

Turn to Page 2 to read about our amazing Art in Motion showcase at the Rep Theatre

Headteacher's Welcome

A message from Mrs Johnson



As you will know, in March our school became part of an academy trust. Having worked with the JTMAT as associate members for a number of years, we could see the benefits of joining a group of schools who share our values and ethos. On 7th July all staff attended a training day, hosted by staff at John Taylor Free School. It was really valuable to spend time reviewing effective feedback strategies with colleagues from school and across the trust and we look forward to the additional opportunities that working together will bring our staff and students.

This summer we say fond farewells to those staff who are moving on to new roles. From the teaching staff, Mr Biggs takes up a leadership position at a school in Uttoxeter whilst Mrs Collins joins the languages department in NULS. Miss Knott will take up her first teaching



position at a Stoke school. We wish them all the best in their new roles. We



also send good luck wishes to Mrs Winter, Mrs Arrowsmith, Mrs Tulley, Miss Robinson and Mr Stevenson who are all moving on to new chapters.

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

Mrs R Johnson Headteacher



Rep Performance



What an emotional end to the year we delivered! Two evening performances at the Rep Theatre with over 100 students. It was such an incredible showcase. Many thanks to Mr Goodwin, Miss Knott, Mrs Robinson, Mrs Bettany, Mrs Chamberlain-Keeling, Mrs Nyler, and many many more who all made the show an outstanding success.

The Year 7 boys stole the show with the Backstreet Boys routine causing such an amazing audience reaction. It was a very long and tiring few days but the discipline and performance quality was really top tier. We are so proud of all the students involved and so happy that they had a perfect end to the academic year.

Final words go to our amazing compéres Dan B and Zac D, who really kept the night flowing and the audience entertained. Dan's comment on the event is, "A fantastic demonstration of the talent and dedication of Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form dance department, it was a 10/10 and I would compére again".





Miss E Housley Curriculum Leader of Dance and Work Related Learning





Music Department Updates

Music has been a hive of activity this academic year.

Year 7 have been learning about scary music, learning 'In The Hall of the Mountain King' and moving on to 'Phantom of the Opera' as they learned more about musical theatre. Year 8 looked at Reggae music, learning how to play and sing 'Three Little Birds' before moving to 'Blues Music'. Year 9 have shown their creative side, consolidating all of their prior knowledge and learning on how to write 'Protest Songs' as they looked at the world around



them. A very creative learning experience for all.

Our GCSE students have successfully completed their coursework and



await their results – good luck Year 11! We know how hard you have worked for those results. Year 12 have spent the year composing, analysing, and are now looking into musical theatre in more depth, studying composers such as Andrew Lloyd Webber.

The music department have been working with the extra curricular groups to provide a number of learning opportunities outside

of the classroom and have been able to take students to:

- The recorder festival at the Victoria Hall
- A collaborative singing event with the Stoke-on-Trent Male Voice Choir
- MusicShare concerts at the Victoria Hall & Stafford County Showground
- A rewards trip to watch the Hallé Orchestra at the Victoria Hall



This year, the music department focused their concerts and performances on 'Music from Film and Musical Theatre'. The 'Summer Showstoppers' concert had some classic pieces, from 'Eye Of The Tiger' to 'Les Misérables' – who can guess what piece of music was played when these dinosaurs showed up?



Next year's concert theme is 'Music From Around The World' and we cannot wait to get started. Look out for the music posters regarding extra curricular groups and come and join in with us in September.

As always, if you are looking to clear the house of any unwanted instruments and would like to donate them, we will try and find the right home for them.

As a reminder, all students in Years 7 and 9 need headphones with a jack connector (in ear or over the head headphones) for the new academic year. Please can you ensure they are purchased over the summer break.

Miss H Balewski

Curriculum Leader of Music



Alumni

Lancaster University



Today we welcomed back a former student of Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form, Ellie McFarlane who returned as an ambassador with Lancaster University to talk to our Year 12 students.

Students taking biology or applied science were given guidance on how to select different courses. All students were given insight into life as a university or apprenticeship student.

Finally, our students on the university pathways programme were supported through making a competitive application.

Mrs K Baines

Assistant Head of Sixth Form



A huge congratulations to Will D who took part in the Maths Pink Kangaroo competition this half term.

The Pink Kangaroo is a follow-on round to the Intermediate Mathematical Challenge. It is a 60-minute, multiple-choice Challenge consisting of 25 problems.

Will displayed great resilience and commitment and was only a few marks away from being awarded a merit, which only the top 25% of the country will receive. Well done, Will!



Mrs A Whitehurst

⁶ Core Subject Leader of Maths





Maths Feast



The 16th of July was a great day for our fantastic Year 10 mathematicians, who had the opportunity to attend the Maths Feast event at Keele University.

Maths Feast is a fun educational challenge for Year 10 students which tests problem-solving and teamwork skills. Teams of four students test their maths skills with our all-you-can-eat feast of problems!

The event not only tests the students' mathematical knowledge but also nurtures their teamwork and communication skills. As the teams work together, they learn to appreciate each other's strengths, delegate tasks effectively, and communicate their ideas clearly.

Our teams were fantastic and earned a certificate for scoring consistently high on all rounds.

Congratulations to all students and staff involved, we are very proud of your achievements!

Mrs A Whitehurst

Core Subject Leader of Maths



Dexter H won this year's whole school chess tournament by beating Henry A in the final. 46 students took part in a packed gym to take part in the two hour tournament.



Tor M beat Seth M in the final of our joint Year 7/Year 6 chess tournament with Forsbrook Primary, with 40 students taking part. It's great to see that we have got lots of good players already lined up to represent our school at

future tournaments





Chess



We took two strong chess teams to represent our school at the North Staffordshire School Chess Championship at the Co-Op Academy. Both our teams did extremely well and gained bronze medals in their age groups. The KS3 team consisted of Dexter H, Ryley P, Liam O and Hayden O. The KS4 team was Aaron W, Harry S, Emily W and Amber S. All our players won at least one game and Dexter H still remains unbeaten in eight local schools tournament matches!

Our school has two lunchtime chess leagues. Ryley P won the week 1 chess league and Tommy H won the week 2 chess league. Over 50 students played chess league matches this year, standings were as follows:

Week 1 chess league top 5

- 1 Ryley P
- 2 Dexter H
- 3 Liam O
- 4 Seth M
- 5 Hayden O

Week 2 chess league top 5

- 1 Tommy H
- 2 Luke W
- 3 Harry S
- 3 Aaron W
- 5 Emily W

Mr K Pugh

Teacher of Maths





ALD Update

At the end of a very busy and successful year, on Wednesday 19th July, some of our wonderful students asked to host a tea party to celebrate their achievements and to thank the ALD staff for their hard work in the "most wonderful place to work in the world" (as one Y7 student describes our school).

Becky H, completing work experience and Mrs Bennett, prepared some lovely pork and vegetarian sausage rolls, and a heated debate was held into the virtues of jam or cream first on some delicious scones.

It was lovely to see students from all year groups serving staff, joining in with the meal and also supporting each other and making new friends.

ALD, is of course a wonderful place to work and we are privileged to play a part in supporting and assisting a wonderful group of students.



We also thanked Miss Duran for all her hard work

and support throughout her time as a TA and wished her well as she rejoins the Modern Foreign Language Department in September.



Mrs S Owen Progress Director SENCO 10

Social Science

Social Studies

On Monday 10th July Year 12 students from all subjects the social studies three in department came together to take their learning outside of the classroom. The criminoloav. psychology and sociology students visited Staffordshire Universitv criminology and forensic science departments to take part in sessions about how their subjects view, explain and investigate crime. The day included a fantastic criminology masterclass delivered by Dr Mark Bushell where students were presented with information about the murderers Fred and Rose West and they then used this





information to explore biological, psychological and sociological reasons for their heinous crimes. Students also explored terrorism and the barriers to detecting potential terrorist acts.

The second part of the day was a visit to the crime house. The students were placed in groups of four, administered with protective clothing, given evidence bags, a camera and a laser measure and then sent to room to carry out collection of crime scene evidence. Overall, the day provide excellent learning opportunities as well as resulting in some students hoping to apply to the University in the autumn term.

We thank Staffordshire University for welcoming us.

Mrs E Goodwin

Curriculum Leader of Social Science



Birmingham University



45 Year 12 students travelled to Birmingham University for the day. This was a great opportunity to look round a relatively local Russell Group University, which is a campus-style university and has excellent facilities.

Students completed a quiz on

university as a whole as well as Birmingham itself, had a talk on student finance which aimed to allay any fears students may have had about the monetary side of higher education, had a tour of the campus and were able to eat lunch in the canteen area to experience the type of facilities available.





Mrs K Baines 12 Assistant Head of Sixth Form

They were aided by five current University of Birmingham students who took them on a tour, answered their questions and took them through their 'normal' day at university.

This day will be reflected on further and has already provoked some great conversations between students and staff.

Duke of Edinburgh

Silver DofE

What a fantastic few days for our bronze and silver DofE students. They demonstrated incredible determination, teamwork and resilience. Some even had the energy for a game of rounders once they reached camp! Well done to all.

A massive thank you to all of the staff involved in creating such amazing opportunities for our students.





Miss A Townshend Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator



Rewards

Chocolate Bingo!

Students in Year 7 & 8 who achieved the highest number of achievement points for the month were invited to take part in chocolate bingo. It was a great event and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

Thank you to Josh S and Mrs Kadri for their outstanding bingo calling.





The Daisy Garland Charity

Our Year 8 students were delighted to present The Daisy Garland charity with an enormous cheque for £753.26 after their 'purple' fundraising day.

Thank you to everyone who supported them with sponsorship collectively they walked the distance from John O'Groats to Land's End.



Mrs L Pheasey

Enrichment Coordinator 14



Year 12 Physics

The Year 12 physics group were incredible, working in pairs to design exam style questions using Kirchhoff's laws and resistance combinations. Once the students were sure that the questions could be answered, the rest of the group had to tackle the problems.

Without exception, everyone was superb - 'good learning' team!



Mr C Flavell

Curriculum Leader of Science

The Big Help Out

Volunteer work



A group of Year 7 students volunteered to take part in community projects for 'The Big Help Out'. Students took part in litter picking around the village, made bird boxes and feeders for the local community, helped at Blythe Bridge library and donated over 150 homemade seed pods, made by the eco-garden team, to neighbouring residents. Well done Year 7.







Miss K Fargher Head of Year 7 16



Pride, Respect, Kindness



An important part of our ethos is celebrating the achievements of our students outside of the classroom. Mitchell L, Year 12 and Hannah F, Year 9 both swim for COSACSS (City of Stoke Swimming Club). As a sport, competitive swimming is not for the faint hearted. Their training program involves training at least six times a week for 1 ½ to 2 hours at a time. Many of the training sessions are early mornings and three or four times a week they get at 4.30am to be in the pool by 5.15am, often returning for a second training session at the end of the day, sometimes until 9.30pm.

Throughout the swimming year (starting in September), swimmers attend one gala after another

registering qualifying times that will take them to the next stage in the swimming year – County Championships at the beginning of the year, Regional Championships in the Spring and for the lucky few, Summer Nationals in July/August.

Only a small number of swimmers receive invitations to compete at Summer Nationals. To earn a place on the invitation list, there is a small window of a few weeks in April and May when they need to register times for their age group at the highest level swimming galas taking place all over the country. Their time needs to be in the top 40 in Great Britain when the qualifying window closes. It is a nail biting time waiting for the latest times to be uploaded and waiting to see if they are on the list of invitees.

For Hannah and Mitchell their hard work has paid off and they have both been invited to swim at Summer nationals in Sheffield. Mitchell will swim the 200 Butterfly and Hannah the 200 Breaststroke.



We send them our well wishes and look forward to hearing about their experience in September.

Good luck!



Enrichment

Enrichment Opportunities

It has been a busy academic year for enrichment opportunities, giving a range of students the chance to engage with activities, trips and workshops to enhance their experience of the curriculum.

- Key Stage 3, Blythe's Got Talent
- Year 7 North Staffs Mind Workshop
- Year 7 Inspires group
- Year 7 RNLI presentation
- Years 7-8 Hug in a Bag for UHNM Charity
- Year 8 Work skills day
- Year 8 Clip n Climb workshop
- Year 8 British Red Cross First Aid workshop
- Year 8 Bank of England workshop
- Year 9 Parliament virtual workshop
- Year 9 PGL residential May 2023
- Year 10 Youth Offending team talk
- Selected Year 10 and 12 students, Keele Forensics workshop
- Year 12 Gambling talk from WhysUp
- Alumni database of former students, to inspire careers education
- JMAT leadership extravaganza with aspiring student leaders



Mrs L Pheasey Teacher of English

Extended Project Qualification

EPQ's

10 Year 13 students completed their Extended Project Qualification which will give them a qualification worth the same amount of UCAS points as half an A level. The students wrote a 5000-word essay on an area that interested them after they had undertaken all the relevant research themselves. This essay was accompanied by the diary style paperwork where they had to justify key decisions undertaken as well as a presentation to staff and students.

Year 12 students are currently working on their EPQ during tutor time and we are looking forward to a wide range of interesting projects next year from them.



Annie

In May, drama students from Years 9-12 went to The Regent in Hanley to see the musical Annie. Set in 1930s New York during The Great Depression, brave young Annie is forced to live a life of misery at Miss Hannigan's orphanage. Her luck soon changes when she's chosen to spend a fairytale Christmas with famous billionaire, Oliver Warbucks. Meanwhile, spiteful Miss Hannigan has other ideas and hatches a plan to spoil Annie's search for her



Mrs K Baines



Drama

Performances

The Year 12 drama BTEC class performed "Art" by Yasmina Reza to their family, friends and other drama students. This performance for their Unit 2 developing skills and techniques for live performance.

The story shows three friends whose decades-long friendship is under threat because one of them buys a very expensive painting - a white painting with white lines on it. All the jealousy, resentment and petty squabbles burst out and change their friendship forever.

Huge thanks to all those who loaned the group props and set, to our audience and to our wonderfully talented cast.





Drama



Our drama club performed two plays in early July to an audience of family and friends.

Let Him Have It – The Story of Derek Bentley.

Derek Bentley was hanged in 1953 for the murder of PC Sidney Miles, even though he didn't fire the gun. When Derek said 'Let him have it, Chris', was he encouraging Christopher Craig to shoot or hand over the gun?

The Disappeared – The Story of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo

Since 1977, mothers of people who disappeared in Argentina under the rule of a military dictatorship have protested in the Plaza de Mayo whilst wearing white scarves on their heads to represent their missing children.



Well done to all actors and crew who made me very proud!



Mrs K Baines Assistant Head of Sixth Form



School Musical Announcement

At the beginning of June, the drama, dance and music departments released a series of posts on the school's social media account to lead up to the announcement of next year's school musical. A number of students and parents obviously know their shows as many guessed correctly that it will be Mary Poppins. Would you have been able to guess looking at the clues?

Monday - Post 1 – The dance, drama and music departments invite you to guess what next year's musical will be in the lead up to the big reveal on Friday.

Clue 1 – This musical has also been a film, play and book.

Tuesday - Post 2 – Today's clue about our musical for next year is that Cameron Mackintosh is the producer of the West End version of this musical which we will be doing the Junior version of.

Wednesday - Post 3 – Some good advice for you all - "Anything can happen if you let it."

Thursday - Post 4 – Anyone want to feed the birds or go fly a kite?

Friday - Post 5 – Fanfare please:



We are looking forward to auditions in September with the performance in February 2024.

Mrs K Baines

Assistant Head of Sixth Form 22



Talk the Talk

Public Speaking Workshop

A selection of our Year 10 students were involved in a 'Talk the Talk' workshop today, centred around communication and confident public speaking.

Many of the students were a little out of their comfort zone but, before long, were planning and delivering a speech to the rest of the group. It was wonderful to see even some of our shy students really making the most of the day and using it as opportunity to shine.



Teacher of English



Students have been exploring African art. Their work has been inspired by the tribal artwork of the Ndebele people. They have experimented with paint, 3D constructions and clay building.





Students have been exploring architecture. Their work has been inspired by the art movement Fauvism, Antoni Gaudi's buildings, lampposts, stained glass and Barcelona. They have experimented with paint, oil pastels, 3D construction, paper collage and clay tile building.





Students have been exploring the theme 'Aquatics'. Their work has been inspired by a range of artists such as Vincent Scarpace and Kerby Rosanes. They have experimented with paint and drawing techniques.





Students have been working on individual development of ideas in the style of their chosen artists. Each have experimented with a variety of media and explored varied compositional ideas.





Year 10 Peak Wildlife Park Trip

All of our Year 10 art students went on a trip to the Peak Wildlife Park. This provided an excellent opportunity for our students to draw from direct observation and also gather primary sources to use in their GCSE coursework project.





Mrs L Shenton Teacher of Art

28









As we near the end of this academic year, we reflect back on the amazing achievements of our students. We reported in our last newsletter that students have been working hard in their lessons to earn stamps and prizes, with the ultimate prize being an MFL hamper that will be drawn at the end of the year. I am thrilled to announce that we have given out

over 1180 certificates and prizes over the year, with a small number of students achieving the excellence award for their hard work. Each time a student has won a certificate, their name has been entered into the raffle draw; watch this space to see who our ultimate MFL champion is!



Culture is an important part of language learning and whilst it is important to understand the grammar and ways in which a foreign language works, it is equally important to appreciate and understand their culture. Films are a great way to do this, and our Year 7 students have been studying the film 'Les Choristes' at the end of this half term. The film is

set in France and follows the story of a school for troubled boys, who are full of mischief and are trying to rebel against the strict rules of the school, especially their ruthless headmaster, Rachin. One teacher tries to win them over with kindness and humour, and eventually sets up a choir to channel their energy. The story follows their trials and tribulations as they try to overcome the different challenges they are faced with and shows the importance of being compassionate.

Vocabulary builder – how many of these summer-inspired phrases do you know?

English	French	Spanish
lťs hot	II fait chaud	Hace calor
A swimming pool	Une piscine	Una piscina
Ice cream	Une glace	Un helado
Heat wave	Une canicule	Una ola de calor
Sun cream	La crème solaire	La crema solar
Holidays	Des vacances	Las vacaciones
Ice cubes	Des glaçons	Los cubitos
Aeroplane	Un avion	Un avión
Swimming costume	Un maillot de bain	Un bañador

Mr D Sutton

Curriculum Leader for MFL



Visit to Tossa de Mar

40 Year 10 students have just returned from our annual Spain visit to Tossa de Mar where they spent time swimming in the hotel pool, visiting the historic city of Girona, riding rollercoasters at PortAventura and touring round Barcelona and the Stagefront stadium (home of RCD Espanyol). A great time was had by all and as always the students were a credit to the school. See the next newsletter for more details and photos.

Mr D Sutton

Curriculum Leader for MFL

FedEx Trip

Year 9 FedEx Trip



A group of Year 9 students visited FedEx in Newcastleunder-Lyme to enhance their knowledge on careers. Students received a fantastic presentation by Rachel Elson, the senior human resources specialist and Ian Patterson, the senior manager operations, on careers and logistics, human resources and the benefits of working for FedEx.

Students learnt about the diversity, equality and inclusion of workers as well as the different apprenticeship options.

Careers pathways were explored, identifying which GCSE and further studies would be beneficial to the company, whilst also making students aware of the leadership development plan and opportunities that each worker has to enable them to progress and flourish within FedEx. Students were then given guidance on what makes a great employee, with advice on being interviewed, and preparation in securing a job.

30Mrs L. Cartlidge

Head of Year 9











Forensics

Forensics Challenge Day

JTMAT provided our Year 10 students with the opportunity to take part in a Forensics Challenge Day. On arrival, students changed into a scene suit, mob cap, face mask, overshoes and gloves in order to take on the role of a forensic scientist. They then looked at physical evidence at two different crime scenes, as well as looking at digital and cyber evidence from the victim in the days leading up to the crime. Students undertook lab work where they carried out fingerprinting, analysis of clothes and shoes including footprint moulding, toxicology and blood splatter analysis. They received a talk from a working senior investigative officer which gave them important information about their job role as well as advice on how to conduct interviews. Using this advice, students were then able to interview the 6 suspects in the case. A magistrate then gave a talk to the students about their job role and how this links to criminal cases. Students then gave presentations about who they thought was responsible for the crime using all of the evidence collected during the day. They showed excellent problem solving, communication, listening and teamwork skills throughout the day, well done!



Mrs A Dodgson

Curriculum Leader for Science



Head of Year Comment

110 Year 7 students started their high school experience last year with the summer school. There was a focus on maths, English and science but the main focus was building student confidence ready to start Year 7. Students had an array of different activities throughout the week and everyone had an amazing time.

As we have moved through this year, the students have had more opportunities outside of the classroom. We had sporting successes in football and athletics, have

Top Achievers

Evie B	3463
Frankie A	2767
Sophie H	2714
Lily M	2708
Evangeline S	2644
Freya L	2579
Thea C	2412
Asia N	2406
Katie G	2396
Joshua E	2330

completed the ramble or read for children in need, performed during the Festival of Arts, attended rewards trips, participated in the Great British Clean up, and have been involved in the production of Matilda. the list could go on!

One of the highlights of the year, was the Valentine school disco. Not only did students have a fantastic evening but they also raised over £500 for Cancer Research. The student ambassadors, Seth G and Poppy H, with the help of Evie B, were the driving force behind this and they should be extremely proud of the event they planned and put together.

Staff at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form had an incredibly difficult task of nominating students for form tutor and subject awards. This was not an easy decision for staff but highlights the outstanding achievements of the children nominated.

We look forward to welcoming students back in September as they start Year 8!

Miss K Fargher

Head of Year 7 34



Head of Year Comment

It has been a year of fantastic opportunities, Year 8 have stepped up to the mark and given it their best. It was a privilege to host their celebration evening this year and to read out the lovely comments staff had to say. Each and every student should be proud of their nominations and awards.

Our kindness award went to Ashton R. "This student is one of the kindest in the school. They are always first to offer help to their fellow students in terms of equipment and emotional support; they offer help to people for carrying things, holding doors open, engages in the charity challenges. A true gentleman."

Top Achievers

2288
2280
2202
2194
2192
2165
2151
2149
2038
2128

Our award for respect went to Samuel H. "This student has shown excellent focus this year to all areas of school. There has been an increase in their effort, and they have always been respectful to members of staff and other pupils. They can consider other students' opinions when joining in with class discussions and carefully thinks about how his actions may affect others"

Our pride award, for this year, was awarded to Louis C. "This student takes pride in their schoolwork and always tries their best. Their equipment and uniform are always in very good order. They are proud of their achievements in the air cadets and share this with the form and they are equally as proud of them. They are learning to fly privately to support their ambition of becoming a pilot."

During Year 8 citizenship this we have studied mature topics and reflected on healthy life styles. Year 8 have also developed their first aid skills, which will remain with them for life!

We have also welcomed external speakers from Stoke Sixth Form and The Bank of England. What a great opportunity, at such a young age, to start thinking about what those next steps could look like and work towards them. Both presenters had lovely things to say about Year 8. Feedback from one of the speakers was, "One of the best schools I have been to".

Mr K Knight



Head of Year Comment

It is hard to believe that our students are coming to the end of Key Stage 3 and will be embarking on the start of their GCSE journey. Students have chosen the GCSE options that they wish to continue studying for the next two years, and the focus will very much be on careers and the year ahead. 'Out to Work Day' was fantastic а opportunity for students to explore potential career and to experience a typical day of a particular job. It was great to receive a number of photos from parents and students of what their day looked like. Next vear. students will have the opportunity to

Top Achievers

Jorja H	3041
Ella R	2711
Lexi M	2652
Will H	2630
William S	2504
Elijah C	2362
Tyler H	2362
Ryan E	2352
Krrish C	2349
George M	2331

have a work experience week therefore this was excellent preparation for this.

There have been many highlights throughout the last twelve months and to witness students personal growth and maturity has been a pleasure to see. Whether it has been students participating in extra curricular clubs, representing Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form in various competitions or showing grit and determination whilst completing DofE expeditions, what has been clear to see is the pride, respect and kindness that our students show on a daily basis.

The Year 9 celebration evening was a wonderful way to end what has been a truly remarkable year for many of our youngsters. Staff had the incredibly difficult task of nominating a form star and three students from each curriculum area for awards. Students also received awards for 100% attendance, top achievement points, best behaviour for learning averages and pride, respect and kindness awards. From witnessing the incredible achievements of so many of our students throughout this year, I can not wait to see what the next academic year brings!

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you all for your continued support throughout this academic year and look forward to seeing our students in September once more in impeccable uniform, with the correct equipment and positive attitude whilst they begin their key stage four learning.

Mrs L Cartlidge

Head of Year 9 36


Head of Year Comment

I could never have predicted how well all our Year 10 students have adapted and coped with the rigours of their GCSE courses. Feedback from teaching staff has been very positive throughout the year and I have great confidence in Year 10's ability to take this momentum into Year 11.

I wish to also congratulate our new Prefect Team for next year. An exceptional group of young people who fully deserve the opportunity to be ambassadors in our school community.

Our extra-curricular programme has been excellent once again, and the uptake from

Top Achievers

2626
2400
2341
2172
2114
2104
2092
2008
2008
2087

Year 10 students has been superb. The success of our girl's netball, rounders and cricket teams this year, culminated with our U15 girls cricket team playing at Edgbaston in the regional finals was outstanding. Our boys football team had a solid season and are fully geared up and ready to take on the Sentinel Shield next year. Our chess team has done incredibly well this year, and something that has been great to see grow over this past academic year. We also had a large number of students appear in the musical production of Matilda and some unbelievable performances for the Dance Academy, culminating in the impressive Art in Motion performance at The Rep Theatre at the beginning of July. I cannot tell you how proud I am of all of the Year 10 students. You are a testament to the school and everything we stand for.

This summer is important for all students as it gives them the time to prepare for the start of Year 11 in September. Year 11 will be a challenge for everyone and we must be ready to dedicate some time and effort into ensuring that we are in the best possible position come May 2024. Time management is key moving forward. Get revision plans structured early and start your preparations now. Time will move very quickly over the next twelve months and you must be ready for this. We cannot rest on our laurels and be caught out by a lack of preparation.

On a more personal note, I want to thank students, parents and carers for making my job so enjoyable over this past year. Year 10 students are why I continue to cherish the opportunity I was given three years ago. I wish you the best of summer breaks and look forward to our return in September.

Mr J Gibbons



Year 11

Head of Year Comment

Year 11 certainly have gone out on a high! The students were exemplary in their exams and consistently demonstrated our school values as they worked tirelessly to achieve the best in their GCSE examinations. I am confident we will see some excellent outcomes, and thoroughly look forward to celebrating these with the students in August!



We also had our 'Leavers Day' which was a great occasion. During lunch time we had the inaugural 'Leavers Vase' football match on the field. It was a great spectacle (particularly Logan's goal!) and all those watching enjoyed seeing the Year 11's competing. In the afternoon we had our Leavers Assembly where we saw photos of the students throughout their



time at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form, shared funny stories, had messages from staff and the customary shirt signing. Again a lovely occasion for all involved.

And most recently in July we had the Year 11 Prom. An absolutely wonderful evening full of dancing, singing and celebrations all together. The opportunity to see over 130 Y11 students celebrating the end of their time together was a delight for us all.

I have said it before, but I'll emphasise it once more. I am immeasurably proud of this year group for all their efforts and progress over the last five years. They are wonderful young people, with bright futures ahead of them. We will miss them all, and wish them the very best as they move into this exciting new phase of their lives.

Mr J Biggs

Head of Year 11 38

Sixth Form

Future



The theme for sixth form this term has been 'Future'. Year 13 should feel extremely proud of themselves for the way they approached the final few months before sitting their A levels and completing final pieces of BTEC work. I am immensely proud of the focus and commitment Year 13 displayed during the

exam period and coping so well with their first formal examinations and I am confident students will have done their very best and we will see some great outcomes for our students this summer in August. We had a leaver's assembly to say goodbye to everyone and share memories of the last 7 years of school and sixth form. Staff also joined the sixth form tutor team and Year 13 at their Prom last week, for a final celebration.

Meanwhile, Year 12 have been completing work experience and continuing their journey to discover what options are available to them for their future. Year 12 have been fortunate to have talks from Higher Horizons, a day at Birmingham University as well as benefiting from subject careers days, such as a visit to the Crime House at Staffordshire University and subject talks; our politics students had a Q&A with Lord Rooker from the House of Lords. We are keeping our fingers crossed for sunny weather for our geographers on their fieldwork week.



To end the year, we are very excited to

welcome our future sixth form students on their enrolment day and to share some of the opportunities that we have planned for the year ahead.

Miss C Alford Assistant Headteacher



Students with 100% attendance up to 14th July 2023.

Year 7

Frankie A, Jacob h, Reuben L, Jack M, Kirsty S, Pippa S

Year 8

Riley B, Maxwell K, Finlay S

Year 9

Billy B, Kayden C, Alfie D, Jorja H, Taye H, Ethan H, Jessica R, Dominic R, Shimano S

Year 10

Alfie B, Charlie C, Will D, George H, Emma H, Owen L, Saffron M, Jemima N Attendance Information

Attendance Information

- 1 day = 2 sessions
- There are 365 days in a year, students should attend 190 days every day school is open
- · Being late (after the registers have closed) counts as an absence

	What is excellent attendance?				
97% and above	95% to 97%	Less than 95%	Less than 90%	Less than 50%	
Excellent	Good	Concerning	Persistent	Severely	
			Absence/Critical	Absent/Critical	
No more than 6	No more than 10	More than 10	19 days/38 sessions	95 days/190	
days/12 sessions	days/20 sessions	days/20 sessions	or more absent	sessions or more	
absent in a year	absent in a year	absent in a year	from school in a	absent in a year	
			year		
175 NON SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments Lost Learning					
Surely 1 or 2 days absent a week doesn't seem much but this is how it is					
If your child mis	sses That equals	Which is	And over 13 years of s	chooling that's	
1 day per fortr	night 20 days per yea	ar 4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½	years	
1 day per we	ek 40 days per yea	ar 8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ y	ears	
	2 days per week 80 days per year 16 weeks per year Over 5 years		ars		
2 days per w					

If your child is late 10 minutes a day - surely that won't matter or affect my child..

Only missing just	That equals	Which is	Over 13 years of schooling that's
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1 ½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ a year
20 minutes per day	1hour 40minutes per week	Over 2 ½ weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 minutes per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 % years





Health, Sport & Exercise

This year has been another very successful time for our young people. There has been excellent attendance to our clubs and countless triumphs on the sports field. We would like to thank all of the students for their commitment to our enrichment activities and we look forward to seeing even more students next academic year.

We would like to take this opportunity to share some of the summer successes we have had over the last seven weeks.

<u>Cricket</u>

It has been another very successful summer of cricket for both the girls and boys teams. Once again, the skill level of our cricketers has been wonderful to see and they just don't seem to ever fail to impress at the competitions. Well done to all of you who have competed this year and we look forward to more silverware next year.

Year 7 Boys Festival Winners	
Year 10 Boys Festival Winners	
U15 Girls Outdoor County Champions	
U15 Girls Outdoor County Finalists	
U15 Girls Indoor County Finalists	

<u>Netball</u>

Our UI6 girls netball team took part in the 2023 International Junior Netball Festival at Keele University. The event took place over the weekend and involved coaching sessions and a tournament. Our students displayed excellent levels of effort, skill and determination and as a result of their performance during the tournament they came away as UI6 Showdown Shield runners up this. This is a fantastic achievement and we hope our girls valued the opportunity to develop their skills and tactical knowledge and understanding.



Athletics

This summer was a very busy time for our athletes with the City Championships and Super 8's. All students who attended the competitions competed with the upmost respect for their opponents and as always, we were very proud of their attitude and resilience in what is highly competitive competitions.

City Championship Results

Boys	Girls
Year 7 = 3 rd	Year 7 = 5 th
Year 8 = 9 th	Year 8 = 5 th
Year 9 = 4 th	Year 9 = 2 nd
Year 10 = 7 th	Year 10 = 7 th

Super 8's Results

Mixed	
Year 7	5 th
Year 8	2 nd
Year 9 & 10	2 nd

Outstanding Performances	
Harry O	High jump
	Triple jump
Ben R	200m
Tilly H	100m, 200m, relay & long jump
Year 7 Girls	4x100m Relay
Georgina H	100m, relay & high jump
Cole A	Shot put & relay

Mrs H Willott

Curriculum Leader of Health, Sport & Exercise





Tomorrow's Teachers

Although our Tomorrow's Teachers programme is launched in September, yesterday our Year 12 maths and physics students delivered a STEM session to Year 6 students from St Mary's Primary School in Tunstall as part of the pilot.

During the morning, our sixth form students led a range of Harry Potter themed puzzles and experiments. In addition, the Year 6 students used our very own escape room. Staff were really impressed with the Year 12 who made the visit a big success.

We are looking forward to the start of the full Tomorrow's Teachers programme in the new academic year.



Miss K Kane 44STEM Coordinator



This term has provided the Year 12 and 13 H&SC students with wonderful experiences from their placements within some of our local residential care homes. The Golden Valiants and Time for Tea at Port Vale FC. The students have shown excellent communication, teamwork, problem solving and listening skills all of which will be useful for future university interviews in Year 13.

The H&SC department are very grateful to all of our work experience partners for their support, providing our students with valuable transferable skills that they will use in their chosen careers of midwifery, paediatric nursing, mental health nursing, counselling, adult nursing, social work, paramedic science and teaching. We look forward to working with our local providers next year.



Miss G Margaritelli

Curriculum Leader of Health and Social Care



Creative Writing Group

Mrs Townsend and a group of students meet at lunchtimes to share, discuss and work on their own creative writing projects. We would like to share some of the work which showcases the talent of students at the school.

A Ballad To The Body Asunder

What am I?

The rats in my walls?

A community of rampant plagues, infecting carriers doomed to die?

The creek of oak boards

Wails and whispers suggesting the unspeakable

The mushrooms protruding from the window

Fragile roofs, festering spores

The kingdom of spiders nesting beneath the pillowcase

multiplying, feasting, talking

The dust engulfing your portrait

layers upon layers of repression

The body beneath the floor:

Yours.

Always watching with those wide curious eyes

You're the one laying the dust

You're the one talking to the spiders

You're the one festering with mold

You're the one suggesting the unspeakable

You were doomed to die.

By Emily W (Year 10)



Business

Year 13 Business Cohort



Congratulations to our Year 13 business cohort on completing the course. On their last day we organised a revision party for them. We made key term party hats, linked paper chains of reasoning and a business model tree; all finished off with a giant celebratory cookie. The business department wishes them all luck with results and all of their future endeavours and we are very proud of the progress they have made here at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form.



Mrs P Hart-Cadman

Teacher of Business, Finance & Computing

Computer Science

Turing Lab



In computer science Year 7 students have had the opportunity to take control of a virtual farming robot via the online Turing Lab platform.

Turing Lab is a web-based learning environment that allows students to create

and run Python code in a gamified and interactive way. Turing Lab offers a variety of courses and challenges that cover different aspects of programming, such as algorithms, data structures, input/output, functions, and more. One of the most popular courses is Farmbot, where students can use code to control a farming robot that moves around the screen, planting, harvesting, and shipping crops.

Farmbot is not only a fun and engaging way to learn programming, but also a way to raise awareness about sustainable farming and food security. Students can experiment with different crops, soil types, weather conditions, and irrigation methods, and see how they affect the



yield and quality of the produce. They can also learn about the environmental and social impacts of farming, such as carbon emissions, water consumption, and food waste.

We have been using Turing Lab and Farmbot as part of the curriculum for to introduce Python programming. The feedback from the students has been very positive. They have reported that programming the Farmbot have helped them to develop their coding skills, problem-solving abilities, and creativity.

Mr G Broomhall

Curriculum Leader of Business Studies & Computer Science

48



Year 10 BTEC Enterprise

Year 10 BTEC enterprise students have been enjoying their new look BTEC course this year. The main focus has been working on Component 1 which helps students to learn about small and medium enterprises. Students learn about the background to these businesses, ownership types, the skills and characteristics of entrepreneurs, how small businesses use market research and more.

This year we have been delighted to hear from local entrepreneurs via a number of really interesting Teams meetings. Students spoke to Emma from MScape escape rooms about how the business has developed, they also heard from Marsha, a local hairdresser about how their business is run and has developed. We also met with Justin who owns a local property maintenance company, sharing the challenges and opportunities in this industry.

Learning about local entrepreneurs has been fascinating and help students to get some real life incites before completing their assessment on small and medium sized enterprises. It is brilliant to speak to local entrepreneurs and business owners, we look forward to more of these talks next year.



Mrs L Gilbert Teacher of Business



Business

Stocks and Shares Challenge



A group of Year 9 students excitedly visited Keele University to take part in the Stocks annual and Shares Challenge. This was а competition where we were £10.000 (fictional) aiven to invest in selection а of businesses. The students were put into teams along with

students from others schools including international students who were visiting from China. We had to quickly learn how to work well with their new team mates, deciding upon a team name and a logo being created first.

They watched news reports which gave some information about company activities and external influences that might affect the future success or failures of these businesses. Students took this information and started to decide carefully how to invest their money wisely with the intention of making as much as they could from their investments. A "Market Watch" report followed with a review of business performance showing the new share prices, with some celebrating a good return and others slightly downcast at their businesses performances.

Next, students had a tour of the University from their very well prepared student ambassadors, it was interesting for the group to see the size of the camps, the amenities available and visit to the grounds of Keele Hall.

The groups then started to make their next set of investment decisions whilst eagerly awaiting lunch and they were not disappointed. The pizza and chips were much appreciated before they finalised their second selection of investments, using their new funds. A final "Market Watch" round up gave students the end share prices and sheets were taken away for a final calculation.

Whilst waiting for the scores the university ambassadors told us about their courses and ambitions for the future, helping Year 9 to understand the opportunities available.

Eventually, to a drum roll, the winners were announced. Two of our students were in the winning team and instrumental in that win. All 16 were an absolute credit to our school and an enjoyable day was had by all.

Mr G Broomhall

50 Curriculum Leader of Business Studies & Computer Science



Looking Forward to a New Year of Fieldwork

As we approach the end of the Summer term, this is a fantastic time to look forward to the many opportunities offered to our young geographers in the next academic year.

Betws-y-Coed - To finish this year off, our Year 12 geographers visited Betws-y-Coed to collect fieldwork data for their NEA. The trip consisted of a four-day residential visit to the Woodlands Centre, where students develop their life skills and plan, prepare and deliver their own fieldwork. This year, students Have decided to collect data in Betws-y-Coed, Criccieth beach, the river Conwy and Llandudno.



Carding Mill Valley – Our Year 11 geographers, who were unable to visit Blencathra last year will be visiting Carding Mill Valley in September to collect primary data for a river investigation.



Blencathra – Our brand-new Year 10 GCSE geographers will be the second cohort of students to visit the Blencathra field studies centre in the Lake District this November. This is an amazing opportunity for our young people to experience life away from home for three days. Here, students will visit both a local river and the town of Carlisle to collect a variety of data.

Staffordshire University – Our Year 12 geographers visit Shelton a part of their "near place" investigations for A-level human geography. As part of this visit, students get the opportunity to experience bespoke geography sessions at Staffordshire University.

Mr A Knight

Curriculum Leader of Geography

Geography



Iceland – A number of our GCSE and A-level geographers will be visiting Iceland in October half term. Staff and students alike will stay in Hotel Cabin, Reykjavik and visit a variety of locations around southern Iceland, including the Secret Lagoon, Gulfoss (and many other) waterfalls, the town of Vik and

many other sites linking to plate tectonics, sustainable energy and physical geography.

A-level Revision Session – Manchester – Year 13 geographers visit Manchester for an A-level revision session at the Trafford Centre via Tutor2U. This gives them detailed insight from expert geographers linked to AQA.

Liverpool and Crosby – Again, our Year 8 geographers will have the opportunity to investigate both physical processes at Crosby beach and human geography, visiting various sites in Liverpool.

The geography department is also in the process of organising further fieldwork opportunities for Year 7 and Year 9. Watch this space.



Mr A Knight

Curriculum Leader of Geography 52



A Day in the Life of a History Teacher

Leo P, in Year 12, is exploring possible future career pathways and, as a history enthusiast, chose to experience the life of a history teacher during his Year 12 work experience placement. The department were thrilled to learn of Leo's decision and quickly set to work creating him a bespoke timetable and assigning him some tasks for the week.

Leo observed numerous history lessons during his placement and was often called upon to provide additional knowledge and support for our younger students. He was an excellent role model and many students benefitted from his presence in their lessons.

Leo was tasked with creating a bespoke history lesson for our Year 6 students to enjoy as part of their induction day. He excelled and created a wonderful lesson on Ancient Greece where students had to decide if they would rather live in Sparta or Athens. He used the



knowledge he had gained observing experienced practitioners to adapt his lesson to meet the needs of primary pupils and he delivered it with enthusiasm and confidence. He finished the lesson with a scrabble-based task where students had to create the highest scoring keyword. This was a great task and the Year 6 students really enjoyed competing with one another.

Leo was keen to leave a lasting legacy in the department so created a display to be used in Room 8. He spent time researching a range of revolutions before choosing accurate pictures and information to further improve the learning spaces across the department.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Leo for all his hard work and we hope he continues to explore teaching as a possible career pathway. He would be an asset to the profession.

Mrs E Avons

Curriculum Leader of History



Year 6 Ready for Action

Year 6 students from 21 different primary schools visited Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form for their annual New Intake Days. 186 students attended, experiencing a variety of lessons from across the curriculum. Parents and carers also had the opportunity to speak to Senior Leaders about the new routines and priorities for September. Students are reminded that school opens on Tuesday 5th September and everybody will get to meet new form tutors from 8.45am onwards.

Y6 Summer School

Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form is once again giving Year 6 students the opportunity to attend Summer School in their preparations for a September start. It's a great opportunity for students to meet others and familiarise themselves with the new learning environment. Students who have attended previous summer schools have indicated they felt less anxious in September. Students will experience lessons in maths, English, science, art, languages, PE, technology, business, IT, cooking and drama".

Open Week

Year 5 students and their families were given the opportunity to tour Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form daily to observe lessons and experience the values evident around school.

Feedback included: "The students were extremely well mannered and spoke passionately about their experiences". "The notice boards and learning environment reflected the knowledge and experience of staff". "I will be taking some of the initiatives I have seen today back to my high school". "My son cannot wait to start. He has attended regular activities and feels ready to start Blythe. Can we just skip Year 6 and the SAT's!!"

Parents are reminded that the Year 6 New Intake Evening will take place on Thursday 21st September. Invites will be sent to primary schools in September.



Transition

Maths Puzzle Fun



192 Year 5 students attended the annual Maths Puzzle Day on Tuesday 27th June. Y5 student Esme from Meir Heath Academy said "I really enjoyed the event and the puzzles were really fun. I loved making the penguin iceberg". Fellow Year 5 students Tom from Springcroft Primary said, 'Its was great to meet other

students from different primaries. I loved the puzzles especially building the chair stacks and balance beam".

Wizz, Bang & Pop: Year 5 Science Fun Fest

60 students attended the annual Science Fun Fest on Tuesday 13th June. students classed as able & talented were given the opportunity to experience a variety of lessons including speed of sound, energy, moments, chemical reactions and magnification. Year 5 student James said, "I loved the chemical reaction and trying to power a car using only lemons. The day was really fun and I made lots of new friends".



Skip, Hop & Jump: Y4 Olympic Day



Students from our six main partnership schools came together for our annual Olympic Legacy Day on Wednesday 21st June. Students had the opportunity to experience activities including dance, trampolining, athletics, fitness, self defence and problem solving.

Year 4 student Ben said, "I really liked the trampolining and self defence. The Partnership picnic at lunch was good and

it was nice meeting other students".

Mr A Jackson

Progress Director of Transition

Stay alert

Make sure you give the road your full attention. Don't listen to music, use headphones or a mobile phone whilst riding your bike as you may not see or hear vehicles around you.

Adhere to the Highway Code

It may be tempting to beat the traffic but ignoring the rules of the road can be very dangerous.

Make sure you:

- ride 1 metre away from the kerb or in the centre of the left lane
- ride a car-door width away from parked cars
- don't dodge in and out of traffic in an attempt to jump a queue
- stop for red lights and pedestrians on crossings

It's also important to keep your bicycle in good condition as this will help prevent accidents. Make sure your tyres are pumped to the right pressure and are in good condition and that your brakes work!

If you intend to ride on busy roads it is a good idea to undertake cycle training.

There are lots of reasons why cycling is a great way to travel – it's fun, is an easy way to get from A to B and is relatively cheap, not to mention eco-friendly. Best of all cycling offers lots of health benefits by helping to keep you fit and active.

If you are going to cycle anywhere it is important to keep yourself safe. Cycling on the roads can be dangerous if you do not take care and it's no surprise that with more cyclists on the roads, accidents are on the rise too.

Keep yourself safe and prevent accidents by following these simple steps.





Further information

For more information and tips on staying safe, visit the following websites:

www.uhb.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Roadsafety/Pages Cyclists.aspx

www.rospa.com/roadsafety/ adviceandinformation/cycling

www.direct.gov.uk/en/ TravelAndTransport/Cycling

Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham Part of University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

Wear the right kit

It is important to make yourself visible to other roads users both during the day and at night.

You should wear:

- brightly-coloured or fluorescent clothing to help others see you
- reflective clothing/items such as ankle bands, especially when it's dark
- suitable clothing avoid clothing that could get caught in your chain or restrict your movement
- do practical footwear

Helmets

Helmets can help prevent a minor head injury if you fall from your bike.

You should wear a helmet:

- fastened securely by straps under your chin – you should only be able to fit two fingers between the strap and your chin
- 💑 that meets the British Standard
- that is well-fitting. It should be positioned just above your eyebrows and should not tilt back or forwards

Replace your helmet every five years. Don't buy a second-hand helmet as it may be damaged and make sure your helmet has a British Standard kite mark.

Lights and reflectors

Lights and reflectors are a really effective way of making yourself visible to others.

If you use your bike at night or when visibility is poor, then you are required by law to have:

- do a white front light
- 💑 a red rear light
- do a red rear reflector
- amber/yellow pedal reflectors front and back on each pedal

Cycle safely on the road

When you're cycling on busy roads you need to show others on the road what you plan to do.

Make sure you:

- do show your intentions
- indicate left and right turns by using your arms to signal which way you are going to turn
- kok and signal before you start, stop or turn
- make eye contact with drivers to let them know you have seen them