



BLYTHE BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL  
& SIXTH FORM  
A FOUNDATION TRUST SCHOOL



# WELCOME TO BLYTHE BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

On behalf of governors, staff and our students, it is my privilege to welcome you to Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form.

We are a well-established and fully comprehensive 11-19 school with very strong links with our local primary partners. We are very proud of our school and what our young people achieve. Together we work to make this a school where individuals are challenged to be the best they can be.

The school aims to provide a high-quality, inclusive education to all students, and this includes high expectations of all. While our school offers opportunities to experience creativity, awe and wonder, we also have the high expectation that students will gain the well-developed knowledge and skills that come from hard work and hard thinking and will prepare them best for success in examinations and in later life. We plan for the highest aspirations and take great pride in our achievements. We aim to ensure that all students have positive attitudes to learning, and are all helpful, kind and dedicated members of the school and wider community who care about each other.

Achievement comes in many forms. It may include the success of your child in the creative arts, their contribution to a sports team, participation in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme or in one of the many other extra-curricular activities on offer which is as important as celebrating their academic successes. The provision of a range of opportunities in which your child may thrive and excel plays a vital role in building confidence and rounded personalities. This broad approach to learning ensures that we maximise individual potential, equipping them with the skills required for the responsibilities and challenges of life in an ever-changing society.

Teachers deliver learning experiences of the highest quality, expertly planned and taught, with an unwavering drive to help every student succeed. We aim for our students to become expert learners. They should be self-regulating, aware of their own progress and able to think about their own learning, but also able to lose themselves in tasks and experience 'flow'. They should be willing to take risks and try a variety of approaches and be independent while they are doing it. They should feel the intrinsic buzz of learning for its own sake.

We pride ourselves on knowing each student as an individual, their strengths and aspirations, and developing them so that they are well prepared for the next stage of their education, training or employment. Positive relationships, underpinned by good behaviour and mutual respect, enhance the atmosphere around the school where older students and sixth formers provide excellent role models for their younger peers.

We greatly value the support of our parents in building on past successes and we look forward to participating in future challenges together, to ensure that your child has a happy and successful time at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form.

Mrs R Johnson  
**Headteacher**





# SENIOR AND PASTORAL STAFF

Mrs R Johnson	Headteacher
Mrs S Kadri	Senior Deputy Head, Culture & Ethos
Mr A Leese	Deputy Head, Teaching & Learning
Dr A Mitchell	Deputy Head, Curriculum
Miss C Alford	Assistant Head, Sixth Form
Mr M Goodwin	Assistant Head, Mathematics
Mrs S Owen	Progress Director, SENCO
Mr A Jackson	Progress Director, Transition
Miss K Fargher	Head of Year 7
Mr K Knight	Head of Year 8
Mrs L Cartlidge	Head of Year 9
Mr J Gibbons	Head of Year 10
Mr J Biggs	Head of Year 11



# CULTURE & ETHOS

# ACHIEVEMENT

Positive relationships create successful communities. Governors and staff work together to promote high expectations for all students across the school, leading by example to model respect and excellence; values which underpin the school’s ethos.

We aim to ensure that staff and students have positive attitudes to all learning experiences, and are self-respecting, generous and thoughtful members of the school community who believe in what we intend to achieve. Driven by values of pride, respect and kindness, our culture and ethos ensure that students build the habits of heart and mind that allow their learning to thrive through repeated and consistent practice. We want all stakeholders to create long lasting and effective partnerships and work relentlessly together to achieve success with a specific set of routines that everyone commits to implementing inside and outside the classroom.

We demand the highest standards and in return we respect students’ ideas and opinions. Through our prefects, student leaders and the student council, students have an active and important role in developing and improving their school. Similarly, we recognise that developing open partnerships with parents will help your child achieve their potential and ensure that they are happy at school. We host many events throughout the year where parents are encouraged to attend and we hope to see you joining us there.

Our staff believe in providing the very best opportunities to all of the young people within our school. They generate enthusiasm for learning and provide experiences of the highest quality. We expect our students to be active partners in sustaining this ethos.

To enhance students’ prospects for success, we ensure that teaching is personalised yet challenging and prepares them for lifelong learning. Each child is assessed in all subjects regularly. This enables us to monitor progress, recognise achievements and offer support where necessary. Parents receive regular progress reports. We have arranged our reporting schedule so that our key assessments, progress evenings and formal written reports are spread evenly throughout the year.

A team of specialist staff make up our Assisted Learning Department which provides essential support in the classroom, in small groups or on a one-to-one basis. All students with an identified special educational need have individual classroom support plans and are allocated a key worker.

“”

Pupils at Blythe Bridge do well socially and academically. Leaders promote the school’s culture and ethos, including the values of pride, respect, and kindness (PRK) effectively in all aspects of school life. As a result, pupils develop into respectful, active citizens who contribute positively to society.

OFSTED 2022

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Leaders have thought carefully about the subjects pupils can study. This includes a wide range of subjects at key stage 3. All pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), study the full range of courses.

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“Pupils say they appreciate how much ‘extra’ they get at Blythe Bridge. This includes being a student ambassador, a member of the PRK committee or organising fundraising events. Students in the sixth form can become a higher sports leader or take part in the young enterprise scheme.”

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# CURRICULUM

We ensure that the curriculum we offer our students suits them and our high aspirations for them.

We foster connections between curriculum areas. We believe that skills depend on knowledge and our knowledge-rich curriculum lays the foundation for our students to develop their skills effectively. The school also knows that our students will play their best and fullest part in the world when they know the best that has been said, written and done, so we make reading and developing cultural capital central to all parts of the life of our school. While we are unashamed of the idea that a high-quality traditional classroom experience is often the best and most fruitful way to create students who will flourish in the rest of their lives, we also believe that school is a time for seminal, memorable experiences that do not fit into this pattern. Our students might visit the wonders of the world on a trip, they might overcome their fears and perform on stage, they might have a life-changing impact on those beyond our gates, but for many of our students, they will not have these experiences if we do not offer them. We want to offer our students some unforgettable spots of time.

Our curriculum contributes well to students’ behaviour and welfare and it supports their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and promotes British values. An outstanding range of enrichment activities, including music, sports, visits and opportunities to contribute to community events, enhance the formal curriculum.

“Teachers deliver lessons that support the planned curriculum. Pupils regularly recap their prior learning. This means that they can remember more and do more.”

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## Key Stage 3

Our programme covers all the National Curriculum subjects. Students are taught in ability groups in the core subjects English, mathematics, science, Spanish and French to ensure that every child is taught at a level that matches their ability. For the able and talented students, there are ‘express’ groups in the core where teaching and learning is specifically designed to accelerate students’ progress. Other initiatives have been designed to develop students’ reading ages and vocabulary to ensure that they are fully equipped to deal with the demands of the curriculum to progress as expected.

## Key Stage 4

During our Key Stage 4 programme, the majority of students study the English Baccalaureate core subjects of English, mathematics, science, a modern foreign language and a humanities subject such as geography or history. A wide range of optional subjects which cater for different interests and career choices include art, technology, sport, dance, drama and ICT courses. We expect all our students to achieve at least eight passes at grades 9-1, including the English Baccalaureate subjects. Extended options offer additional qualifications for our able and talented students.

## 16-19 Provision

Many students choose to continue their education at Blythe Bridge Sixth Form where they can expect high standards of teaching and learning leading to academic success. Our curriculum offer has been amended to reflect the national changes. We offer a broad suite of qualifications including A Levels, BTEC Level 3 National Qualifications, the Extended Project Qualification and enrichment activities to develop personal, social and employability skills. In addition, GCSE English and/or mathematics resits ensure that all learners leave with these vital qualifications. All Sixth Form students take part in our tutorial programme and extra-curricular activities. There is a separate prospectus for the Sixth Form which is available upon request.

“Sixth-form students appreciate the specialist teaching they receive.”

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# ENRICHMENT

Education is not limited to the classroom. We provide an educational experience that combines academic study with a range of character-building enrichment activities promoting equality of opportunity and diversity.

Our programme includes many clubs from chess to cheerleaders and Spanish film to mathematics code breaking. We are involved in many competitions from the national UK Maths Challenge to the VocabExpress vocabulary challenge. Both recreational and competitive opportunities are available in sports from football to trampolining and students regularly represent the school boasting a strong tradition of success in local, regional and national competitions.

We also offer students every opportunity to discover and extend their creative talents through music, drama, dance and art. Students may continue, or take up, instrumental tuition in a range of instruments. Our many music and dance groups perform on a regular basis both in school and out with our unique Festival of Arts and curriculum performance evenings providing parents with the ideal opportunity to watch their child's talents grow.

Departments organise a wide variety of educational visits linked to their curriculum from visits to France and Spain to geographical research expeditions to Iceland and cultural experiences to art galleries.

For the more adventurous, we offer the Duke of Edinburgh's award which provides plenty of opportunities to challenge our students to do new things and develop important life skills. All students have the chance to participate in a range of leadership activities which develop the life skills and attributes that employers are seeking. Year 11 students are encouraged to take part in the government's flagship youth programme, the National Citizen Service (NCS), once they have completed their GCSE examinations.

For those interested in developing their leadership skills further, there is a wealth of opportunities available from joining the school council to collaborating on diverse charitable projects. Students can gain leadership accreditation in the subjects of dance and sport as part of their enrichment programme or alternatively, some students can become prefects, student ambassadors or peer mentors.

# FROG VLE

The parental area of our VLE, named the Parent Portal, is the central hub for all school communications. Here we post the latest notices, upcoming calendar events, social media news and school letters. In addition, the portal contains access to data, information and guidance that may help you to support your child at school.

In Year 7 students have an ePlanner, an online organisational tool which helps to keep students on track and focused on their work. ePlanners are an integral part of the classroom experience; they enable students to use their devices to manage home learning, set personal goals, and enhance communication between teachers, students and parents. As parents, you can access all home learning assigned to your child; their attendance and behaviour for learning data; and a range of different information per subject. This can be important when your child is absent from school, preparing for assessments or doing additional work on areas that they have found challenging.

We highly recommend that you join our Parent Portal which is available on handheld devices such as smart phones and tablets. To sign up and for additional information, please visit: [www.bb-hs.co.uk/parentportal](http://www.bb-hs.co.uk/parentportal).



# CARE, GUIDANCE & SUPPORT

The level of care, guidance and support for students is taken very seriously and our main aim is to raise aspirations across the school so that all students may achieve their true potential.

## Transition

We understand that the transition from primary to secondary education can be both exciting and challenging for both students and parents. This process is facilitated by the strong partnerships we have with our local primary schools with whom we work closely to ensure that transfer and progression are as smooth and effective as possible. We have an experienced team that organises and implements a broad range of activities such as Year 4 Olympic Legacy Day, Year 5 Maths Puzzle Day, Physics Fest and regular Year 5 and 6 transition activities. There is an induction programme for both students and parents to help with this process and introduce you to our community. Upon starting in Year 7, students fall under the responsibility of their Head of Year whose role it is to ensure their successful integration through a range of activities.

## Individual care

The positive ethos is underpinned by our pastoral system which promotes a proactive culture of support. Students benefit from sharing experiences with children of their own age whilst being part of a system that creates exciting opportunities to mix with other year groups. There is a Relationship, Health, Sex Education and Citizenship programme which supports students' wider development and promotes British values. Form tutors have daily contact with their tutees providing them with support, recognition of achievements and advice. They move through the years with their tutor group, watching them grow and progressing together. Strong relationships are at the heart of this system, formed between students and tutors, but also parents and tutors. Parents are encouraged to contact the form tutor whenever they have a concern. Heads of Year track and monitor behaviour and progress across the whole year group and ensure that effort and achievement are rewarded accordingly. The pastoral team support the pastoral care of the students and play an important role in shaping students into good citizens.

We know that taking care of our students and monitoring their progress go hand in hand. Our pastoral team is the first port of call for students and parents seeking advice, care and guidance. Those responsible for overseeing the well-being and safety of all our students comprise the Senior Deputy Head (Culture & Ethos), the Director of Business & Finance, the Heads of Year and their teams, the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) and the Key Stage Pastoral Managers. To further support our work, we call regularly upon the expertise of the Local Support Team, Community Police Officers and our Careers Advisor.



The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff take pupils' welfare seriously. Leaders make sure that staff receive the appropriate training. Staff know how to report concerns. Leaders follow these up effectively. The school has strong links with external agencies. Families get the right help at the right time because of these good links.

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# SCHOOL UNIFORM

We believe that the Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form uniform plays an important role in creating unity and pride and in maintaining high standards. Our uniform is compulsory for all Year 7 to 11 students and parents are asked to support the school's policy on uniform and appearance. More information about our uniform, kit requirements for PE, including where it can be purchased and the range of acceptable items, can be found on our website [www.bb-hs.co.uk](http://www.bb-hs.co.uk).

## Girls Uniform

- Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form black suit jacket
- White and blue pinstriped open neck blouse or plain white open neck blouse or plain white shirt (long or short sleeved)
- Blue striped scarf with swam emblem or blue and black clip on tie
- Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form pleated knee length skirt
- Black suit style trousers
- Black and blue pullover or slipover (optional garment)

## Boys Uniform

- Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form black suit jacket
- White and blue pinstriped shirt or plain white shirt (long or short sleeved)
- Blue and black clip on tie
- Black suit style trousers
- Black and blue pullover or slipover (optional garment)

# CAREERS ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) starts in Year 7 and continues through until Year 13 to ensure that students develop the skills, attitudes, qualities, behaviours and self-confidence to plan their future careers.

Students will choose the career pathway that best suits their individual needs and aspirations and enables them to fulfil their potential. All students are provided with impartial guidance from a variety of sources which include our RSHE and Citizenship programmes, BEST week, options evenings and much more. Work Experience in Years 10 and 12, visits to colleges, universities and employers all take place throughout the year to raise the aspirations of all students.





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PRIDE. RESPECT. KINDNESS.

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