

WINTER Newsletter

The title 'WINTER Newsletter' is rendered in a large, stylized font. 'WINTER' is in a thick, blue, blocky font with a white outline and a slight 3D effect. 'Newsletter' is in a thinner, light blue font below it. The background of the title area features snowflakes, a snowman on the left, and a girl with blonde hair in a red dress on the right. Behind the letters are silhouettes of evergreen trees.

Congratulations to the winner of the art department competition, Isobelle W. Turn to page 4 to find out more about our exciting Christmas card competition.

Headteacher's Welcome



As we approach the end of term it is remarkable just how many activities and events our students have had the opportunity to get involved with. Whilst many of these, such as the Year 7 Festival of Arts, Year 8 Lille Christmas market trip and the annual Christmas concert are well established, some of the highlights of the term have come from those events that have only recently been introduced. We are delighted to share photographs of students working in partnership with staff at Hilderstone Hall, this provided memorable experiences for our students, as well as the residents. Poetry reading, gardening, creative performances, and even a nail decorating session were so successful that I hope they will continue in the future. Other enriching activities offered for the first time this term have included the football academy with

PVFC, the Year 10 geography residential trip and our very own escape room. Obviously, opportunities such as these would not happen without the hard work and dedication of our staff and on behalf of the leadership team and governors many thanks for all you do - it is genuinely appreciated and never taken for granted.

Have a wonderful Christmas break and I look forward to welcoming back our students on Wednesday 4th January.

Mrs R Johnson

Headteacher

PRK - Respect

This term the PRK committee have been focused on our impact on the environment. Students met to discuss ways in which they could encourage their peers to take individual action on climate change and identified how students travel to school as a potential 'quick win'.

The committee surveyed students to find out how they travel to school and with the findings have met to plan a strategy to reduce our carbon footprint which will be launched in the spring term. Please look out for our 'Park and Stride' campaign and motivational posters to get students walking or riding their bikes more regularly.

Due to the keen interest our school has in the environment, the PRK committee recently decided to complete a survey to see how pupils arrive to school. For example, in Year 9, 39 children walk to school. However, 63 get a lift in a car. This pattern is consistent throughout all the year groups in school.

The committee has done this with the aim that we could improve the way in which our pupils travel to school and do our bit for a healthier environment. In the summer, we plan to carry out the survey again to see if the number of students taking eco-friendly routes to school has improved.



L.Finney

PRK Committee

Christmas Card Competition

Year 7 Christmas Card Competition

All students in Year 7 have been putting their imagination and expertise in digital tools to good use for this year's Christmas card competition. The standard of entry was again exceptionally high and the cards from each class are shown below in the collage.



Lilly J



Fred M - Winner!



Bella W



Mr G Broomhall

Curriculum Leader of Business Studies & Computer Science

Sixth Form Charity Work

Harvest Collection

Sixth form students donated items for the school's harvest collection in October. Pictured are Brandon Y and Jamie R with some of the donations that will go to a local food bank. Thank you to all students across the years who have donated items.



Children In Need

A huge thank you to the sixth form council for organising a week of activities to raise money for Children in Need - lunchtime bingo, Just Dance competition, culminating in a dress up day and treasure hunt. We have raised a fantastic £115 - Well done everyone!



Charity Walk

Students in 12AD, along with their form tutor Mrs Dodgson, set themselves the challenge of each walking 100 miles in October to raise money for cancer research. In total, £1280 was raised. A huge well done to James M, Dan B, Jack L, Oliver L, Callum P, Lucy H, Maddie J, Megan W, Georgia B, Holly M and Georgia W for your fundraising efforts, and thank you to everyone that donated!

Mrs K. Baines

Assistant Head of Sixth Form and Curriculum Leader of Drama



Drama

Blood Brothers

The Year 10 GCSE drama class have spent this half term acting out sections of Blood Brothers by Willy Russell. This is in preparation for their written exam where they will have to answer questions on how they would act a character in a scene as well as design costumes and set for it.



Mrs K. Baines

Assistant Head of Sixth Form and Curriculum Leader of Drama

RE Trip to Derby

A group of Year 11, 12 and 13 students visited the Derby Open Centre to participate in a faith trail. Students had the opportunity to visit a baptist church, mosque and a gurdwara. Whilst there, guides discussed the key beliefs within each of the faiths, with a focus on baptism, the five K's in Sikhism and the five pillars of Islam. It was a wonderful opportunity to have a greater understanding of the different faiths within our community. Students were fortunate enough to sample food from the gurdwara, whilst understanding the importance of helping others in need.



Mrs L Cartlidge

Head of Year 9 & Curriculum Lead for Philosophy and Ethics

Christmas Carol Service

Year 7 Christmas Carol Service

On Monday 5th December, Year 7 students attended a Christmas carol service at St Peter's Church. The service focused on the true meaning of Christmas, whilst exploring one of our key value of 'kindness.' A number of Year 7 readers contributed to the service and all read beautifully and confidently. 'Ding, Dong Merrily on High', and 'Hark the Herald' were



played wonderfully by the school orchestra and 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' and 'Away in a Manger' were played by the orchestra and sung by all. The choirs rendition of the 'Greatest Gift' and 'We have a Saviour' were a joy to hear. 'This is me' was a personal favourite, with all students

and staff filling the church with their rendition. A big thank you to all staff and students involved, who made the Christmas carol service so special and an even bigger thank you to Reverend Jonathan, Soph and Archie from St Peter's Church for hosting our service, enabling it to run smoothly and successfully.



Mrs L Cartlidge

8Head of Year 9 & Curriculum Lead for Philosophy and Ethics



Frog Parent Portal

Here at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form, we implement a service that helps us connect with parents more efficiently. We call this service the Parent Portal.

The best user experience is achieved through a laptop/desktop computer by visiting the website **frog.bb-hs.co.uk**. The Parent Portal is also available through MyFrog; an app designed specifically for smart phones.

The Parent Portal grants access to a pool of information, such as attendance data, behaviour data, homework, timetable, form tutor and teacher comments, letters home and revision materials.

How to login to the Parent Portal



Computer / Laptop

1. Go to **frog.bb-hs.co.uk**
2. Enter username/password



Tablet / Smart Phone

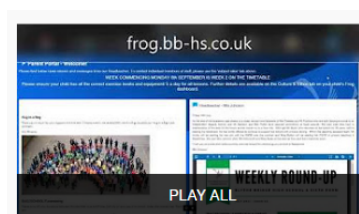
1. Download the MyFrog app
2. Launch the app
3. Enter **frog.bb-hs.co.uk** as the school URL
4. Enter username/password

Please email **frogsupport@bb-hs.co.uk** if you require a password reset or further information.

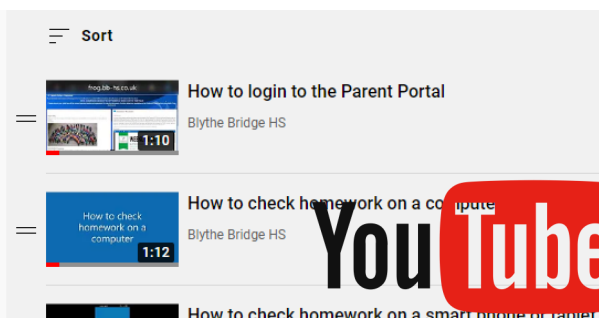
Parent Portal Tutorials

We have a number of tutorials for navigating the Parent Portal, all of which are available on our YouTube channel.

Visit: tinyurl.com/ymj8pkz5 or go to www.bb-hs.co.uk/parentportal



Parent Portal Tutorial Series



Year 7 Stars of the Term

7AK

Mikayla W - An excellent start to Year 7. Very positive in lessons and around the school. A superb role model for other students.

7BR

Ellie S - Ellie, you always show a great amount of pride, respect and kindness every day. Your attitude and attainment in lessons and towards your peers is excellent. You have also demonstrated fantastic improvement over this term in always remembering and having all your belongings with you now, well done!

7KK

Seth G for working hard, being consistently outstanding during lessons and having a good attitude.

7KMP

Gracie M for getting involved in lots of activities around school and showing excellent support for charity initiatives.

7JB

Tilly H - Diligence in lessons all term; a positive, hardworking attitude; showing respect to staff at all times; working to the school expectations.

7NC

Heidi H- Heidi's determination, resilience and commitment to her academic life is clear to see. She is such a polite and well-mannered student who encompasses all of Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form core values.

7HP

Sophie P - Sophie offers her help to many different members of staff and peers without being asked to: offering to help set up tables and chairs for lunch, help arrange art exhibitions, help carry equipment down to PE lessons. She makes fantastic contributions in lessons and are a generally positive and friendly person to be around. Sophie have done themselves and their whole form proud.

Miss K Fargher

Head of Year 7

Head of Year Comments

What a fantastic first term Year 7 students have had. They have had a range of opportunities and many have taken them with both hands.

This term, we asked Year 7 students to apply to be student ambassadors. The applications we received were fantastic and all applicants should be extremely proud of what they entered. They made the job of choosing very difficult for our Year 11 prefects. A special well done to Seth G and Poppy H who were awarded the student ambassador role.

Year 7 students have also taken part in the hobbies exhibition. This is where students have shared their hobbies with form tutors and created a display board. Three representatives from each form have then been chosen to present to judges. Judges included Mrs Johnson, Mr Jackson, Mr Leese, Miss Blissett and Miss Fargher. All representatives did their forms proud but the winning form went to 7KK.

They have also been involved in the Festival of Arts, the Christmas carol service, the talent show and bikeability plus many other opportunities across the curriculum.

Students have been working extremely hard across the curriculum and there is a large number of the year group that has managed to receive enough points to partake in the bronze award on Monday 12th December.

Well done Year 7 on a fantastic start to high school. You should be proud of how far you have come.

Miss K Fargher

Head of Year 7

Top Achievers

Sophie H	986
Freya L	937
Lily M	929
Malachi H	882
Jacob H	877
Pippa S	866
Fraya W	852
Joshua E	848
Jack M	838
Casey J	838

Year 8

Head of Year Comments

Another busy and exciting half term as we approach the festive break. This half term in citizenship you have all learnt about how to manage your money and we have looked at the world of finance

A big thank you to staff and parents/carers who attended the Year 8 progress evening. It is always a pleasure to talk about the progress of our students and the next steps to ensure they get the best out of the time at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form.

As a year group we have also had an opportunity to work on leadership, creativity and speaking skills with our enterprise day. I had the privilege of judging the presentations and I was very impressed with the products and pitches I listened to. We have also had a talent show with many Year 8s participating and receiving many votes. The winners were our very own “Spice Girls” group, Kamron W, Mikey P, Harrison L, Blake B and Lucas R. A huge thank you to Mrs Pheasey for organising these events.

As a year group we have also nominated an award for each of our core values in school. Isla D has won the award for “Pride” for always taking pride in how she presents her uniform, equipment and PE Kit. Isla D consistently achieves outstanding behaviour for learning scores as she holds high expectations for herself.

Leo F won the award for “Respect”, Leo has attended our school's gardening club since he started with us in Year 7. He is always seen respecting the school environment by picking up litter and taking care of the school animal's welfare.

Freya A has won the “Kindness” award as she has been involved in many charity events. On the Year 6 open evening she wowed children and parents with her fireworks displays (burning metal filings in the science department).

Mr K Knight

Top Achievers

Chelsea R	781
Jessica C	773
Michael F	763
Nicole S	753
Dexter H	740
Freya A	738
Holly T	718
Betsy B	703
Annabelle W	696
Karina H	695
Robin X	695

Head of Year Comments

Pride, respect and kindness has once again been at the heart of everything that we do at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form, therefore to see these values in action on a daily basis by so many of our students is a joy to see. We have been blessed to have an outstanding PE department who go above and beyond arranging sporting fixtures and attending tournaments to provide students with opportunities outside of the classroom. Their hard work has paid off, with an excellent term of sporting results, including a very successful term for the Year 9 boys' and girls' footballers. I look forward to celebrating more sporting success in the new term.

The kindness shown by many in regards to the charity work of the Pebbles Legacy and a number of our Year 9 musicians who gave up their time on an inset day to have a cake and coffee morning to raise funds for the music department, makes me an extremely proud head of year. In the new year, we will be continuing our fundraising ideas in the hope of raising much needed funding for our year group charity, the Pebbles Legacy.

Year 9 examinations will commence in the new year. Therefore it is never too early to start revising in preparation for these. Subject departments have created subject knowledge organisers for all of the units in which students will be examined on therefore I would urge all students to utilise these revision materials. Each subject area on frog also has additional revision resources that will compliment classwork.

Miss Margaritelli has been working alongside Miss Lovatt with 9SAL in preparation for Miss Lovatt commencing her maternity leave. Miss Margaritelli will be taking full ownership of 9SAL after Christmas therefore please contact Miss Margaritelli if you have any queries. We wish Miss Lovatt all the best in the safe arrival of her little one.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your on going support throughout this academic term and also to the pastoral team who work tirelessly in supporting with your child's education. Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Mrs L Cartlidge

Head of Year 9 & Curriculum Lead for Philosophy and Ethics

Top Achievers

Jorja H	1050
Will H	999
Chloe B	899
Ryan E	892
George M	856
Isabelle R	827
Ayaan R	792
William S	762
Skye M	741
Holly B	708

Year 9 Pride, Respect and Kindness

9LRO

Pride - Olivia - has consistently demonstrated pride throughout the school year. She volunteers within the music department for flute and singing and regularly volunteers for other school events. Olivia is an unsung hero in our group so I would like her to know that we are proud of her and all she contributes.

Respect - Demi K - role models respect at all times. Demi has impeccable manners and is polite and thoughtful always. Demi wears her uniform with consistent respect and behaves as a role model in school. She is considerate of others and caring. Demi is a quiet light in our form. Keep shining Demi!

Kindness- Callum W - Callums hand is the 1st to go up when we are looking for volunteers. He always offers to help his peers and form. When we had a new student he was the 1st to volunteer to fully support their transition into form and school. He is extremely kind and thoughtful at all times. Callum also made sure he has donated to the Year group charity and discussed the charity with others. Callum has a big heart and should be commended for that.

9SAL

Pride - Lexi M - Lexi takes pride in her uniform, her reading and her class work. Lexi is a role model for other students in the form and encompasses this value completely.

Respect - Tyler H - Tyler is a kind and respectful student. Tyler always says hello to me on the corridor and I am in awe of his involvement in charity work such as the Harvest Festival.

Kindness - Ella R - Ella is like a ray of sunshine. She is kind and respectful and works well with all of her peers. She is quick to help other students who are struggling with Citizenship work.

9SL

Tobie W - Respect - Tobie is always respectful of teachers, staff and other students. Every day, without fail, she checks in with me (and other teachers) and asks how we are and tells us to 'have a good day'.

Year 9 Pride, Respect and Kindness

Emma G - Pride - Without fail, every single week Emma (my shining star), never fails to impress her teachers with her ridiculously high standards (for herself), work ethic and sense of achievement.

Kindness - Dominic R - Really impressed me this term. He went out of his way to sincerely tell another student that their new hairstyle looked lovely on them. That student practically lit up when she was told this.

9LLM

Pride - William E - William always takes pride in his work and how he behaves around school. Even when he has found times difficult, he has an unwavering pride in everything he does.

Respect - Joshua S - Joshua is one of the most polite, well-mannered and respectful students I have met. He is always courteous to students and staff.

Kindness - Charlotte S - Charlotte is always ready to help others and will often put the feelings of other students before her own.

9LM

Pride - Gracie G - Gracie always takes pride in her work and her appearance. Her uniform is perfect and her work is beautifully presented.

Respect - Charley E - Charley shows immense respect for the rules in lessons and in form time.

Kindness - Darcy E - Darcy always shows concern and empathy for others.

9HBL

Pride- George M - Since we returned in September, George's confidence has grown in his lesson contributions and he has taken great pride in ensuring his uniform is perfect every day.

Respect- Will H - He incredibly polite and always greets staff whenever he sees them. He is a role model for his peers. Will has also shown great kindness in supporting his classmates.

Kindness- Isabelle R - Since the start of September, Isabelle R has shown her maturity and kindness repeatedly. Even when faced with challenges, she has chosen to remain thoughtful instead.

Year 9 Pride, Respect and Kindness

9SFR

Pride - Ethan B - for significant improvement in his attitude and effort at school - WELL DONE!

Respect - Jack P - for maintaining consistently high standards across all aspects of school - WELL DONE!

Kindness - Lily F - for always being willing to help out or volunteer with a smile - WELL DONE!

9RJJ

Pride - Ruby L - for taking real pride in her school work and impressing staff in Geography, Computer Science and Citizenship lessons this term.

Respect - Nieve W - for always being respectful to staff, paying attention at all times during citizenship, being a good listener and treating other peoples views with respect.

Kindness - Libby H - for always showing kindness to others in lessons and for impressing staff in the Mathematics and DT department this term.

Head of Year Pride, Respect and Kindness Awards

Pride- Elijah C- Elijah is an excellent role model for his peers and fully immerses himself into school life. Elijah has put himself forward for a number of leadership opportunities within the school and shows great maturity in all that he does. Well done Elijah, keep up the hard work!

Respect- Scarlett B- Scarlett has had another extremely successful term and is a fantastic addition to the year group. Scarlett works tirelessly in lessons to perform to the best of her ability, and her work ethic is incredible. Scarlett pushes herself to be the best learner that she can be, and her confidence is ever growing. Scarlett shows great respect to staff and also her peers, and will be an excellent future leader.

Kindness- Ben R- Ben has worked incredibly hard behind the scenes collecting and donating dog toys for the Pebbles Legacy charity. Ben has been incredibly modest with his contributions and has gone above and beyond what is expected of anyone in supporting such a worthy cause.

Head of Year Comments

To get to the end of the autumn term, in the manner that we have as a year group, is some achievement and I could not be prouder of the efforts of every student in Year 10. It can become difficult to motivate yourself with the dark mornings and cold weather, but it has been great to see that initial enthusiasm maintained throughout the duration of the term.

The primary focus of this term has been the transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 and the beginning of their GCSE courses. Feedback from staff has been very positive and I have personally seen how well students have adapted to this new challenge. We have Year 10 mock examinations in April, so have a good run to prepare for these appropriately and ensure that independent study becomes part of the daily routine.

It has been a joy to see so many of our Year 10 students enjoying so many different activities outside of school. From weekly sport and cadets, to having one of our own taking their first steps to become a future Olympic champion. We have club, county and national representatives for different sports and have many others making such a positive impact in the local community. It is a part of their lives that can sometimes go unnoticed in school, but something that we have to applaud and celebrate as much as possible.

I am a great advocate for using any holiday as a time of reflection, especially when it involves starting a new year. I believe 2023 will be an excellent year for our students and I implore them to reflect on their own performance and set themselves goals to achieve in the next twelve months. Having targets offers that continual motivation to succeed and achieve something meaningful, and that can be anything from academics to taking up a new hobby or sport. I want every student in Year 10 to be a well-rounded person, who has many different strings to their bow. A new year offers that chance to make positive change in your lifestyle and shift focus onto something new and exciting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all their hard work over this past term and wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Mr J Gibbons

Head of Year 10

Top Achievers

Ruby G	863
Finlay G	787
Emily C	773
Charlie C	746
Alfie B	718
Jacob W	678
Will D	658
Ava H	637
Immie P	636
George H	634

Year 11

Head of Year Comments

Well done to all Year 11 for a challenging, and hopefully rewarding half term! Looking back over this half term it has been one with a specific focus on mock exams and the impact of these on your final year of study. As a cohort the conduct and application to them was excellent, and I was delighted to see the response of you all at our mock results assembly on 12.12.22. Please ensure you remember how you felt when you opened that letter, and use this as a source of motivation for the rest of the year - some will see this as a feeling they want to replicate, some will want to have a far better results day. Either way it is incredibly powerful!

There have been some great successes in other areas too; there were some amazing outfits and contributions on Children in Need with the 118 men, a clergy and even a pair of pigeons making an appearance. Our senior prefects have been involved in doing assemblies with younger year groups and feeder primary schools, and most recently with donations to the Gingerbread Centre for those less fortunate over the festive period.

Well done to all the students above as well for their nominations for certificates in our achievement assembly; all tutors nominated a student in their form groups for our core values of Pride, Respect and Kindness, also students were rewarded for 100% attendance and the highest number of achievement points.

Pride award:

Janice H, Connor L, Scarlett B, Ellie H, Cerys B, Rebecca R, Charlotte C & Lily-M.

Respect award:

Joshua C, Annabell A, Corey O, Tom H, Gabriel H, Tyler H, Elaina H & Noah H.

Kindness award:

Lexi-Rose T, Devon B, Aoife B, Eva Q, Daisy F, Ava J, Lily-Mae J & Alex W.

Mr J Biggs

Head of Year 11

Top Achievers

Tyler H	645
Dannie S	640
Tanayeh B	638
Katie B	615
Joshua B	599
Phoebe M	579
Cerys B	576
Ryan E	571
Gabriel H	576
Alex W	549

Hilderstone Hall

Art on Canvas

Hilderstone Hall care home, have recently enjoyed another visit from Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form who have generously hosted an intergenerational art master class for residents at the home and have also begun a gardening club.

Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form students presented a Christmas themed master class in “Art on Canvas” Residents really enjoyed the intergenerational gathering sharing creative ideas, tips and techniques.

General Manager, Melanie Fenton said: “We invited the students to the home as a way to support their curriculum and to further expand our very thorough life enrichment programme. The residents at our home had a lot of fun on the day, we are thrilled to have some lovely Christmas art work on display on the Bistro. Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form are welcome to return as often as they can. The hard work of the Year 11 students is impressive, they have been enthusiastic enhancing some areas of the gardens which is very much appreciated.

Hilderstone Hall care home is run by Barchester Healthcare, one of the UK’s largest care providers, which is committed to delivering personalised care across its care homes and hospitals. Hilderstone Hall provides residential care, general nursing care and dementia care for residents from respite care to long term stays.



Sixth Form



On 5th December, we welcomed North Staffordshire Mind into school to deliver a session on mental health. Students in Year 12 and 13 worked together in small groups to complete the session on what the physical signs and symptoms of someone who is struggling with their mental health, what are healthy and unhealthy coping strategies, how to distract your mind and where to access further local support. Students also discussed the key contributing factors that cause our mental health to deteriorate in different areas of our lives.



In November, students in Year 13 welcomed Sophia from Higher Horizons into school to look at how to budget and finance for the future. For university applicants, this is especially important as they look forward to how they manage their higher education and independence in the future. Students learned where to access financial support, as well as looking at how to budget their money to ensure they cover all aspects of their university life, from paying rent and course fees to how much they have left to spend on a weekly food shop.



We also were fortunate to listen to a current post graduate student who studied forensics at Keele University who talked us through her experience of studying at university. She explained what a typical day looks like for an undergraduate student, what the accommodation is like as well as how and what assessments and exams are like. Year 13 in particular were extremely engaged and asked many thoughtful questions to get a further insight into what life at university is like. Students in Year 12 were also able to listen to this presentation and start thinking about their higher education plans.



Sixth Form

Keele University

We have visited Keele University this half term, whilst looking at how to make a competitive application for degree and apprenticeship courses. Students had the opportunity to speak with current students, experience a lecture and have a campus tour.



Our Year 13 students have been completing applications for university, apprenticeships or work placements this term. We are thrilled at the number of offers students have received so far and would like to wish all our students with upcoming interviews the very best of luck!

Careers in the Autumn Term

Sixth form has not only allowed 12EG to get to grips with studying our chosen subjects at an advanced level but studying A level's is also allowing us to develop some transferable career skills such as listening, speaking, problem solving, creativity, aiming high, staying positive, leadership and teamwork. In addition, we have had plenty of opportunities to think about future career options and plan the next steps in how to get onto the university courses, apprenticeships or into our desired workplaces after sixth form.

UK University and Apprenticeship Search Fair

UK University and Apprenticeship Search fair at Edgbaston Stadium in October. It allowed us to visit a huge range of exhibitors and attend seminars which helped us to think much more widely about our career paths and options. One student said "I now have a much clearer idea about how to get into the career I want to go into and the steps I need to take over the next few years in order to achieve this"

Mr Goodwin's Careers Assembly

In November Mr Goodwin delivered an excellent assembly about developing skills for university, further education and successfully entering the world of work. He spoke to us about the changing forecast of available jobs across different sectors throughout Stoke and Staffordshire. It was fascinating to learn that many of the jobs we go into may not even exist yet! We were also introduced to our own career space service which allows us to keep a record of our achievements, key skills, career activities as well giving us access to a service that helps us plan our future and learn about the options that are available to us.

Mrs E Goodwin

Curriculum Leader of Social Science

Sixth Form

Higher Horizons + Staffordshire University Post Graduate Student

We had a visit from a post graduate student studying at Staffordshire University. She told us about university life and what it was like to be a student. She also provided talks about the wider benefits a university course can bring in terms of career progression and taught us the value of taking on working roles at the university whilst studying and how these skills can help us without future.

Guest Speakers

We have been lucky enough to have a visit from a magistrate in criminology, Councillor Tony Pearce came to speak to the politics students and the politics students also had a video meeting with the Rt Hon. The Lord Wills. This has allowed us to discover more about their roles, career pathways and some awareness of other careers within these sectors.

Work Experience

Finally, this term we have all started to think about where we would like to go for a week of work experience at the end of June. This will be a great opportunity for us to get experience in a workplace that we are considering a future career in or visit a placement that allows us to further develop our careers skills set that can be transferable into our future chosen pathways.

Mrs E Goodwin

Curriculum Leader of Social Science

Enrichment

Hug in a Bag Delivery

Students in Years 7 and 8 have demonstrated our school value of kindness in abundance, collating 411 Hug in a Bag care packages for UHNM Charity. A group of students made the trip to the Royal Stoke Hospital to deliver these packages along with £250 to support in improving patient comfort and care. We met with staff who talked about careers in the NHS, and the impact our donations will make.



Charity visit to Inspires Group in School

The UHNM Charity staff paid a visit to our Year 7 Inspires group, to teach them about what work the charity does and to thank them for their hard work in their fundraising activities. We enjoyed meeting 'Gary', the charity mascot, and PR company PREM filmed our work, interviewing some of the students for use in promotional charity material. The students were an absolute credit to our school and spoke with confidence and passion. The video is available to watch on the UHNM Charity Facebook page.



Work Skills Day



On Tuesday 22nd November, Year 8 students were treated to a work skills day, which involved them working collaboratively in teams to design and produce a range of bath bombs for a new cosmetic company. The teams completed various challenges throughout the day, and during period 4, had the opportunity to pitch their ideas to a panel of experts and their peers. Congratulations to the winning team, and well done to all involved - we

were particularly impressed with your speaking, listening, leadership, teamwork and creativity.

Staffordshire Youth Offending Presentation

On Monday 5th December, staff from the Staffordshire Youth Offending Team visited Year 10 students in their assembly, delivering a hard-hitting presentation about the consequences of gang culture, knife crime and the dual enterprise law. Our sincere thanks to Richard Ash and his team for this opportunity for our students.

Upcoming Enrichment:

13th December - Year 7 Inspires group to visit the Royal Stoke University Hospital to participate in their live Christmas show.

30th Jan - UK Parliament Laws and Debating virtual workshop for Year 9

9th Jan - RNLI workshop for Year 7 focusing on water safety

Mrs L Pheasey

Teacher of English

Year 9 Fairy Cakes



Mrs L Shenton
Teacher of Art
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Geography

Geographers in the Lake District



Our Year 10 geographers enjoyed a three-day educational visit to Blencathra in the Lake District. This was the first GCSE residential visit since the Covid-19 pandemic and students definitely made the most of their opportunity to have some independence.

The aim of the residential was to experience the awe and wonder of the Lake District environment and everyone enjoyed the

contrasting surroundings, made even more amazing by lovely clear skies. From amazing views of the undulating terrain in the day to night skies unfettered by light pollution. The purpose of the visit was to complete two investigations. The first investigating a local river to see how its characteristics changes downstream. The second to investigate quality of life in Carlisle by comparing the inner city to suburbs.

Some students were understandably nervous before the visit but absolutely found the experience both beneficial and enjoyable. A particular fulfilling moment for me was seeing a very shy student, get up and join in with a dance on the last night in front of most of the other students. She had a huge smile on her face and really came out of her shell.



Students worked intensely both in the field, in the classroom environment, during the morning and evenings. They also particularly enjoyed their free time playing games with others, watching England vs Wales, and developing skills of independence by making their own packed lunches and being prepared for different activities. Students did not let us down.

A large number of students expressed their thanks and enthusiasm for the opportunity to visit Blencathra and many will join us next year in Iceland and expressed interest in continuing geography at A level and beyond.

Mr A Knight

Curriculum Leader of Geography

Art

Care Home Hilderstone Project

We were invited to work with a local care home and its residents to create an art-based project, where our Year 11 art and design GCSE students worked alongside the residents to create a Christmas tree painting. This was a great opportunity for our students to develop communication, leadership and careers-based skills.



Year 7

Students have been exploring the artwork of the native Haida people. They have produced their own Haida art using pen, pencil crayon and oil pastel. They have also produced a dreamcatcher.



Art

Year 8

Students have been looking at the work of the Mexican portrait artist Frida Kahlo. They have taken inspiration from Kahlo's art and used it to inspire their own portrait painting. They have used watercolour, pencil crayon and collage to create this final piece.



Year 9

Students have been exploring the Pop Art movement looking at the pop artists Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein. They have experimented with mono-type printing and painting techniques. They have looked at how the artists use onomatopoeia and the Ben day Dots technique.



Mrs L Shenton
Teacher of Art

Football Success

U13 Girls Match Reports

The U13 girls football team has had a phenomenal start to the academic year filling our trophy cabinet with silverware. On the 17th of November they travelled across the city and took part in the city 5-a-side tournament. During the tournament they won all of their games except for one draw. They therefore won their group and progressed through to the semi-final and then final, taking the trophy home with a very convincing win. The weather during the tournament was horrendous but despite this they preserved, kept on smiling and let their football do all of the talking.



On the 18th of November they participated in The Stoke City EFL 6-a-side tournament at Powerleague. They played three games in the group stages and won every game to progress through to the quarter-final match where they beat Sandbach with a very impressive display. Their semi-final game was against Moorside who

were stiff opposition. Our girls dug deep and ended up being too tough to manage, beating Moorside very convincingly. In the final they played incredibly well, working hard as a unit to close down every ball. A great finish saw us go one nil up after four minutes and we held onto this lead for the remainder of the match to take the win and win the tournament. The team will now play in the next round representing Stoke City at Wigan on the 11th of January. We wish the girls well and are very proud of them all!

U16 Boys

The Year 11 boys took part in the city 5-a-side competition at Excel. The A team were very impressive and came out overall winners. After topping their group, they overcame Biddulph 4-0 in the semi-final before beating Excel 4-1 in the final. The B team also put in a number of good performances and came 4th in their group. Both of the teams played some great football and were a credit to the school. Well done lads!



Football Success

U14 Boys

On Tuesday 6th December we took two teams to the boy's competition. The B Team played really well in a tough group and with a bit of luck could have qualified for the semi-finals. The A Team cruised through the group stages and overcame two difficult games in the semi-final and final, to come out as deserved winners. Both teams, were as always, a credit to the school and themselves.



U14 Girls

The girls followed up the boys triumph, winning five of their six games and drawing the other. This meant that they won the league format of their competition and came out as winners overall. Well done girls!



U16 Table Tennis Success

The A and B Table Tennis Team's, travelled to Cheadle Academy to play in the group stage of the North Staffordshire Table Tennis League. Both teams played some excellent table tennis in the games against Cheadle, Moorside and St Joe's. The A team progressed to the finals by overcoming St Joe's, in a tight last game, which ensured three wins out of three games. The B Team's progress was more straight forward, as they beat all 3 teams comfortably, only dropping one set to qualify for the finals. Great effort by all the lads involved. Well done.

Mrs H Willott

Curriculum Leader of Health, Sport & Exercise



Mrs Jones in the library has been amazed by the wonderful entries for our World Cup Reading Challenge! Well done to everyone who has taken part. We have our finalists who will go head to head this week in the hope of becoming Blythe Bridge's favourite book.

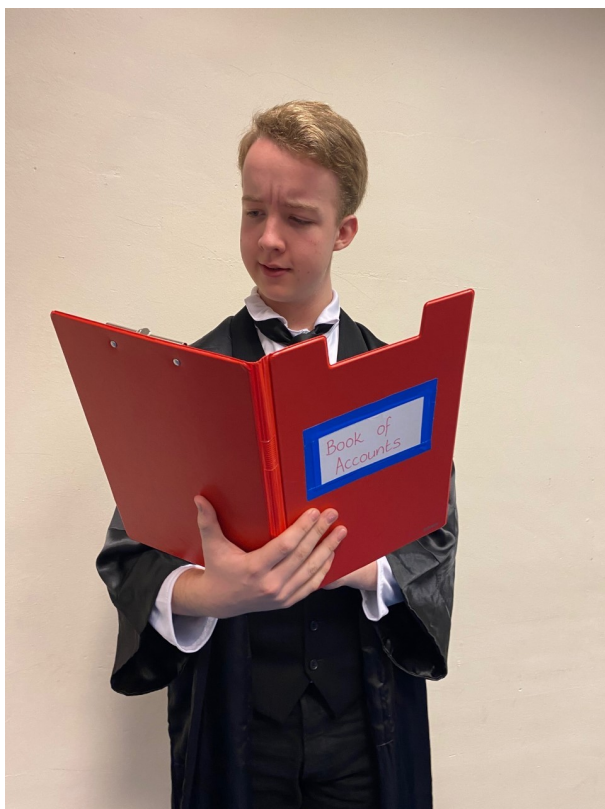
Our finalists are Lexi championing Harry Potter and the Chamber of secrets against Josh with Mr Stink.

The winner will be announced on Wednesday 14th December so get voting on FROG and good luck!

Year 12 Drama

The Year 12 drama class are currently rehearsing ready for their first performance of the course. On January 31st they will present *Everyman* by anonymous, adapted by Kerry Frampton of Splendid Productions in the main hall at 6pm. Tickets are on sale through Mrs Baines for £2.

Everyman is minding his own business when he has an unexpected visit from Death. It seems that God needs someone from Earth to account for all the sinfulness and immorality he sees in the world, and *Everyman* is the one for him. And so *Everyman* must embark on a spiritual journey to cleanse his soul and make him fit for heaven... but will he be able to rid himself of all his earthly baggage and become holy again? Or is he just too human? After all, he is *Everyman*...





Students in MFL have been working very hard this term, with over 200 awards given out already! Students should be very proud of what they have achieved so far and I look forward to giving out more awards in the New Year.

Year 7 students in Spanish learned about the Day of the Dead festival as part of their cultural work in lessons this half term. Mrs Hughes set her classes a homework project to design a Day of the Dead mask and some of the entries were outstanding! Students went over and above with their contributions and I'm sure you'll agree that the masks look fabulous!



Year 8 students are really getting into the festive mood as they prepare for their French trip to the Christmas market in Lille. Students will travel to the north of France and take part in the three-day trip where they will have the opportunity to use their French language skills in the real world. They will also have the chance to visit a chocolate workshop and bakery. Students are most looking forward to the bakery, chocolate workshop and the Christmas markets.

Mr. D Sutton

History, Government & Politics

Well done to all our wonderful students for their hard work over this term in their history, government and politics lessons. We have been delighted with the student's application, determination and enthusiasm in lessons. Over the past few weeks all classes have been completing their autumn assessments and working hard on their longer writing skills as young historians in addition to the wide array of content knowledge studied in lessons.

Our Year 13 and Year 11 classes completed their first round of mock exams, and hopefully gained a great deal from this; both year groups completed the 2022 Summer papers which will help them to see what their exams in the summer will be like. Moving forwards make sure you all continue to use the revision resources put on FROG and discussed at parents evening. Year 11 make sure you use this as a learning opportunity as you have all worked hard for the past 15 months, and the next few months are crucial to your final outcomes. Make sure you book yourself a parents evening appointment next term!

It was great to return to face-to-face parents evening with Sixth Form and see how our students are enjoying their studies in sixth form; Year 12 have started excellently for history and for government & politics, all with a zealous energy which has been a pleasure to teach. Sixth Form History classes next half term will have the opportunity to ask questions of one of our students grandparents who fought in the Korean War which links to our Cold War study - so get thinking in advance! Our politics students have met Lord Wills via MS Teams and asked him questions about his work in the House of Lords, and most recently met Councillor Tony Pearce and asked questions on a range of topics from UK Foreign policy, to green energy, House of Lords reform and the origins and merits of left wing ideology in modern day politics. In January there will be another local councillor coming in too!

We've been thrilled with how Year 10 have taken to their GCSE studies and have brought into their medicine through time studies. In all lessons our students have asked a range of questions, worked hard on their content understanding and their exam style questions. Keep up this great momentum moving forwards!

Well done all and have a restful festive holiday.

Mr J Biggs

Head of Year 11



Christmas Lights Switch On

Newcastle-Under-Lyme Christmas Light Switch On

Miss Housley and Miss Knott took almost 70 dance and cheerleading students to perform at the Newcastle-Under-Lyme Christmas light switch on. We had a very small stage but the students were absolutely exemplarily. They just got on with the task at hand.

We definitely pulled the biggest crowd and the performance they gave was outstanding. They were a credit to our school. A special thank you to all the parents, grandparents and carers who braved the cold to support us.

Isabel M 9LM - 'It was a really different experience performing outside, and I really enjoyed it!'

Jessica C 12EG - 'Performing at the Christmas light switch on is one of my favourite events, because it is always different and feels incredibly festive'



Miss E Housley

Head of Dance and Work Related Learning

Year 11 Webinar

Words for Work: Women in Leadership

On Friday, 2nd December, Year 11 took part in the National Literacy Trust's 'Words for Work: Women in Leadership' webinar. Students were given the opportunity to hear panellists discuss barriers they have faced in the workplace, and how they overcame them. Barriers discussed covered literacy barriers, special educational needs (in this instance ADHD), imposter syndrome, not having the correct qualifications and lacking confidence to apply for roles and promotions.

The panellists were:

- Anja Beriro - Partner in Government and Infrastructure team at Browne Jacobson
- Oge Opara-Nadi - Head Developer at 10 X Banking
- Sian Richardson - Lead Scientist at IPSEN
- Holly Campbell - Lead Scientist at UK Atomic Energy Authority
- Hannah Lawrence - Senior Vulnerability Management Analyst at Cyber Security for GE Aerospace

Following the sessions, students considered the things that they enjoy that could potentially be part of a career one day, the things they knew they would not want to do, the roles they would prefer in the workplace, and their hopes for their future careers.



Miss J Marsden

Core Subject Leader of English

UK Bebras - Gold Award Winners

During November students took part in the annual Bebras computational thinking and problem-solving competition. Over 300,000 students took part across the country and those that came within the top 10% achieved the Gold award.

Group	Firstname	last Initial	Score
Juniors (10-12)	Effie-Mae	D	172.00
Inters (12-14)	Will	H	169.00
Seniors (14-16)	Owen	L	166.00
Seniors (14-16)	Leo	M	165.00
Juniors (10-12)	Kayleigh	L	159.00
Juniors (10-12)	Oliver	W	156.00
Seniors (14-16)	Logan	B	156.00
Seniors (14-16)	Jacob	W	155.00
Juniors (10-12)	Seth	D	146.00
Inters (12-14)	Jessica	C	146.00
Juniors (10-12)	Toby	B	145.00
Juniors (10-12)	Anneliese	C	145.00
Inters (12-14)	Ella	R	144.00
Inters (12-14)	Jorja	H	143.00
Inters (12-14)	Dexter	H	141.00
Inters (12-14)	Seth	E	141.00
Inters (12-14)	Libby	H	140.00
Inters (12-14)	Daniel	J	135.00
Inters (12-14)	Ryan	E	135.00
Inters (12-14)	Karina	H	134.00
Inters (12-14)	Dexter	S	134.00
Inters (12-14)	Scarlett	B	131.00
Inters (12-14)	Jakeob	E	129.00
Inters (12-14)	Rory	S	128.00



A Level Literature

The Duchess of Malfi

We took our Year 12 A Level literature students to see John Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi* on the 17th of November. After an enjoyable train journey to Birmingham (filled with word games, charades and some general knowledge quizzes - all provided by one of the students) we arrived at The Crescent Theatre to watch one of their studied drama texts.

Published in 1623, the play begins as a love story, when the Duchess marries beneath her class, and ends as a nightmarish tragedy as her two brothers undertake their revenge, destroying themselves in the process.



Food Technology

Well done to Mrs Johnson's Food Technology class, 8C3DT on making some fantastic Christmas logs in their last DT lesson.



ALD Department



Throughout November, Year 11 have completed their mock examinations, and the department staff in ALD have been supporting students throughout this time, whether it be emotionally or during the actual exams with access arrangements. We have all been so impressed by the work ethic and maturity with which the students have tackled the exams. We are so proud of how well they continue to

adapt to exam procedure and policies here in school, particularly after the tough couple of years during and following the disruption to exams. We would also like to thank all parents for their contributions to students' Classroom Support Plans. As always, we appreciate you allowing us a deeper insight into the lives and behaviours of your children- this is such a wonderful help for us to be able to better support our students throughout their education with us here at school.

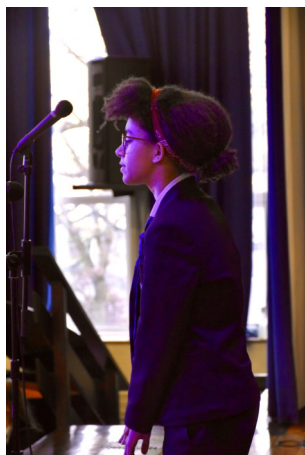
We have also been incredibly pleased with our SEA skill building workshop, overseen by Miss Duran, to help develop students' aspirations and employability skills. Students have been so enthusiastic and have excelled in their training whilst also assessing and developing their own listening skills. They played games and worked on their communication and interaction skills also. All round, a great experience for everyone involved.

On a slightly more festive note, (as it is December) some of our wonderful ALD students have been hard at work decorating our gorgeous Christmas tree, contributing to the already VERY festive atmosphere here in the department. Also in the works is a cosy fireplace to pin our ALD stars and staff members who have shone particularly bright during this festive period. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday from all of the staff here in the ALD!

Miss P Reis-Irving

ALD Room Learning Assistant

Talent Show



On Thursday 8th December, the Year 7 Inspires Team welcomed an audience of Key Stage 3 students to watch a range of talented acts in their show, 'Blythe's Got Talent'. The acts ranged from singing to dance, comedy to magic and even a speedy Rubik's Cube fanatic. Students donated £1 per ticket and purchased refreshments during the event, raising money for the UHNM Charity.

Students from the Inspires group will be visiting the hospital to deliver our donation on Tuesday 13th December. Special thanks to our comperes, Dan B (Year 12) and Zack D (Year 11), prefect helpers Chloe, Ellie, Daisy, Gabriel, Tanayeh, Macy and Izabelle, and the wonderful Miss Matthias for all of her help and support.

Below are the winners:

3rd place - Cheerleaders

2nd place - Taio M

1st place - The Spice 'Girls' - Kamron W, Mikey P, Harrison L, Blake B and Lucas R



Mrs L Pheasey

Teacher of English

Transition

Year 6 Applications

Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form has again received the fantastic news that we are oversubscribed for places ready for September 2023. 292 applications were made with 181 as first preference. Families will be informed of the application outcome by School Admissions on Wednesday 1st March, whilst Year 6 students will be invited into our school in the summer term.

Big Bash Cricket Tournament

Blythe Bridge partnership schools held their annual indoor cricket tournament on Tuesday 6th December at Fenton Manor indoor arena. All six Partnership primaries entered teams comprising of Year 5 & 6 students, with some outstanding fielding, batting and bowling demonstrated throughout the day. After a number of highly competitive games, Meir Heath Academy were crowned winners, with Forsbrook Primary School, Springcroft Primary School & The William Amory Primary School all tied in second place.

Year 5 Transition

All Year 5 students within Partnership schools will start their Transition morning in the Spring term in preparation for transfer in September 2024. Students will again experience a number of lessons in the secondary environment, whilst dates have been set for students to attend the annual maths puzzle day, Science fun fest and additional sporting activities.

Festival of Arts

Year 7 students held their annual Festival of Arts on Tuesday 29th November with 240 parents observing performances from dance, drama and music, alongside a variety of poetry and literature pieces from lessons.



Feedback included:

“Wow you’ve worked so hard. How absolutely wonderful to showcase such talents. Things like tonight are so important for all children to experience. What an inclusive performance. Well done to you all, students and staff. Thank you!”

“Fantastic show, lots of variety and skills in show, really enjoyed it”

“Amazing performance! What a talented group of children. Well done!”

Mr A Jackson

Progress Director for Transition

Bikeability

Year 7 Bikeability



60 Year 7 students again had the opportunity to complete their Level 3 Bikeability training which included monitoring and fixing bikes and demonstrating their practical riding skills around the village of Blythe Bridge. Year 7 student Annie said, “It was a really cold day but was nice not going to lessons and being outside learning new skills. I really enjoyed it”.

Fellow participant Levi commented, ‘It was great and I really enjoyed learning how to check my bike is roadworthy. The instructors were ace, and I would recommend it to everyone’.



Mr A Jackson

Progress Director for Transition

Cheerleaders

Merry Christmas from all the cheerleaders! We have celebrated all the achievements of our students with an end of term get together.

We are so proud of you all.



Miss E Knott-Cummins

Cover Supervisor & Teacher of Dance

Safe Driving Event

Road Safety

Kevin Wilcox, Staffordshire County Council's road safety officer, visited the sixth form in November.

Year 12 students watched a video called 'Cow' which looks at the fallout from a car accident with a teenage driver. A hard hitting re-enactment of a crash shows how many are affected from a moment of unsafe driving.

'Driving with Grace' for Year 13 students covers drink driving and speeding and uses interviews with real life people to put across the valuable lessons.

Our students approached all the sessions today with great maturity and some really thought-provoking discussion was had. Students were also provided with a booklet covering many things to think about when learning to drive.

Kevin also provided a leaflet which was sent home through students to parents of the students who are driving, learning or soon to learn about ways we can help them be safer drivers and passengers.



Mrs K. Baines

Assistant Head of Sixth Form and Curriculum Leader of Drama

Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form

Production of

Book by
DENNIS KELLY

Music & Lyrics by
TIM MINCHIN

Orchestrations and Additional Music by
CHRIS NIGHTINGALE



ROALD DAHL **Matilda** THE MUSICAL **JR.**

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International.
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI www.mtishows.co.uk

1st, 2nd, 3rd March 2023
6:30pm

Tickets - £6 - Over 16's
- £4 – Under 16's

A Special Thanks To

Thank you to all of the local businesses for contributing to our Christmas raffle. We raised an amazing £350. Thank you!

AJ Philpott

Blakemore's

Churchill

Emma Bridgewater

Glass House, Trentham

Heath Books for Schools

Heath House Farm

Mescape

Monkey Forest, Trentham

Morrisons

Music Shop, Trentham

New Vic Theatre

North Staffs Heating and Pipework

Port Vale Football Club

Royal Stafford

Tesco

Upper House, Barlaston

