garden office to collect a pair of gloves, I came face to face with the six-foot-tall minion costume Mrs Cotterill stores there and realised this would not be a calm garden!

From then on, the school eco-garden has been a constant delight for me. Every Thursday, I walk into school with my bag of old gardening clothes and know that, at the end of the day, I can relax and have fun in a way that can be hard to find in a typical school environment.

Not only has the garden been good for me, it also helps the school in its many exciting and ambitious projects.

Nobody would have expected the tiny school garden to plant over 240 trees around the field.

Nobody would have expected us not only to grow and distribute seedlings to 100 various residents in our school community but also to assemble and hand deliver over 150 Easter bunnies for the students.

And when the Jubilee came around, nobody would have expected to find Mrs Cotterill, our French native and MFL teacher/ gardener stringing up Union Jack bunting over the bushes.

# Eco Garden

Now all we need is more members: people who want to enjoy nature; relax and unwind at the end of the day and give their hard work to a cause that will benefit us all. Whether it is planting a seed, painting a bench or feeding the chickens, there is no shortage of useful and fun things to do.

In the summer, we tend the garden and, in the winter, we organise activities for the school such as making mini Christmas trees out of sticks and embarking on projects like the Botanical Bargains stall. In short, there is something for everyone in the eco-garden and we would love to welcome any new volunteers from all year groups.



All you need is a bag of old clothes, a pair of boots and the motivation to enjoy everything our garden has to offer.

## **Sam - Year 9**

I have been doing gardening for about three months now and I only signed up to it for my DofE but it was quite honestly one of the best decisions I have made in a long time.

I love spending time feeling like I am really doing something beneficial, like I am making a difference for the good of the school but also to myself as it has also really helped my mental health; it is very therapeutic.

Seeing the shrubs I planted in my first time at the club turning into massive awesome orange and peach flowers gave me a surprising feeling of satisfaction; it was pretty symbolic to be honest.

I love how relaxed the atmosphere is and I absolutely LOVE seeing the chickens; they are the most adorable and bonkers things I have ever seen.

I definitely recommend gardening club for anyone who likes a more relaxed, down to earth hobby and wants to spend time with some very cool people!

## **Iona Year 9**



## **The Eco-Garden Club**

### **Where and When**

This year the eco-gardening club has taken place every week on a Wednesday and Thursday after school. Where to go? Just contact Mrs Cotterill in N10 to tell her you are interested in joining us. All you need to bring are gardening clothes (some old clothes that you don't mind getting dirty or messy) and suitable footwear as it can get muddy and wet. Wellies are the best.

### **What we do in the club?**

We usually check on the trees around the field and the top field to check that they have not been blown over by the wind. Re-fill the chicken food and their water with a ball in it during the winter to stop it freezing over. We water all the plants and even plant some new plants, fruit and vegetables. We also sometimes put up decorations depending the month or time or even an important event that's going on around the country.

### **What is inside the garden?**

There are a lot of plants and shrubs growing nicely as well as a multitude of seating areas to sit and enjoy nature or have your lunch in.

Also there is the greenhouse where we can grow seedlings before transplanting them into the raised beds, a decorative wooden dome created by our STEM club which in the summer you can play giant chess in. There is the chicken coop that has six hens and a cockerel inside. And on the side of it, there is the rabbit hutch which has one rabbit so far. We also keep a wild area for bugs and pollinators.

Let's not forget our latest project, the Botanical Bargains stand in the Student leadership area where we sell our produce to staff, students and visitors. which as beans, potatoes and tomatoes.

### **What has happened since January?**

The 240 trees have grown since planted, which was around January–February. There has been five new animals, the four chickens and the rabbit. There are marigolds with the tomatoes to keep parasites away from them. They have been kept in the greenhouse and have grown really well. There is the new chess mat and pieces in the dome. The rhubarb has grown to be massive in the trays on the back wall, as well as the beans there.

### **Why I like going to Gardening club**

I like going to gardening club because it makes a change to sitting down on a computer. I also like it because its a great community project where people like to help each other out and help out with the garden.

It is interesting to see how the plants grow and bloom and I have started myself growing my own lettuce, strawberries and gooseberries. I go to three clubs in a week Gardening club on a Wednesday, Escape Room Club on a Tuesday and STEM on a Thursday. I would recommend to anyone to join Gardening club or any club in general to get more involved.

**Josh - Year 7**

# Eco Garden

Since I started helping out in the eco-garden with Mrs Cotterill, I can honestly say I have learnt so much while being there every week.

But the thing I am most proud of is definitely all the trees we have managed to plant on the surrounding fields of our school. I think this is the thing I am most proud of is because I know that this will help everyone both in the short term and long term .

My favourite addition to the garden recently is definitely the new bunny Bertie because he is really cute .

Overall, I really enjoy the time I spend at the eco-garden, not just because of the things we do but because of the community within it. Everyone there is so friendly and willing to help you with anything you may need . We always have a good laugh and a really fun time.

**Charlie - Year 9**



**Mrs K Cotterill**

**VLE & Learning Technologies Team**



Mrs L Loveridge

Teacher of Art



# Chess

## Chess Tournament

Three teams of four students were selected to compete in the prestigious Stoke-On-Trent Schools Chess tournament at St Thomas More Academy. Our teams thoroughly enjoyed the experience and put up a very good display with one team 'The Blythe Bridge Rooks' finishing third and gaining medals.

The school chess league is coming to a close and has proved to be very popular. Over 40 students have participated and the current top 15 standings are listed below



1st Luke Winfield/Emily Woolridge 30pts

3rd Harry Sharpe 29pts

4th Robin Xu 23 pts

5th Ryley Phillips 22pts

6th Liam Overton /Aaron Winfield 21pts

8th Tommy Hart 19pts

9th Charlie Bladen 18pts

10th Liam Wootton 17pts

11th Henry Adams/Josh Butler 16pts

13th Tom Beard 15pts

14th Micah Heath 14pts

15th Benjy Blumstein/Sabian Weston 12pts

**Mr K Pugh**

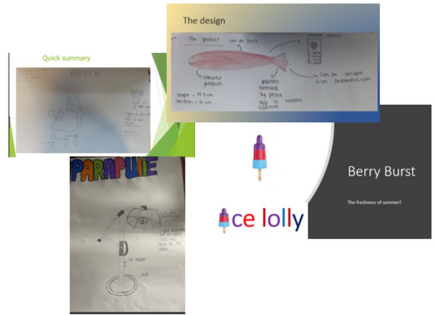
**Teacher of Maths**

## Business Enterprise

Our Year 10 GCSE students have been busy designing summer products, they did a great job and there were some fantastic ideas ranging from a kinetic beach umbrella and a dog ball thrower to new ice lollies and motorised fish to help kids swim. Putting all the theory learnt from their first year as business students into practice. Fantastic ideas and effort, Year 10!

Mrs P Hart-Cadman

Teacher of Business and Computing



# DT

## Design & Technology



A massive well done to all of our DT students this year. The department has been a hive of creativity and students have gained lots of new experiences with new projects and have embraced the challenges. In food technology, a number of Year 9 students got to complete food practical lessons for the first time having had two years of restrictions and they very

quickly closed the gap. Year 7 students have gone from strength to strength in all aspects of DT demonstrating confidence in the food rooms and using the equipment in the workshops. Almost all Year 8 students completed their LED lights with great skill and precision and board games this year have been stunning.

Mr D Hughes

Curriculum Leader of DT

# School Nurse

We are pleased to inform you that as well as referrals to outside agencies where appropriate to support our students, we can also offer a referral to the school nursing service through contact and discussion with our Designated Safeguarding Lead Mrs Owen s.owen@bb-hs.co.uk. The school nurse can offer support around mental health and wellbeing, physical health concerns amongst other concerns.

However, did you know that you can access Staffordshire's school nursing service online as well as face to face? Our School Nurse visits Blythe Bridge every two weeks through the appointment service, but you can also find out information and self-refer in to services via the following website: <https://www.mpft.nhs.uk/services/health-visiting-and-school-nursing> and the online drop-in service:

## **SCHOOL NURSE** **DROP-IN** for Parents/Carers & Young People

**WHEN**  
Every Thursday  
Time: 15.30 - 16.30

including  
School  
Holidays

**WHERE**  
Your mobile phone/device  
& a quiet place to chat

**HOW**  
Scan the QR  
code or type  
the short URL  
into your  
browser:



[mpft.live/schoolnurse](https://mpft.live/schoolnurse)

**ALL AGES  
EVENT**

**ADVANCE  
TICKETS**  
£0 not required

### **ON THE DAY**

1. Scan or enter the link into your browser between the advertised times
2. Enter your contact details
3. Wait in the private virtual waiting room (no one else will know you are waiting)
4. Your School Nurse will let you in to the virtual room

### **FAQS**

Confidential.  
Chat about anything.  
Secure platform.  
Not recorded.  
No new app needed.



Mrs S Owen

Senior Leader & Safeguarding Lead



# Stoke City Inspires

## Stoke City Inspires

10 students participated in the celebration event this term. The event was a virtual event which involved schools from all over the North West region and the Midlands. Each school showcased their designs from the recycling competition with students having the opportunity to ask questions and evaluate their projects using feedback from other students. The students then used this feedback to formulate a plan for a future social action project. The experience has been very rewarding for the students and they have really enjoyed it. Every student has identified that they have improved their confidence and resilience whilst participating in the sessions each week, both valuable skills which will help their progress throughout their school life.



**Miss T Matthias**

**Pupil Premium Mentor**

# Inspires Rewards Afternoon

## Swimming Afternoon

The students participated in a fun swimming afternoon as a reward for all of their hard work throughout this year. The students took part in water volleyball and water polo. The students split into two teams and worked together to master the skills of each game. The students both had fun and developed their team building skills and resilience. Everyone worked extremely hard and really enjoyed participating in the games. The students also had some free time to enjoy using the water basketball hoop, mini surf board and floats throughout the afternoon. Everyone really enjoyed the afternoon and went home smiling.

## Library Workshops

Ten students participated in three library workshops throughout this academic year. The students reviewed their favourite books, read a play and discovered how to use the library effectively. The students also took part in fun team building activities and developed their confidence to share their ideas within a group environment. Each group had the challenge to firstly create a story within their team. After this the students had a set time to retell their story through the use of the Lego characters. On



completion of their models the students chose one member of the group to tell the story to the rest of the group. Each group also had the opportunity to both ask and answer questions and give feedback to help each group develop their stories even further. The students worked really hard throughout the afternoon and can be very proud of all of their hard work, whilst participating in the three workshops.

**Miss T Matthias**

**Pupil Premium Mentor**

# Charity Work

## The Gingerbread Centre

This academic year, our Year 10 students have been raising funds for local charity, The Gingerbread Centre. They have donated items at Christmas, completed a range of charity events throughout the year and have recently organised a bake sale. We are extremely proud of their successes as they have raised a total of £167.70 for the charity, in addition to all of the items donated at Christmas- a perfect display of our school values, pride, respect and kindness!

The money raised will be sent to the charity to support the amazing work they do in our local area, supporting vulnerable families.

# Enrichment

## Peak Wildlife Park

In May, some of our Year 10 students who are interested in animal care/veterinary visited Peak Wildlife Park in Leek with Mr Aston and Mrs Reynolds.

Our students received a tour of the park, hearing about the various pathways into the animal care sector and the keepers' experiences. Students were also given the opportunity to

attend feeding times for some of the animals and had time to explore the park- they were also lucky enough to feed the wallabies!

It was a great day out that provided students with an enrichment experience and knowledge of how they can prepare themselves for their future careers. It is safe to say that we have a number of animal enthusiasts in Y10!

Thank you @peakwildlifepark for a great day!

Mr O Aston

Cover Supervisor



# UniLife

## Staffs UniLife

We decided to take part in Staffs UniLife to get a taster of the university experience. Over the course of three days we got to stay in university accommodation for two nights, try the food and experience lectures with almost 70 people from across the UK.

When we first arrived we took part in a team bonding exercise which included a Crystal Maze type challenge. We met our flat mates who we would be sharing our accommodation with and then went off to do a meditation session. Later that evening, we went to the student union to do karaoke before heading back to our flats.

The next morning we enjoyed a full English breakfast and went off to our first lectures - we could choose from a wide range that included sport and exercise, media studies and criminology. It gave us a real feel for what studying at university was like.

On the final day, we had a huge farewell meal and had a beach party. International millionaire and motivational speaker, David Hyner, gave us an inspiring talk before we accepted awards and said our goodbyes.

It was a great chance to meet new people, sample what life will be like when we go away to study at this level and really see if university is an option. For anyone who goes into the sixth form, we really recommend Staffs UniLife as it's a great opportunity and has shown us how exciting and enriching university life can

The logo for UniLife features the word "uni" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, followed by the word "life" in a blue, cursive script font.

Mrs K Baines

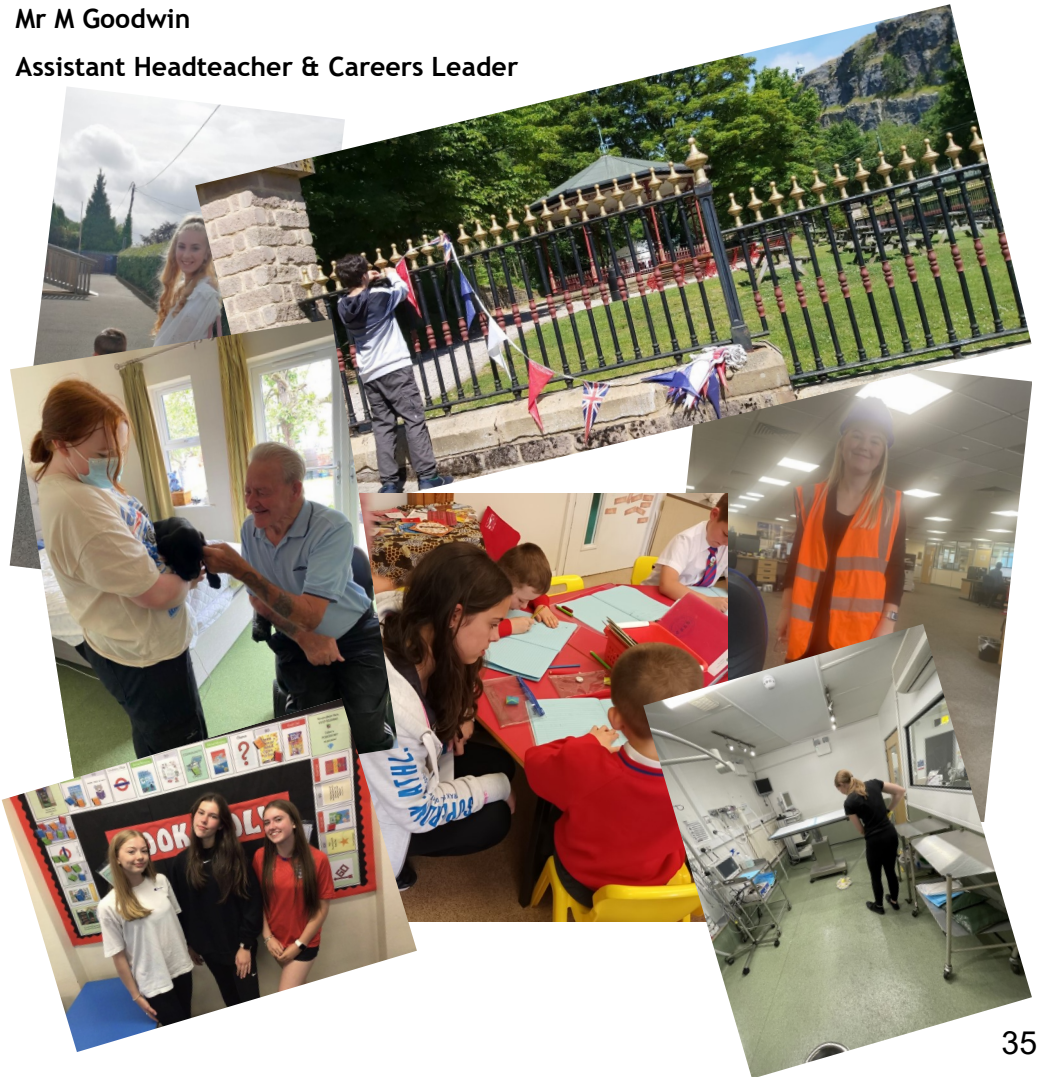
Assistant Head of Sixth Form and Curriculum Leader of Drama

# Work Experience

It was great this year to send our Year 10 and 12 students out to work experience for a week. We have received really positive feedback from employers, our students have displayed our school values, pride respect and kindness outside of the classroom. It was a triumph to place almost all students in Year 10 and 12, giving students many worthwhile experiences which have been missed these last two years. Many students performed so highly, they were asked to do further days to extend their placements and offered opportunities post 16.

**Mr M Goodwin**

**Assistant Headteacher & Careers Leader**





# Art in Motion

Art In Motion was a fantastic success. We had 80+ students and 180 parents/family/friends and alumni in the audience. The show was a fantastic success and we can not thank the students enough for their hard work on making the show and incredible success.



The one-to-one peripatetic dance lessons have been a great success this year. The students have worked hard to develop their routines this term and have put in many hours of practice. A number of the students have performed their routines in the end of term dance show, Art in Motion. This is the first time most of the students have ever performed in front of an audience. Miss Powell has been working with the students throughout this year and said that the students have worked really hard on their performance in preparation for the Art in Motion show. We are extremely proud of the students and their dedication and commitment to dance, well done, the performance was amazing.



**Miss E Housley**

**Curriculum Leader of Dance & Work Related Learning**



## Jacob G

There are exciting times ahead for Jacob G in Year 12 with his cricket.

Jacob trained with the Staffordshire U18 cricket squad through the winter and since the cricket season started in earnest, he has impressed with his bowling and been picked for Staffordshire Development and U21 squad too. Some of the highlights of his bowling figures for Staffordshire, who are top of their U18 T20 group, are 2 for 8 off four overs, 1 for 13 off three overs.

In a recent 3 day match against Warwickshire in July as part of the Staffs U18, Jacob posted bowling figures of (first innings) 3 for 55 off 16 overs and (second innings) 1 for 37 off 10 overs. This effort helped Staffordshire win by 6 wickets.

This has now led Warwickshire to call up Jacob to play this week against Yorkshire (as Warwickshire is classed as a major county, they can call up from minor counties). This is a great opportunity for Jacob and very exciting as it gives him the opportunity to play against better players and be noticed by coaches and managers for higher placed teams. We wish him all the best.



Mrs K. Baines

Assistant Head of Sixth Form and Curriculum Leader of Drama

# Two

## School Play

Two was written by Jim Cartwright in 1991 and follows the owners and customers in a pub over the course of an evening. The pub represents something different for each person - a sanctuary, freedom, solace, their only pleasure in a day or even the only thing they are currently able to care for.

Professionally, the play is performed with just two actors who multi-role each character throughout and is written to make us laugh and make us cry.

Our cast of Year 10 and 11 students (and Rory) have worked hard throughout since auditions back in September. They make me very proud with their mature attitude and hard work - even with the dreaded Covid lurking in the background for many months of disrupted rehearsals.

Thank you for supporting them.

## Cast

Landlord - Leo P

Landlady - Olivia C

Moth - Daniall L

Maudie - Cadence K

Old Man - Daniel B

Mr Iger - Mrs K Baines

Mrs Iger - Katie B

Lesley - Freya M

Roy - Daniall L

Fred - Daniel B

Alice - Katie B

Woman - Mrs K Baines

Boy - Rory S



Mrs K. Baines

## Return of Fieldwork

Our Year 10 geographers have undertaken two fieldwork investigations which relates to the GCSE geography specification. Our students have had the opportunity to visit Carding Mill Valley and Stafford. These form part of physical and human investigations.

At Carding Mill Valley, our geographers gained some real-life experience both in terms of seeing river processes in action and in terms of working as a team to collect data towards their first geographical enquiry. Staff have been extremely impressed with the enthusiasm of our geographers. One group collected more data than any other in the past ten years which is an impressive feat. In Stafford, students got the opportunity to investigate how housing changes through the town and collect their own primary data which they will analyse next year. Of course, the visits are an extremely important part of the GCSE geography course and the pupils that attended will have collected data which will hopefully allow them to achieve outstanding results in their paper 3 at the end of Year 11. Students will have taken away positive memories which will stay with them for the rest of their lives. Despite the wind and rain which affected both groups, the students were some of the most passionate and serious geographers that we have ever taken to Carding Mill Valley.



Current Year 12 students have already visited Ainsdale beach and sand dunes, Shelton, Carding Mill Valley and Castleton this year and have had similar memorable experiences.

Over the next year or so the geography department are planning on running a number of educational visits including visits to the Sefton Coast and Liverpool with Key stage 3, Iceland in October 2023 for GCSE and A-level students, North Wales with the next cohort of Year 12 and the Lake District with the next cohort of GCSE students.

# Year 9 Drop Down Day

## Drop Down Activities

Year 9 experienced a Drop Down day on Wednesday 29th June with a carousel of activities throughout the day. Outside companies including Hitachi, Connectr and the Army came into school and the P.E. department completed a Commonwealth Games event. They learnt more about what to include in a C.V. and how to write a covering letter when applying for a job role, a design and engineering group task and army drills and skills.

A group of Year 8 and 9 students went to Edge Hill University, Liverpool on Thursday 7th July to discover more about University life and the courses on offer. They had a talk in the lecture theatre introducing them to Higher Education, completed several workshops and had a tour of the campus. All the students had a fantastic day exploring what University life entailed.

“I thought it was very inspirational and helped me decide that I do want go to University. I learnt more about the future employment opportunities if you go to University and the University experience.” Sydney Year 8



Mrs N Groves

Teacher of Mathematics

# The Brilliant Club

## Beyond The Gallery

Six Year 10 students have graduated with 'The Brilliant Club' this term with a scholarship qualification. They have worked with a PhD tutor over the spring and summer term on 'Beyond the Gallery: Contemporary Art and Activism', below is a description of the course they have followed and more information about their tutor:

From the streets to social media, from Black Lives Matter to #MeToo, in 'Beyond the Gallery: Contemporary Art and Activism' we considered the relationship between public art and activism and how public art contributes to our understanding of activism. The course was made up of research driven content and university-style seminars and assignments, so students would get a taste of what it is like to be a university student.

PhD tutor Frankie Morgan is a doctoral researcher at the University of Birmingham in the school of Languages, Culture, Art History and Music. Her research focusses on the intertwining of social media and the visual culture of contemporary feminisms and the intergenerational relationship between feminist waves. She completed her undergraduate and Masters degrees at the University of East Anglia in History of Art.

Our students graduated at Warwick university amongst other schools who took part. The achievements of our students were phenomenal, where four achieved a grade 1st and two achieved a 2:1. During the graduation event, Macy Abel-White delivered a speech to describe their experiences during the qualification. Her content and delivery were outstanding and led the way for the other schools at the event to follow. Well done all Brilliant Club members!

**Mr M Goodwin**

**Assistant Headteacher & Careers Leader**





# MScap

## Escape Rooms

After MScap visiting our school in the Spring term, they set a competition for all students who participated in the event, to design their own puzzle which could be used in an escape room. The entries were collected in from over 50 students submitting puzzle ideas. MScap chose a winning team made up of, Jorja H, Aimee B and Libby H. They met with the team from MScap to look at how their puzzle will appear in one of there live escape rooms. The puzzle will be played LIVE over the summer break and the students will visit the escape room in September to check on the progress of their creation. This is a great example of our students working with local businesses to develop their skills and give experiences for them to remember.



**Mr M Goodwin**

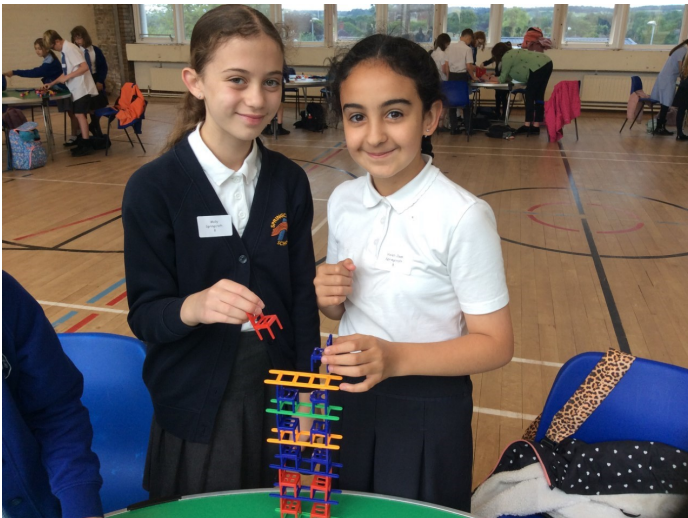
**Assistant Headteacher & Careers Leader**



# Puzzle Day

## Mathematics Puzzle Day 2022

The mathematics department were delighted to invite our year 5 students to take part in Maths puzzle Day 2022. The day consisted of a mixture of puzzles and problem solving, for students across 6 different primary schools. Mr Goodwin filled the gym with lots of new and exciting puzzles including 'beat the box' and 'stacking chairs and ladders'. Students were placed into teams, where they attempted to solve as many puzzles as possible. Some proved to be trickier than others, with only 1 team completing all puzzles set. Teams then moved onto a codebreaking workshop with Mrs Whitehurst, where students had the chance to crack coded messages using the 'Caesar Cipher Wheel' and finally teams battled it out in Mr Pugh's famous maths quiz. The winning team from each session were awarded a certificate and prize. With over 180 students in attendance, it was a fantastic day for all involved and we look forward to welcoming students back next year!



Mrs A Whitehurst

Core Subject Leader of Mathematics

# Bronze DofE

## Duke of Edinburgh Award

Our Bronze DofE students headed to the Peak District earlier this month for their qualifying expedition. The weather held off and everyone had a fantastic time cooking, exploring and spending time with friends outdoors. A big well done to all of them for passing the expedition section!



Miss A Townshend

Cover Supervisor

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# Transition

As the summer term progresses, we have continued to invite KS2 students to school premises for planned activities. The Y4 Olympic day, Y5 science fest, Feasted cooking activities, maths puzzle day alongside open week have been huge successes.

Year 5 student, Evie from Meir Heath Academy said “I really enjoy cooking and it was great to learn from a professional chef. It was nice meeting children from other schools”.

Year 5 student Beth from Forsbrook commented “the puzzle day was great fun. I worked with students from St Peters and William Amory and made new friends. The puzzles were great fun and I completed the penguin challenge”

Director of Progress for Transition, Mr Jackson explained “this is a key term for Y5 students and families as they consider the options available for secondary education. Year 6 students will have the opportunity to attend their transition mornings in the Autumn term.

## **Transition dates for your diary:**

Tuesday 13th September: Fulford Primary

Tuesday 20th & 27th September: Meir Heath Academy

Wednesday 28th September: Forsbrook Primary

Tuesday 4th October: Springcroft Primary

Tuesday 11th October: St Peters Primary

Tuesday 18th October: The William Amory Primary

Thursday 22nd September: Year 6 Open Evening

Year 6 students starting in September had the opportunity to spend time familiarising themselves with their new surroundings on Monday 4th & Tuesday 5th July. All 191 students in attendance experienced a variety of lessons across the curriculum and had the opportunity to meet new students and prominent staff ready for their new academic journey. Mr Jackson commented “the students gained confidence as the two days progressed. They learnt the new routines required at high school, had the opportunity to meet form tutors and establish new friendship groups.

We look forward to welcoming the new Year 7 cohort into school at 8:45am on Wednesday 6th September 2022. We will again be holding our annual new intake Evening on Thursday 22nd September for Year 6 students and families. Arrangements will be sent to parents and guardians at the start of the new academic year.

**Mr A Jackson**

**Progress Director for Transition**



# Music

## A Year In Music

What a year we've had this year! It has felt a little surreal at times after the online concerts.

Lots of tremendous memories have been made in the music department this year. From the Christmas Concert to the Recorder Festival at the Victoria Hall to our latest concert - An American Summer Soiree! We've had lots of fun this year making music together again.

An American Summer Soiree in particular was a highlight of the year. Seeing the students on the stage, performing in multiple ensembles or even just the one, or as a soloist, the evening encapsulated the passion we have for music here at BBHS. Whether musicians are beginners, intermediates or more advanced, all students are welcome to take part in music.





During classroom music we have also been having a lot of fun. Year 7 have been looking at musical theatre, playing different pieces and culminating in singing songs from musical theatre productions. Year 8 have been studying blues music and playing with more dexterity and independence. Year 9 have been working on protest songs and then marketing their own band. We've looked at different careers in these aspects, from costume designers and prop makers to sales and marketing and instrument makers. There are many careers within the music industry and students have been exploring this in their lessons.

We are looking forward to welcoming new musicians into the department in September. Rehearsals and instrumental lessons will start on 12th September.



**Miss Balewski & Mr Brookes**  
Curriculum Leader & Teacher of Music

# Citizenship Fundraising

## Charity Walk

Last weekend, Kaylee and Freya in Year 7 did a 7km walk around Trentham Lake and so far have raised £286+ for charity. The girls chose to do the charity walk after being given a project in their citizenship lesson to do something to help the community. Kaylee and Freya decided to do a fundraiser for charity and after initially considering selling sweets and giving the profits to charity, decided that a sponsored walk would be simpler and potentially more profitable. The girls were sponsored by neighbours, family and friends for the distance they managed to walk around Trentham Lake and met up last weekend to complete as many laps as they could. Both girls agreed that the money should go to their preferred charity - Cancer Research - as a charity that is close to their families (I am sure it is to many of us.) Though Kaylee and Freya said that they ached a lot afterwards, they were both glad to have completed 2.5 laps around the lake. The school and Kaylee and Freya's families are incredibly proud of both girls for their efforts, enthusiasm and generosity.



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