

Newsletter



PRIDE

RESPECT

KINDNESS

Welcome to the latest edition of our school's Winter Newsletter!

Get ready to unwrap the latest happenings, achievements, and upcoming events within our vibrant school community.

Join us on this journey of learning, growth, and countless memorable moments. Find out how well our Year 7 students showcased their talents at the Festival of Arts, and explore our geography trips. Plus, find out how our charity ambassadors have embraced their new roles.





Congratulations to Aviaana A in 7CBA for winning our Year 7 Christmas card competition. We love the magical sleigh flying over the rooftops and feel it perfectly captures the festive season. Well done, Aviaana!



Headteacher's Welcome

As we come towards the end of term, I would like to thank all the staff, students and parents/carers who have been involved in or supported the many activities over the last few weeks. Whether it is sporting fixtures, music, dance and drama events, clubs or educational visits; these additional enrichment opportunities are an important part of our extended curriculum and the hard work that goes into arranging them is much appreciated. You will see from this winter edition of the newsletter just how much we are able to offer extended experiences outside of the classroom.

On Friday, we will say our fond farewells to Mr Leese as he leaves our school to take on the headship at Walton High School in Stafford. He has been a highly valued member of the leadership team since joining us in September 2015. He has led whole school initiatives, most recently being responsible for teaching and learning. As a deputy head, he has been a strength to me professionally and personally, and although he will be greatly missed, we know he will be an excellent headteacher. On behalf of the staff, students and governors, we wish him all the best for the future.

Have a lovely Christmas, and I look forward to seeing everyone back safe and well on Monday, 8th January.

Mrs R Johnson

Headteacher



Our Students Say It Best

"A term highlight for me was when I danced during the Festival of Arts with my friends! Since September, I have made lots of friends and grown in confidence. I look forward to what 2024 brings." **Darcey S, Year 7**

"Discovering 'A Christmas Carol' has been fascinating. I appreciated seeing it live at the Stoke Repertory Theatre." **Lexi-Mai S-B, Year 10**

"Being part of the school choir is fantastic. Singing carols gets me in the Christmas spirit, allows me to express myself and is great practice for my dream job as a performer. Miss Balewski teaches us the importance of caring for our vocal chords and preserving our voice." **Jacob H, Year 8**

"Performing in Mary Poppins has been really fun and everyone is really nice. It has helped my confidence grow and as a GCSE Drama student, I really understand the mechanics of a stage performance. I would like to pursue acting when I'm older." **Matilda A-T, Year 11**

"I love attending Craft Club with my friends. We have been busy making tags for candy canes. Crafting makes me feel happy, included and it's fun." **Phoebe W, Year 9**

"I was so proud of my form's efforts for Children in Need they really excelled themselves and raised a great deal of money for charity." **Miss Housley**



Christmas Carol Service



St Peter's church warmly welcomed our Year 7 students to the annual Christmas Carol Service. The theme explored 'what Christmas means to me', and form tutors were asked to present this to students. Our wonderful Year 7 readers confidently delivered numerous readings on the true meaning of Christmas whilst reminding everyone of our core values of pride, respect and kindness. The musical contributions from the orchestra and the choir complimented the service beautifully. The choir's rendition of 'We Have a Saviour' brought goose bumps to many, and the Year 7 performance of 'Power In Me' was a personal highlight!



A special mention of gratitude must go to Sophie and Reverend Jonathan from St Peter's church for their hospitality and support in helping to make our service so special.



Daniel I, from 7SAL, commented, "I really enjoyed the Christmas Carol Service! The songs performed by the choir lifted my mood, and seeing Mr Jackson and Mr Salt dressed up made me laugh!"

Year 7 Festival of Arts



Blythe Bridge High School held its annual Year 7 Festival of Arts on Tuesday, 28th November.

This music, dance, drama and creative writing festival allowed students to showcase their talents and achievements this academic year. 208 parents requested tickets in advance, with a further 17 adults admitted before the event. A packed hall witnessed extracts from 'Grease', 'Mary Poppins' and 'Matilda' and heard solos from a range of musical artists, including various dance styles and readings.

Parents and carers commented:

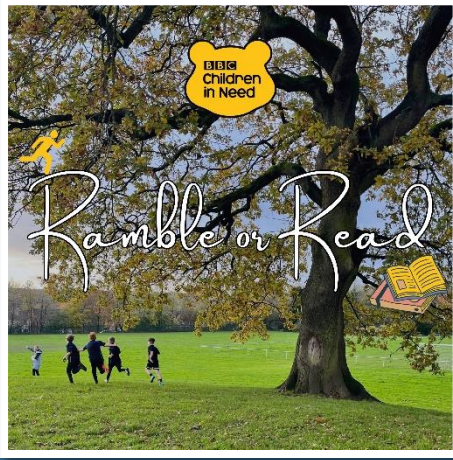
"It was amazing to witness what the students have achieved in such a short time and a wide range of talents. Thank you for developing them in every way."

"All the Year 7 students were terrific. It's great to see them perform with such confidence."

"An absolutely brilliant performance from all the children. Thanks to the staff for organising."



Children in Need



Ramble or Read

Year 7 students were given the opportunity to ramble or read in aid of Children in Need on Tuesday 14th November with a suggested donation of £1. Students enjoyed a brisk run or walk around our wonderful school grounds, with other children choosing to read in the Main Hall, alongside members of staff. We are pleased to share that we raised £173.25 for Children in Need and are proud of our Year 7 students for their generosity.



Year 10 Blencathra Visit

Our Year 10 geographers enjoyed a three-day residential to Blencathra in the Lake District. The residential's aim was to experience the awe and wonder of the Lake District environment, and everyone enjoyed the contrasting surroundings, made even more impressive 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 Kilnhow Beck, a local river, to see how its characteristics change downstream. The second was to examine the quality of life in Carlisle by comparing the St Aidens (inner city) to Stanwix (suburbs).

Students worked intensely both in the field and the classroom environment during the morning and evening. They also particularly enjoyed their free time playing games with others and developing independence skills by making their 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.



Dominic R said, "I enjoyed the nice hike at the end of the trip. We looked at suburbs, inner cities and asked members of the public for their opinions on set topics."



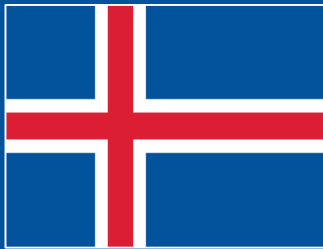
"On the last day, we visited a majestic waterfall, I thought it was absolutely gorgeous. We also saw sheep and goats, which I loved!" Meadow A-T

Chess Tournament

Dexter H and Henry A took part in the Staffordshire Junior Chess Championship, competing against the best players in the region. Both our players performed extremely well, displaying advanced chess skills and an exemplary attitude throughout the day.



Trip to Iceland

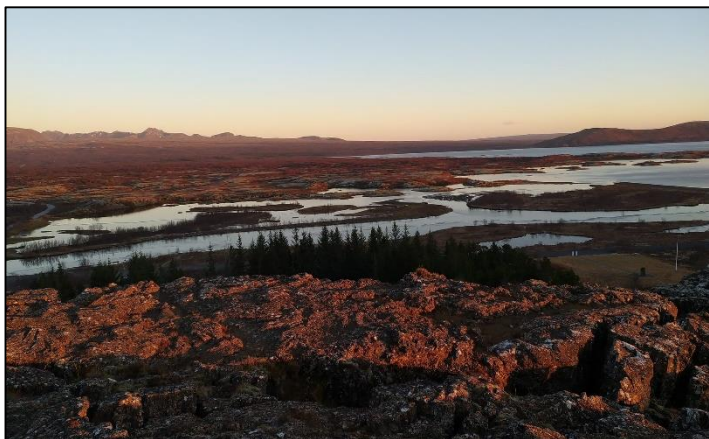


Year 11 and 12

In the October half term, fifty students visited Iceland, the land of fire and ice. This is the first time the Geography department has organised this visit, and it was a fantastic success.

The first day consisted of travelling to Iceland. Once we had settled into the Hotel Cabin, we went to Reykjavik city centre on foot to look around the shops and businesses. On this frosty walk, we headed down to the seafront, and to our astonishment, we looked into the sky and saw the Northern Lights. Students were amazed at their beauty.

Day 2 consisted of the South Shore Tour, where students made several stops. Firstly, we visited Solheimajokull, a retreating glacier. Students enjoyed looking at the landscape and being able to touch the glacier. As this glacier is shrinking, there is the possibility that it may disappear within their lifetime. The second stop was Vik, a small south coast town where students had lunch and time for shopping. On the return journey, we visited two waterfalls, the spectacular Skógafoss and, excitingly, Seljalandsfoss, where we could walk behind the powerful waterfall.



Trip to Iceland



In the evening, we saw the lit-up church in Reykjavik, which was beautiful, and to our surprise, the Northern lights appeared above our heads again. This time, they were even more spectacular.

Day 3 was another action-packed day. Firstly, we visited a geothermal power station in southern Iceland (close to the current seismic activity). We then walked around the Kerid volcanic crater. We spent a couple of hours bathing in the natural spas of the Secret Lagoon, which reached up to 40 degrees Celsius. In the afternoon, we visited the spectacular geyser, which erupted several times (getting us soaked in the process), and then on to the National Park. Here, we could walk between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates, surrounded by beautiful landscapes.

Students were exhausted before we returned home in the early hours of Thursday morning. However, they enjoyed a treat of takeaway pizza. I want to thank all the students who attended. They were model students. Thanks also to the fantastic staff who gave up their half term break. Thank you, Mrs Clarke, Mrs Kadri, Mrs Cotterill (a last-minute stand-in) and Mr James.

GCSE and A-level geographers, keep your eyes peeled for another visit to Iceland in the near future!



Art Christmas Card Competition



Winner

Congratulations to Freya L in Year 8, the winner of Art's Christmas Card competition. The idea of the children working together to decorate the school tree is absolutely wonderful.

Runner up

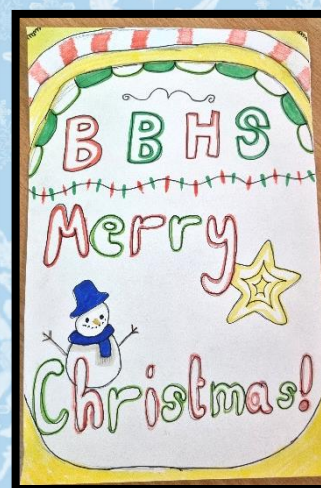
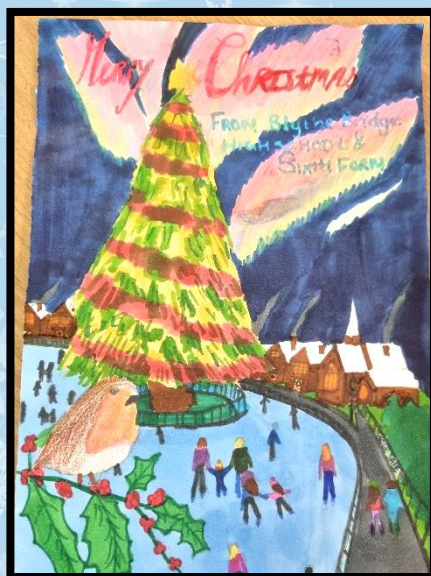
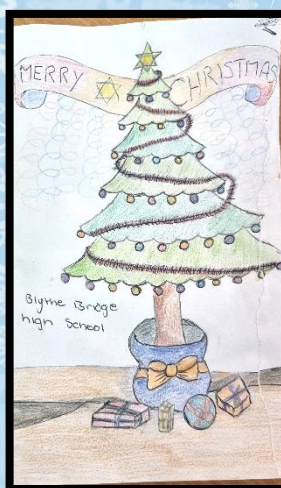
Congratulations to Olivia W in Year 7, runner up in our Christmas card competition. The snowman holding a robin, as it's snowing looks magical.



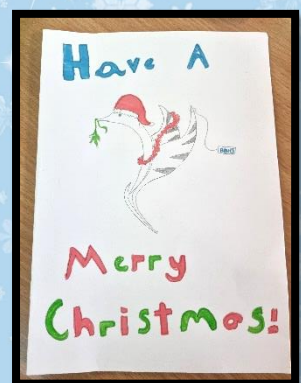
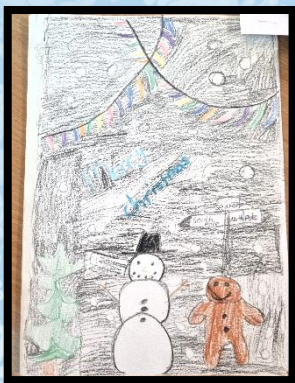
Art Christmas Card Competition



In December, all students were invited to participate in the Art department's competition to design a school Christmas card. We had some very cheerful entries from some very talented artists. Well done to everyone who took part.



Art Christmas Card Competition



Year 7 Christmas Card Competition



Xavier D, 7X7

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.



Jessica N, 7X6

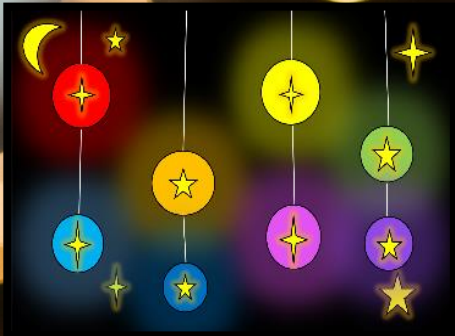
Year 7 Christmas Card Competition



Maddie S, 7X4



Maizie B, 7x2



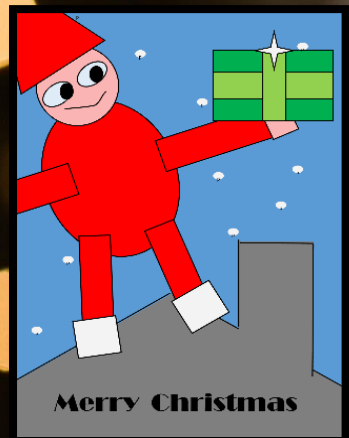
Harry G, 7X5



Logan T, 7X1



Kye M, 7A1X



Eddie M, 7X5

School Production



Rehearsals for Mary Poppins are continuing at a pace with most of the musical being blocked, set pieces being painted, and props being made.

Next term promises to be busy for the cast and crew, but we know they'll be 'practically perfect in every way' by Tuesday 6th February, which will be our first night. Payment for tickets will be open to everyone in the new year.



Reverse Advent Calendar

The Pride, Respect and Kindness committee recently launched their Reverse Advent Calendar. Each day, staff have been donating pet food for local animal charities and the items have been collected by Josh S from the PRK team. Here are some photos from the first week of donations.



Reverse Advent Calendar



School Improvements

After almost a year of patiently waiting for our new school mini bus, it has finally arrived.

Our previous mini bus did over 70,000 mile of educational visits, PE tournaments and fixtures. Plus, visits to the Welsh Valleys, and deliveries of food parcels and work to students during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Let's hope our new mini bus is as loyal and adventurous as our previous one.



U13 Girls City Football Success

On the 17th of November our U13 girls 5-a-side football team travelled across the city to take part in the city futsal tournament. The girls won their group, defeating every team they played. They went through to the semi-final where they comfortably beat their opposition by relentless pressure. They then went on to face Excel in the final. The final was a tough game with both teams putting on a fine display of football. However, our clinical finishing enabled us to find the back of the net, beating Excel to win the tournament. Well played everyone, you were outstanding.



U13 Girls EFL Football Success

In November our U13 girls football team took part in the EFL girls 7 a-side football tournament at Powerleague. 18 schools too part and the standard of football was fantastic. The girls played 4 games in their group and due to their persistent pressure at the back and relentless attacking play came out as winners. This meant they progressed through to the quarterfinals where they managed to outplay their opponents, comfortably progressing through to the semi-finals. Their next match was tough, both teams played very well but we never gave up and won the game making it through to the final. In the final they faced very tough opposition. Both teams played incredibly well, however we are so pleased to say the team won by two goals and are now 7 a-side City Champions. The girls will receive their trophy at a Stoke City match and will now represent Stoke City FC in the next round. Outstanding play by all, a real team effort. Thank you to all students involved and parents for all of your support





U14 Girls Football Success

On the 28th of November our U14 girls took part in The City 5 A-Side Football Tournament. Their group consisted of 6 teams and of the 5 games they played they won them all: 8-0, 3-0, 5-0, 7-0 & 10-0 (keeping a clean sheet). Their cracking form meant they topped their group meeting St Joes in the semi-finals. This was a tougher and very physical contest which felt closer than the score suggested, with Blythe winning 3-0. Going into the final with a clean sheet is always hard and it was here they met Excel. This game was absolutely incredible with both teams playing fantastic football. Excel took the lead first, with us quickly levelling up the score to 1-1. Excel took a chance with a long range shot which found the bottom corner, once again seeing excel take the lead. Our girls pushed on, keeping their heads up and a positive attitude and again, we quickly found the back of the net. Having equalised for the second time their spirits were high and they placed relentless pressure on Excel. We then scored another cracker to take the lead and within another minute scored again to put light between us and Excel with 30 seconds left to play. We cannot put into words just how well they played together as a team to see them win the tournament for the second year in a row! Time to get a bigger trophy cabinet!!

U15 Girls Cricket Success

UNDER 15 INDOOR CRICKET COUNTY CHAMPIONS

On the 14th of December the U15 girls' cricket team travelled to Wolverhampton to take part in the indoor county cricket final.

The girls played 4 games, bowling tight lines to keep extras down to a minimum. In the field, all the girls were excellent with some exceptional ground fielding to stop runs and a number of important catches taken.

It was with the bat though where they were most impressive; with some big hitting combined with sharp running between the wickets. Whilst the top order set up the innings with some big scores, the lower order chipped in with useful runs to ensure that Blythe got big scores when batting first and got us over the line in a tight finish when chasing.

Blythe were excellent in all of their games, winning all 4 and coming out as county champions.

The girls were a credit to the school with their conduct throughout the day and have now qualified for the regional final at Edgbaston in April. Well done girls!



Citizenship Guest Speakers

During the autumn term we have had various guest speakers and visitors into school to deliver important messages to our students. These opportunities enrich our curriculum provision and offer further insight into some very important topics.



Oddballs

On the 16th of October our year 11 students and sixth formers received a talk on testicular cancer. The talk was delivered by an Oddballs Ambassador and our students received the talk with great maturity and sensitivity. During the talk key information was shared about how to access support if you have any concerns about testicular cancer, how to check yourself for signs and symptoms and how to support someone else who is concerned.



Loudmouth

At the start of the academic year our year 9 students were lucky enough to receive a presentation by Loudmouth. The students participated in an hour-long drama and discussion workshop covering the many forms of bullying including cyber, sexist/sexual, homophobic bullying and bullying linked to sexting. The session also covered respect in relationships and male victims of teenage relationship abuse.

The workshop was led by "Loudmouth" a highly respected and innovative educational theatre company who have been delivering workshops on personal, social and health education since 1994.

The session increased our young people's empathy for victims of bullying, increased their knowledge of different types of bullying and ensured they know where to go for help and support.



Road Safety

In November, we were visited by our local road safety education officer.

During the day students in Year 7, 10 and 12 received talks covering key road safety information relevant to their age.

Our students were excellent throughout and we hope they use the information shared to stay safe when on or around the roads.

Quiz and Chips

Well done to 'Team Africa 2025' for running a successful 'Quiz and Chips' night to raise money for the Africa volunteering visit in 2025.

In total, the group raised £380 and, on the night, displayed outstanding teamwork to ensure everyone had a good time.

The 'Quiz and Chips' was one of the best attended yet, with 15 teams and a need for 75 portions of chips. Thank you to everyone who supported these fantastic young people!

'Wyaston Bobsled' (pictured on the right) bagged the top prize after a tie-break question. Plus, Mr Baines (below) won the Port Vale signed ball, but as an Arsenal fan, he gave it to someone else in the crowd who was much more of a Port Vale fan.



Student Ambassadors



The following students have been selected to represent their year group as student ambassadors. We are incredibly proud of all the students who applied to take on this role and look forward to working with the exceptional role models who have been chosen. Congratulations!

Year 7: Michael O, Zoe S & Abigail H

Year 8: Evie B & Kobi M

Year 9: Charlie BW & Jessica C

Year 10: Joshua S & Harshdeep S



Halloween Disco



**Year 7 &
Year 8**



Disco

At the end of the first half term, we saw the spooktacular Halloween Disco take place. Students from years 7 and 8 arrived at 5 pm and enjoyed the spooky vibes of the evening.

Mrs Jones-Meredith and a team of helpers spent the afternoon decorating the main hall to give it a spooky and eerie vibe. DJ James created an entrance track to set the mood for the evening and then did an excellent job of creating and maintaining a fantastic atmosphere for the evening.

A massive thank you to DJ James and Mrs Jones-Meredith for the time and effort they have put in to make the evening as successful as it was. The sixth form and year 11 helpers also did a great job supporting the evening; without them, it would not have run as smoothly as it did. The following staff members gave up their Friday evening to support the Halloween disco. Without this, the evening would not have gone ahead. Thank you to: Mr Jackson, Mrs Hart-Cadman, Mrs Davies, Mrs Willott, Miss James and Mr Littler.

The evening was a great success, and the students had a great time. Well done to Poppy B for winning the prize for the best dressed. It was a very difficult decision with so many fantastic outfits.

Year 7 and 8 students have managed to raise a total of £582.37 from this evening, so a massive well done to each of you who contributed to the evening.

Heads of Year



Year 7

Congratulations on completing your first term at Blythe Bridge High School.

It has been a very busy one; we ended the last half term with the Halloween disco, which raised over £580 for our chosen charity, UHNM. Seeing so many Year 7 students show kindness when donating to this amazing cause was fantastic. During this half term, the students have also completed a 'Ramble or Read for Children in Need' and raised over £170 again, showing how kind our Year 7 students are.

The festival of arts has been a highlight for us as a year team, as I know it has been for many parents and carers, too. Seeing so many of them on stage showcasing their talents and confidence was remarkable. I hope they are all incredibly proud of the bravery and resilience shown that evening.

There has been such a buzz around the school in extra-curricular clubs, from craft and gardening to chess and Warhammer; there is always something that the students are getting involved in. The sporting successes of our Year 7 teams outside of the classroom have been so valuable, and again, it is lovely to see so many of them keen and proud to represent the school.

The carol service held at St Peter's was a success and a big thank you goes out to all the readers, singers and orchestra involved in the event. The Year 7s conducted themselves impeccably, respecting the church and those who had volunteered to be a part of the service, so a thank you goes out to the students for their conduct and behaviour. On a personal note, I thoroughly enjoyed the service, and the highlight was when Year 7 sang the 'Power of Me' at the end of it. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during the transition to high school.

The students have settled in well to the routines and expectations, and seeing so many getting involved in all of the opportunities available here has been excellent. I wish you all a restful break and a Merry Christmas, and I look forward to welcoming Year 7 back in 2024!

Mrs P Hart-Cadman
Head of Year 7
Teacher of Business,
Finance and Computing



Form stars of the term

7CBA Freyja B

Freyja, you are always one of the first people to come to form, always have a smile on your face, always willing to help others and always demonstrate pride, kindness and respect around the school. You are an exceptional role model to your peers. Well done.

7HDR Tyler-Jay W

Tyler is a determined young person who strives to improve himself. During form time, he has shown a fantastic ability to reflect and learn from others. He is, without a doubt, a good-hearted child willing to help others whenever an opportunity arises. He makes people around him feel valued and welcome. He makes us proud, thanks to his hard work and resilience. He is becoming the person he wants to be by being independent, reflective, and committed to daily improvement.



Heads of Year



7HW George I

George, you never fail to put a smile on my face. You have settled in so well, and I am very proud of you.

7KH Sophie J

Has shown great resilience and determination since starting high school in September. She is always willing to take on any challenge and has massively grown both in progress and confidence, the main highlight being reading during the Carol Concert.

7KSA Ryan H

An excellent start to your time here at Blythe Bridge, exemplifying our values of pride, respect and kindness.

7LP Poppy J

Poppy is the epitome of pride and respect. She is resilient, determined and has impeccable manners. Poppy is an excellent role model to other students and I am lucky to have her in my form.

7SAL Joshua T

Joshua is a fantastic form member, always willing to help me, and played a crucial role in developing the form board.



Year 7 Top Achievers

Anya B 7KH 1145
Freya B 7CBA 1056
Daisy E 7KH 1041
Theo K 7KH 1034
Amber W 7KH 1029
Eleanor J 7KH 1006
Esmee W 7KH 998
Aviaana A 7CBA 997
Jude W 7KH 980
Ruby M 7CBA 974



Heads of Year

Year 8

Year 8, well done on completing the autumn term. We have seen many of you support the school in an array of activities, as well as many of you picking up some leadership roles in school. It was incredible to see the career champions on stage and presenting to the rest of the year group during an assembly.

I have been particularly impressed by the number of students who have received four outstanding lesson scores in a day over this half term. I look forward to running the prize draw at the end of the term, where we will pull a name from a collection of student names who have managed to accomplish this.

This half term, you have focussed on managing money. Through conversations I have had with some students, many of you have taken away some key skills and learnt more about the value of money. Also, we have accumulated 109 students onto the bronze reward this term. We look forward to celebrating with you on the last week of term and the celebration assembly. As we end the term, 40 of you will head off to Lille for the Christmas market. We hope each and every one of you has a fantastic few days. Use your skills from the managing money topic to spend your money wisely, and not all at the chocolate factory! Have a wonderful Christmas break, and we will welcome you back to school with perfect uniform on Monday, 8th January 2024!

Miss K Fargher
Head of Year 8
Teacher of Science



Form stars of the term

8AK James S

For being a model student. He is always a kind and generous student who works with a smile. He goes about his business with pride and respects everyone around him. He has also received the most 1s in 8AK to date. An outstanding student and an outstanding human being.

8BRO Ava M

You have been awarded Star of the Form for your fantastic attitude in lessons and for always showing our core values of pride, respect and kindness. It is great to see how positive your feedback from lessons is. You are also a fantastic friend and support for your peers.

8JB Alexis B

This certificate is awarded to Alexis for her exemplary contributions to our school community. Alexis consistently maintains impeccable behaviour scores, demonstrating a commitment to a positive and respectful learning environment. Her dedication to academic excellence is evident through her consistently high averages, showcasing a commendable work ethic. During form time, Alexis always engages in silent reading, setting a focused and productive tone for her peers. Many teachers commend Alexis for her pleasant demeanour and express appreciation for the joy of teaching her. Her exercise books exhibit exceptional presentation, reflecting a meticulous approach to her studies.



8KK Thea C

This person has worked really well throughout the whole of the half term we've had so far. They have been resilient even when challenged, and they have overcome many obstacles throughout the year. They have excelled in achieving their goals, and I look forward to seeing what the next term brings.

8KMP Niah S

For having the most achievement points in the form group and for always having an excellent attitude towards her work. Niah has made a fantastic start to Year 8.

8NC Niamh T-F

Niamh encompasses all aspects of the school's core values, demonstrating these in everything she does. She consistently works hard and receives excellent behaviour scores. Her kindness and thoughtfulness to members of the form group is lovely to see. Well done, Niamh.

8NP Evie B

Exemplary attitude to learning and apparent dedication to wider school commitments, helping out with charitable events at any given opportunity.

Year 8 Top Achievers

Frankie A 8NP 1086
Evangelina S 8NP 992
Asia N 8KK 979
Lily M 8BRO 944
Jacob H 8BRO 931
Kirsty S 8NC 925
Thea C 8KK 891
Oliver W 8JB 883
Evie B 8NP 875
Niamh T-F 8NC 874

Heads of Year

Year 9

Our Year 9 students continue to work hard and make us proud on a regular basis with their commitment to learning, kindness to each other and determination. Many students are recognised for consistently demonstrating our core values of Pride, Respect and Kindness, wearing their uniforms with pride and demonstrating a positive attitude. We will continue to recognise those students who embody our values, and we hope to see the list grow as the academic year progresses. As we reach the end of this term and enter a new year, I think it is important to take the time to reflect on what we have achieved and how we can do even better. We can feel proud as a community, a school and as a year group of all that we have achieved and the support we have shown one another.

Students have been working hard to receive as many achievement points as possible. We already have 29 students with over 600 achievement points so far and are eligible for a rewards event. There is some work to do when compared with other year groups, though, Year 8 in particular. The top 10 achievers this term are as follows:

Year 9 Top Achievers

Natasha H-T 9KKN 760
Chelsea R 9HH 758
Precious M 9NG 732
Bradley S 9HH 732
Jessica C 9KKN 729
Scarlett W-H 9NG 710
Jessica C 9CFL 708
Sydney T 9CFL 681
Dexter H 9CFL 677
Layla D 9HH 674

Year 9 have a range of opportunities this year, and I would encourage them to get involved in as many as possible. As such, the history department is delighted to offer an educational visit to the Ypres and Somme Battlefields of World War One. The itinerary for the trip was designed to enable students to explore the battlefields and pay their respects to the many British & Commonwealth soldiers who died in the fighting. The proposed itinerary includes visits to Hill 60 and the Menin Gate and to the Somme to see the Lochnagar Crater and the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing. This is a brilliant visit and something very much to look forward to in the coming months.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you as parents/carers for all of the support, and I truly believe that we get the best from our students when we work collaboratively and in partnership. Well done, Year 9, for all your hard work this term. I wish all students, parents, carers, and families a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Mrs S Davies
Head of Year 9
Teacher of PE



Form stars of the term

9LKB Lydia S

For being an exceptional student and a role model for her peers. She is conscientious, kind and respectful, approaching all aspects of school life with a determination to succeed. An absolute pleasure to have in the form group.

9ERJ Jorden L

For his dedication, hard work and going above and beyond in everything that he does. Whether it is academic, extracurricular activities or helping others, this student always demonstrates our core values of pride, respect and kindness. I have been impressed by his commitment to learning and positive attitude this academic year.

9NG Jacob W

For his consistent effort to always do the right thing and having the respect from his peers for doing so.

9KKN Aaron L

He has consistently received outstanding lesson scores this term showing his dedication to his studies. He approaches each day with a positive attitude and is hardworking. Aaron is always polite and courteous and a credit to his form.

9CFL Lily B

For an excellent attitude towards all areas of school life this term. She consistently has one of the best behaviour averages each week and demonstrates the school's core values at all times.

9JBY Liam W

For applying himself in all lessons, showing high levels of motivation and always (quietly!) just getting on with it.

9HH Tia Grace C

She has settled into the school very well over the short time she has been with us and shows the school's values of pride, respect and kindness every day. This is reflected by her achieving top behaviour scores each week.

Heads of Year

Year 10

The run-up to Christmas has been extremely busy, both in and outside the classroom! Students are flourishing as they embark on their GCSE journey, and it is fantastic to see the level of engagement within the classroom. It is never too early to start revising for the mock examinations that commence on 15th April 2024. Several parents and students have enquired about revision books; therefore, I recommend contacting teachers to identify which revision resources are most suitable for the examinations for which students will be entered. There are also many revision resources on Frog for students to access that have been tailored specifically for the exam specification and exam board for each subject area.

Many students have showcased their talents outside of the classroom and have fully grasped the opportunities available, whether on the sports field, on the stage, participating in music clubs or taking on a leadership role. The student leadership opportunities are an excellent way to prepare students for the exciting prefect roles that select students can apply for ready for the next academic year. Joshua S and Harshdeep S have been successful in their applications to become the student ambassadors for Year 10, in which they will have the important task of discussing school improvement whilst providing a student voice for their peers. I look forward to seeing their contribution to school life.

A big thank you to those students who have already arranged their work experience and have submitted their work experience forms. The deadline of 9th February 2024 must be adhered to so we can ensure that appropriate checks can be made for each placement. If you have any further queries regarding work experience, please get in touch with Miss Housley or Mr Goodwin.

I would like to thank parents and carers for their continued support over this last term, and I wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas.

Mrs L Cartlidge
Head of Year 10
Curriculum Leader of
Philosophy and Ethics



Year 10 Top Achievers

Elijah C 10GM 879
Jorja H 10HBL 800
Ryley C 10GM 753
Ryan E 10HBL 732
Phoebe C 10GM 715
Krrish C 10GM 703
Ella R 10GM 702
Will H 10HBL 698
Callum J 10GM 686
Sydney W 10HBL 674



Form stars of the term

10GM Tyler H

Tyler shows immense commitment and pride in improving and working on his musical abilities. He practices his guitar every morning before school. I really enjoy playing 'I guess that song' when I listen to what he performs with his friends. He may not be aware. Still, Tyler and his friend's abilities are improving, and all the effort to practice will pay off by pursuing this great extracurricular interest.

10HBL George M

George is consistently focused and hard-working in lessons; since September, he has also made fantastic, often insightful, contributions to our citizenship lessons and regularly achieves numerous ones each week. George has really started to come out of his shell this term and is more confident contributing.

10LLM Leah L

Leah is the form star of the term, as she consistently applies herself in lessons, achieves the most 1s, and always takes pride in her work.

10LM Poppy E

Poppy is an exemplary student who consistently respects her peers and teachers. She is always punctual, prepared, and attentive in form time and citizenship and sets a positive example for others.

Heads of Year

10LRO Harshdeep S

Harshdeep is an exceptional candidate for Star of the Term at our school. His unwavering commitment to academic excellence reflects immense pride in his school work. Harshdeep demonstrates a profound respect for himself and his peers, fostering a positive and inclusive learning environment. His kindness extends beyond the classroom, making him a beacon of compassion for all. Harshdeep's remarkable qualities position him as an ideal choice for the role of Student Ambassador, where his dedication, respect, and kindness will inspire and positively influence his fellow students. His multifaceted excellence truly exemplifies the spirit of our school community. Well done!

10RJJ Millie B

Millie has no lates; she is always punctual and often the first person to arrive to tutor time. When she walks into my room, Millie always smiles and looks super smart because she wears her uniform with pride. Millie is the first to begin silent reading and always remains focussed. Unsurprisingly, she currently has the highest number of achievement points in our form. Well done, Millie!

10SGF Joe K

Always immaculate in his uniform. Always fully prepared for each day at school. Always focused on the work in lessons. Always ready to listen and learn. WELL DONE!

10SL Lucy B

What can I say about this particular student? I have seen this individual grow so much since meeting them in Year 7 and I am thoroughly impressed and ridiculously proud of their growth. I have watched them go from being an incredibly timid and quiet child to one of the most articulate, insightful, and self-aware young adults I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. This student makes it their personal mission to set and exceed their own goals and expectations and understands the importance of measuring their progress based on how far *they've* come.



Pride - Ella B 10LRO

Ella is the deserving recipient of the Pride Award for embodying exceptional dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment to her school work. Her consistent pursuit of excellence, coupled with a positive attitude, has made her an inspirational figure, instilling pride in both herself and the entire school community. Well done, Ella!

Respect: Emma G 10SL

The list of this student's admirable qualities truly knows no bounds! I would liken this student to a real-life (teenage) Professor McGonagall, given their immense bank of knowledge and as they are my 'go-to' when I need to fact check any medical or NHS-related information in Citizenship (as well as just general day-to-day information).

This student redefines the very notion of "dedication" with their remarkable work ethic, determination and unparalleled skill set. Without tiring out an old cliché too much, this student demonstrates a maturity well beyond their years, and I have no doubt they will soon reap the benefits of their persistence and tireless devotion. Although this student may think this a tad 'cringey' (they are incredibly modest), I would like this student to know, with all sincerity, how utterly incredible they are and hope they never, ever forget it.

Kindness: Tamsin C 10SL

No longer the "mother-hen" of the form, a more apt comparison of this student's fierce loyalty, kindness and willingness to defend others would be to compare her to a lioness! This student is forever cheering on the underdog and goes out of her way to ensure others are well and looked after. It is very easy in this day and age to adopt the attitude of 'not my business' and leave people to struggle on their own; this student's moral values and integrity completely obliterates that notion. Over the past four years, I have seen this student help other students with homework, defend the reputation of those who cannot defend themselves, invite others to join her when they feel lost or alone, look after new students who haven't entirely found their feet and express her admiration toward staff members. This young lady is awe-inspiring in the way she conducts herself and supports others; a bigger heart I have never known.

Heads of Year

Year 11

As we head to the end of the autumn term, it has now dawned on us all just how quickly time is going and how the countdown to the end-of-year GCSE examinations has begun. To have the last fifteen weeks go by in the blink of an eye, the mind is now entirely focused on what is just around the corner for Year 11.

At the start of Year 11, I gave our students a few key areas to focus on for the coming year—their attendance, learning, and enjoying their final year of high school. I can honestly say this autumn term has been fantastic, and all of our students have raised their game by doing everything possible to get as much out of their time with us as possible.

The mock examinations in November provided a stern test of our students' abilities to recall information from the past year. Results were positive, but every student knows that there is much more work to be done in preparation for the second round of mocks in February and their final GCSE examinations in May 2024. The focus has been on working closely with teaching staff to identify those areas for improvement and tweaking revision timetables to accommodate what needs to be done.

However, this term has been about more than just learning and preparation for the summer. Our students have been involved in several different events and activities that have highlighted to me just what a fantastic group of young people we have at the helm of our school. It has been a truly special term, from representing the school on the sports field and stage to having the largest number of students participate in Children in Need.

As we head into a break from school, this is the time when I will always ask our students to reflect on what has gone before. Take a moment to look at your performance this term and whether you have done everything you can to be successful. Have you made the right choices, and will you make the same mistakes again? Relax, enjoy your time off and recharge, ready to attack the mocks in February.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and thank you for all your hard work this term.

Well done, everyone. We are all very proud of you.

Mr J Gibbons
Head of Year 11
Teacher of P.E.

"A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new."

Albert Einstein

Year 11 Top Achievers

Evie H 11LGI 932
Charlie C 11GBR 918
Ava H 11GBR 901
Isabel R 11JL 900
Nikoli L 11ESH 882
Ciaran K 11JL 864
Jacob W 11DH 836
Kathryn L 11JL 832
Madeleine K 11JL 827
Harry S 11ESH 825



100% Attendance

Year 7

Name	Reg
Aviaana A	7CBA
Izabella A	7KSA
Louis B	7KSA
Maizie B	7SAL
Amelia B	7HW
Imogen B	7HW
Anyia B	7KH
Freya B	7CBA
Libby B	7SAL
Joseph C	7KSA
Tyler-Jay C	7KH
Charlotte C	7SAL
Billy D	7HW
Reuben D	7LP
Nyah D	7HW
Eleanor D	7LP
Daisy E	7KH
Harry G	7LP
Benjamin G	7SAL
Holly H	7KSA
Phoebe H-J	7HW
Poppy H	7HW
Ryan H	7KSA
Abigail H	7SAL
Evie H	7HDR
Alfie H	7LP
Freddie J	7CBA
Eleanor J	7KH
Sophie J	7KH
Theo K	7KH
Ruby M	7CBA
Ben M	7SAL
Molly M	7KH
Daisy M	7LP
Brooke M	7HW
Eve M	7CBA
Samuel N	7HW
Jessica N	7CBA
Michael O	7KH
George P	7CBA
Adam Q	7CBA
Bradley R	7SAL
Toby R	7CBA
Maddie S	7HW
Hattie S	7KSA
Joshua T	7SAL
Logan T	7SAL
Madalynn T	7SAL
Jaden T	7CBA
Jude W	7KH
Ava W	7LP
Benjamin W	7CBA
Cayman W-T	7HDR
Lexi W	7KH

Year 8

Name	Reg
Cole A	8BRO
Frankie A	8NP
Joseph A	8JB
Ava Bl	8KK
Ava Br	8KMP
Evie B	8NP
Annie May C	8KK
Jacob C	8JB
Thea C	8KK
Anneliese C	8JB
Seth D	8NP
Joe D	8NC
Lilly-Mae D	8KK
Joshua E	8KK
Corey E	8AK
Kayleigh F	8NC
Lexi F	8KK
Oliver F	8KK
Katie G	8KK
Maliyah G	8JB
Bella G	8AK
Alec H	8NP
Oliver H	8AK
Olivia H	8KK
Kayleigh L	8NC
Reuben L	8NP
Willow M	8NP
Jack M	8NP
Kobi M	8KK
Asia N	8KK
Caleb O	8NC
Sophie P	8NP
Olivia R	8NC
Ryleigh S	8NP
Kirsty S	8NC
James S	8AK
Niamh T-F	8NC
Sadew W K	8KMP

Year 9

Name	Reg
Joshua B	9KKK
Betsy B	9KKK
Paige B	9CFL
Morgan B	9JBY
Jessica C	9CFL
Lily D	9JBY
Michael F	9CFL
Lucy H	9NG
Evie H	9ERJ
Natasha H-T	9KKK
Ben J	9JBY
Thomas K	9ERJ
Maxwell K	9HH
Jorden L	9ERJ
Precious M	9NG
Beau N	9CFL
Keira S	9LKB
Bradley S	9HH
Lola S	9ERJ
Grace T	9CFL
Alex T	9LKB
Phoebe W	9JBY
Jacob W	9NG
Scarlett W-H	9NG
Robin X	9NG

100% Attendance

Year 10

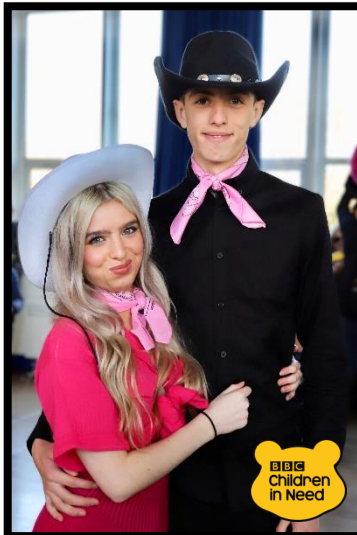
Name	Reg
Daisy B	10LLM
Ella B	10LRO
Grace B	10SL
Olivia B	10GM
Daniel C	10LLM
Freya C	10LLM
Phoebe C	10GM
Elijah C	10GM
Alfie D	10LLM
Ryan E	10HBL
Darcy E	10LM
Leila F	10LRO
Hannah F	10RJJ
Jorja H	10HBL
Will H	10HBL
Ethan H	10SL
Libby H	10RJJ
Callum J	10GM
Joe K	10SCF
Jessica R	10HBL
Sidney R	10RJJ
Ella R	10GM
Isabelle R	10HBL
Charlotte S	10LLM
Harshdeep S	10LRO
Shimano S	10RJJ
William S	10LM
Samuel S	10RJJ
Thinethma W K	10SL
Callum W	10LRO

Year 11

Name	Reg
Philippa B	11JJ
Madison B	11ESH
Daniella B	11LGI
Alfie B	11KC
Kayleigh B	11JJ
Charlie C	11GBR
Holly C	11LGI
Naomi C	11NAZ
Will D	11NAZ
Alex F	11ESH
Dominic F	11JJ
Lola F	11ESH
Isabel H	11ESH
Ava H	11GBR
George H	11KC
Evie H	11LGI
Louis J	11KC
Madeleine K	11JL
Oliver L-W	11KC
Owen L	11GBR
Libby M	11GBR
Leo M	11LGI
Jude M	11NAZ
Florrie M	11JJ
Lucy-Mae N-G	11DH
Immie P	11GBR
Poppy-Mae R	11DH
Katie S	11DH
Harry S	11ESH
Carly S	11GBR
Louie S	11NAZ
Matthew T	11JL
Aaron W	11LGI



Our Students



Our Students



Bikeability

Sixty students completed their Level 3 Bikeability training in late December. Organiser Velo Cycles, who annually attend Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form, taught students vital road safety skills, combining practical road experience and bike maintenance.

Year 7 student Hattie said, "It was great fun being out on the main roads and practising the bike manoeuvres we practised in school. Plus, I now know how to change a tyre." Fellow student Bradley commented, "I'm good at riding my bike, but I've learned many new skills and roadworthy techniques. The bike maintenance was excellent, and I know how to adjust my brakes, seat height, and change a tyre."



2024 Intake

Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form received the fantastic news from Staffordshire Schools Admissions that 323 applications have been made for a place in Year 7 for September, with 204 as first preference. After a lengthy dialogue with Governors and the local authority, we have agreed to accept 205 students for this year only, resulting in an 8-form entry for September 2024. We look forward to contacting families in March once School Admissions officially offers places.



Big Bash Indoor Cricket

Blythe Partnership hosted its annual Year 5 & 6 Big Bash Indoor Cricket competition on Tuesday 12th December at Fenton Manor. All six primaries entered teams of eight students, with all participants required to bowl, field and bat. Congratulations to Forsbrook who were overall winners. Their captain Lennon said "it was really fun and allowed me to use the skills I've learning playing for Longton cricket club. Starting with 200 runs and allowing us to add runs to this total is great, but you also lose runs if you get out. Everybody has to bat, bowl and field meaning everyone is involved."

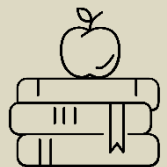


Tomorrow's Teachers

Tomorrow's teachers went to St Thomas More Catholic Academy, where they were involved with a session on leadership in teaching.

Mrs Leese warmly welcomed our students, and sixth form students from St Margaret Ward Catholic High School joined them. Mrs Leese led a fascinating discussion on what it means to be a leader, leading us to her book 'Teach Like a Queen'. The student who gave the most interesting answers on the day received a free signed copy of the book, and we are proud to announce that our own Katie B won! As always, the sixth form students had a fantastic time and were a credit to the school.

An extra thank you to Mr Goodwin for taking us, who made the most of the complimentary refreshments on offer.



Opportunities for Students

UHNM Charity Work

To say that we are proud of our newly appointed Charity Ambassadors for their work at UHNM Charity is an understatement.

The images capture just some of the wonderful empathy, kindness and maturity beyond their years they have demonstrated. Witnessing first-hand the impact of a simple act of kindness has been incredible, and it is an experience both patients and students will hopefully always remember.



Thank you so much to each and every member of our community who has supported our fundraising efforts this term.

The afternoon tea, disco and raffle have enabled us to produce and deliver 300 care packages, but also to donate an incredible amount of money to elderly care. UHNM Charity will use this money to improve patient comfort, something our representatives today have really appreciated the need for during a lengthy, often lonely stay in hospital.

The afternoon tea was a particular highlight of our project. 20 students provided an outstanding array of baked goods for this event, and a team of chefs worked tirelessly to prepare sandwiches. Congratulations to the winners of the bake-off: Lily B in Year 9 for her breath-taking Halloween cake, and Kayla H in Year 8 for her beautiful cupcakes.



Opportunities for Students



The team have also been volunteering in the elderly care wards, a project that will continue throughout the academic year. As the year progresses, more students will be offered the opportunity to participate. We have already enjoyed an arts and crafts session with the patients, which was thoroughly enjoyed by students, staff and patients alike.

One very special highlight came on our first visit. A Hug in a Bag care package was given to a patient, who turned out to be a former headteacher of our school. She was thrilled to hear of our work and touched by the gifts in the care package. This wonderful moment shows that kindness really does come 'full circle'.

Well done, team, we are so proud of you all.

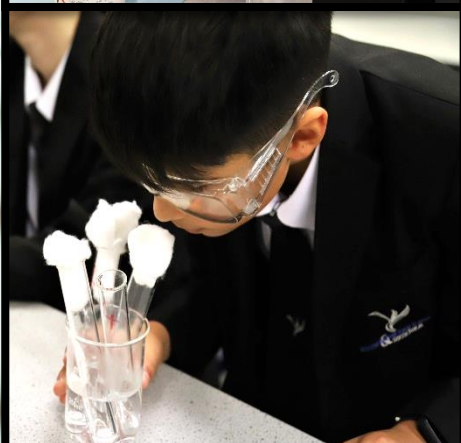


STEM Club

STEM club is an interactive extra-curricular club that includes sessions in science, mathematics, computer science and design & technology.

Year 7 students have started their science rotation which has included making lava lamps, making sherbet and producing esters (smelling of pears, raspberries and pineapples). Students have been able to get hands on experience with practical activities that they might not have seen before or had the opportunity to attempt previously which provides them with an enhanced knowledge within each subject area.

During STEM club, we discuss how each practical links to different careers. For example, 'making sherbet' links to scientists working in laboratories as food chemists who are perfecting the most delicious tasting formulation.



Eco-Garden Club

Some of our students' enthusiasm for gardening begins at a young age. This is definitely the case for Year 11 student Samuel B, who joined the Eco-Garden Club in Year 7, and has been a returning gardener ever since. Miss Blissett chatted to Sam to find out his passion behind gardening.

Why did you join Eco-Garden Club?

S: I joined to meet people and have fun. Now, I go for fulfilling work in the open air.

What are the main benefits of this club?

S: There is nothing better than the satisfaction of seeing hard work pay off. The tree you've planted, the plants you've watered: everything is worth it in the end.

Do you have any advice to those who are interested in joining but are unsure on what to expect?

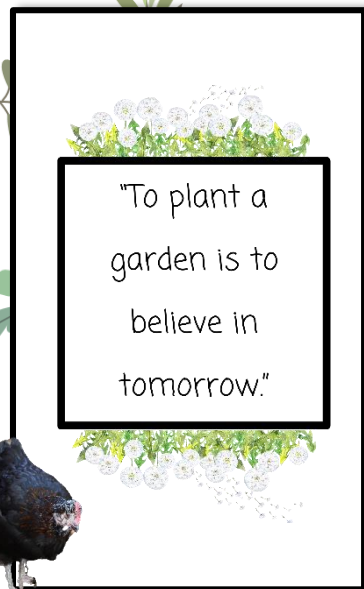
S: It really is a fantastic way to meet people and make friends. Bring some old clothes and get ready to have fun.

What other extra curricular activities do you take part in?

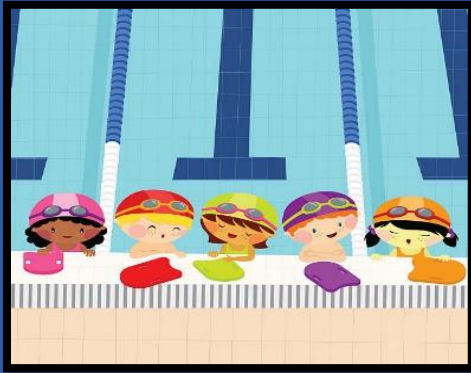
S: I also take part in the school orchestra and jazz band.

Thank you, Sam.

S: You are welcome.



Swimming



Swimming

The pool is a great facility, which we pride ourselves on being able to offer all students.

In January we are excited to offer new classes to any non-swimmers, with places available now. Please get in touch via email or Facebook to book your place.

Our FREE early bird swim continues to be popular on Tuesday mornings from 7:45-8:15 a.m. This session is open to all year groups. Start your day with a splash! Our after-school swim clubs also continue, Tuesday 3:10-4:00 girls and Wednesday 3:10-4:00 boys.



Swim School

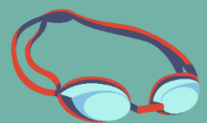
At LM Swim School, we pride ourselves on offering enjoyable, progressive, affordable swimming lessons. We follow the Swim England framework and use their awards. Our standards are high to ensure that every child achieves the best quality teaching, leading to correct technique throughout all stages.

Our duckling classes are for children who are just starting their journey in swimming and need to use aids in the water. We do not require our parents to enter the water with their duckling as we have staff available to assist them if necessary. The lessons will be all about movement through the water, confidence and fun! WE have limited spaces available with more classes due to commence after Christmas, get in touch for your place!

We also have some limited spaces in our classes for children who may have started their swimming journey and may not use aids but require some help with technique, or to be able to swim in deeper water. LM Swim School also offers advanced classes for those children who would like to continue their swimming journey and progress to achieving their Bronze, Silver and Gold badges.

Lastly, we offer private lessons for children who need more specialised swimming lessons, we tailor our lessons to fit the child's needs still using the Swim England framework to underpin these adaptations and allow the child to progress through our awards.

Please get in touch via email or Facebook to book your place. LMSwimschool.LM@outlook.com



Extra Curricular Clubs



Kickstart

The club has been a great success this term. On average, 15 students attend each day. The students participate in a number of activities each morning. These include students completing their homework with the support of prefects if needed. It is fantastic to see the students working together and supporting each other. A small group of students enjoy playing games and socialising with their friends whilst enjoying their toast and hot chocolate, and a couple of students have started their own crochet club.

Pictured are Esme W. and Amy-Jean S. The girls work on their crochet each morning, and the work they have produced is fantastic. Both girls have currently been creating a blanket. The whole group are really looking forward to seeing the finished product. For her homework project, Esme recently used crochet to create gas, liquid and solid particles.



Art Club

Art Club continues to work on the main set boards for our latest school production, Mary Poppins.

We still have places for all year groups to join after school every Wednesday from 3:10 to 4:00 p.m.



Homework Club

At Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form, we have an after-school homework club that runs Monday to Thursday from 3:10 to 4:10 p.m. in room 3.

The club allows students from years 7 to 11 to complete their homework. Students can access computers, stationery, and a printer, which is helpful because homework is set on Frog. We have supportive staff that can offer help with homework. The club has enabled me to keep track of my assignments, and I recommend it to anyone.

Written by Amelia B Year 11
Creative Media Student



Welcome!

...to S4 Swim School

A commitment to continuing swimming development

Book your place on one of our courses today!

At S4 Swim School we provide clear effective progression for our swimmers. Children experience a high level of swim teaching, with opportunities to progress to advanced technique & elementary coaching sessions.

Our fully qualified, DBS checked instructors are able to deliver quality swimming lessons and advanced coaching sessions. S4 is affiliated to Swim England and follows the Swim England Award Scheme. Our swimmers are regularly assessed and monitored by a swim coordinator and instructors at every lesson.

For further information feel free to browse our website or to book a place on one of our courses, contact us today!

Term Times

Our swimming courses run parallel with the school terms.

Holidays

S4 Swim Intensive courses run throughout the school half terms & summer holidays.

Member Benefits

- Small group sizes
- Online personal member area
- Term plans available to download
- Personal achievement records
- Fast progression through groups



m: 07903 857471
finnenau@s4swimschool.co.uk

s4swimschool.uk

Remembrance Art

In November, we invited all students to participate in a 'War Art' competition, where they were asked to research the meaning of remembrance and produce artwork that represents how people are affected by war. We had some very thought-provoking entries. Well done to everyone who took part.

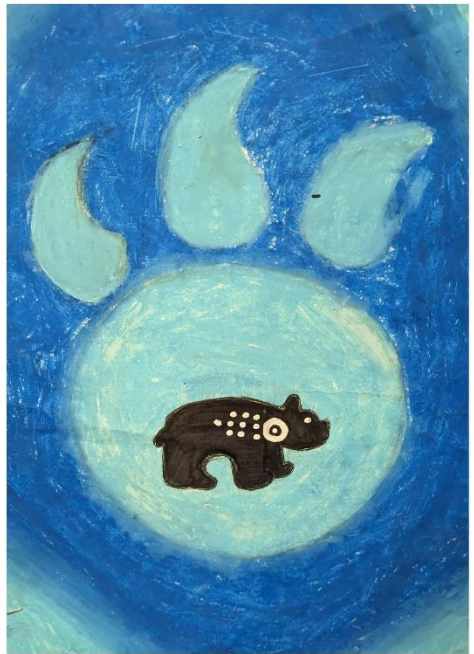
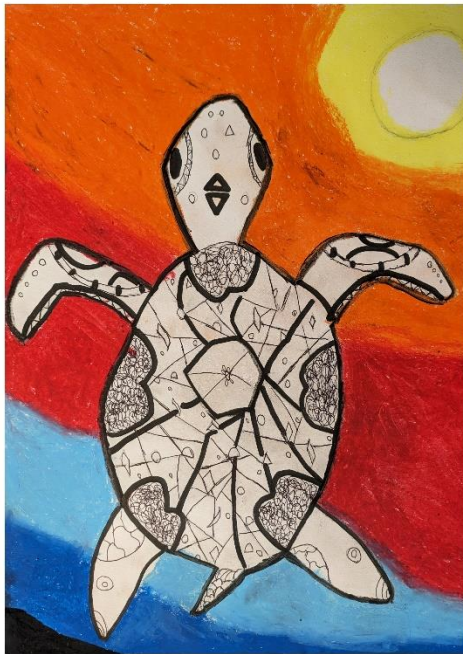


Year 7 Art

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 investigated dreamcatchers and made some wonderful three-dimensional ones using recycled materials.



Year 7 Art

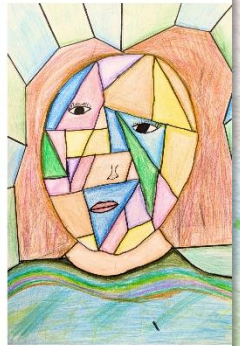
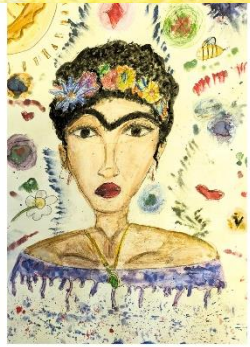


Year 8 Art

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 portraiture paintings. They have used watercolour, pencil crayon and collage to create their work. They have also explored the Cubist artist Pablo Picasso and produced a portrait using Cubism techniques.

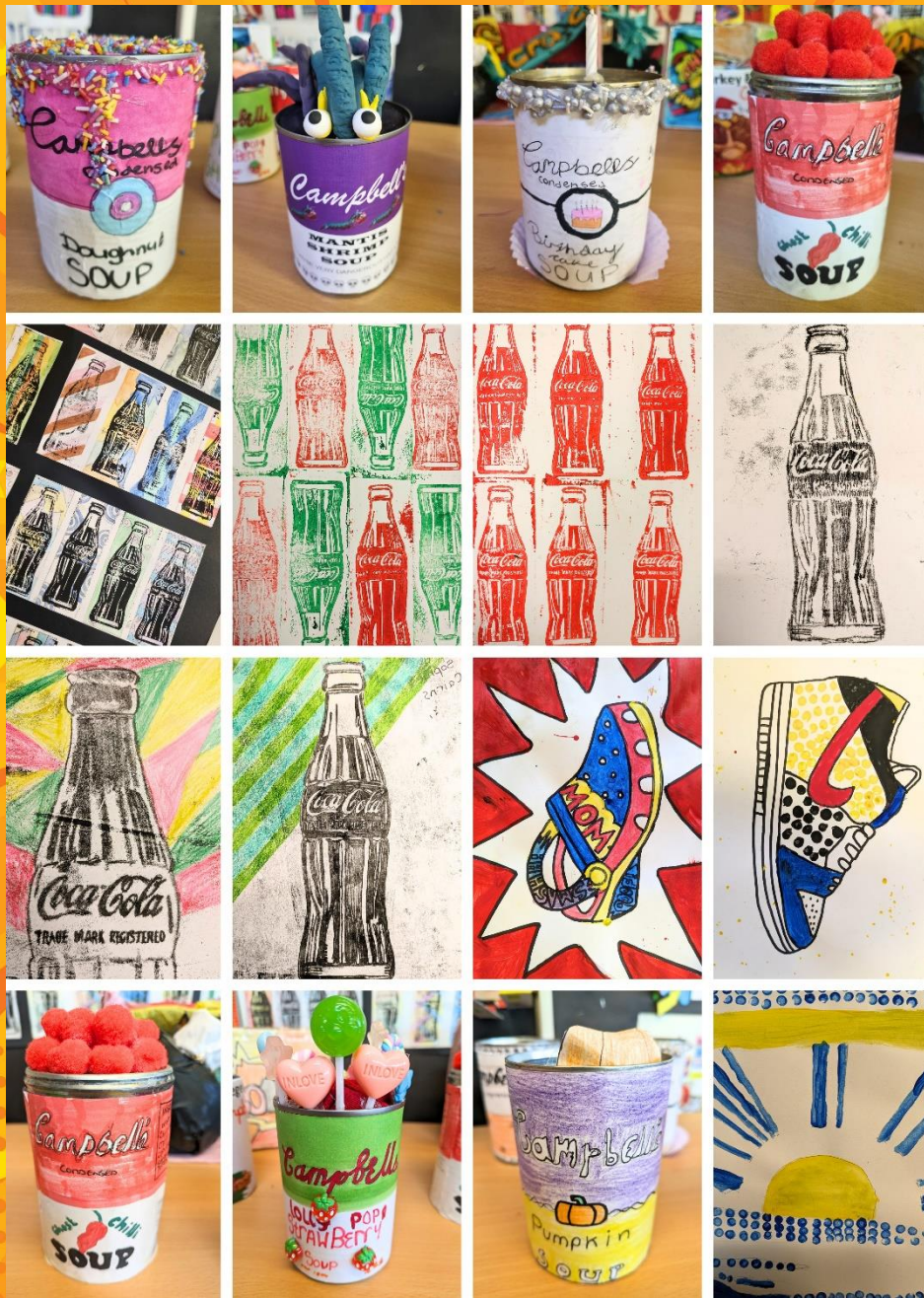


Year 8 Art



Year 9 Art

Students have been exploring the Pop Art movement, studying 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 screen-printing techniques in their work.



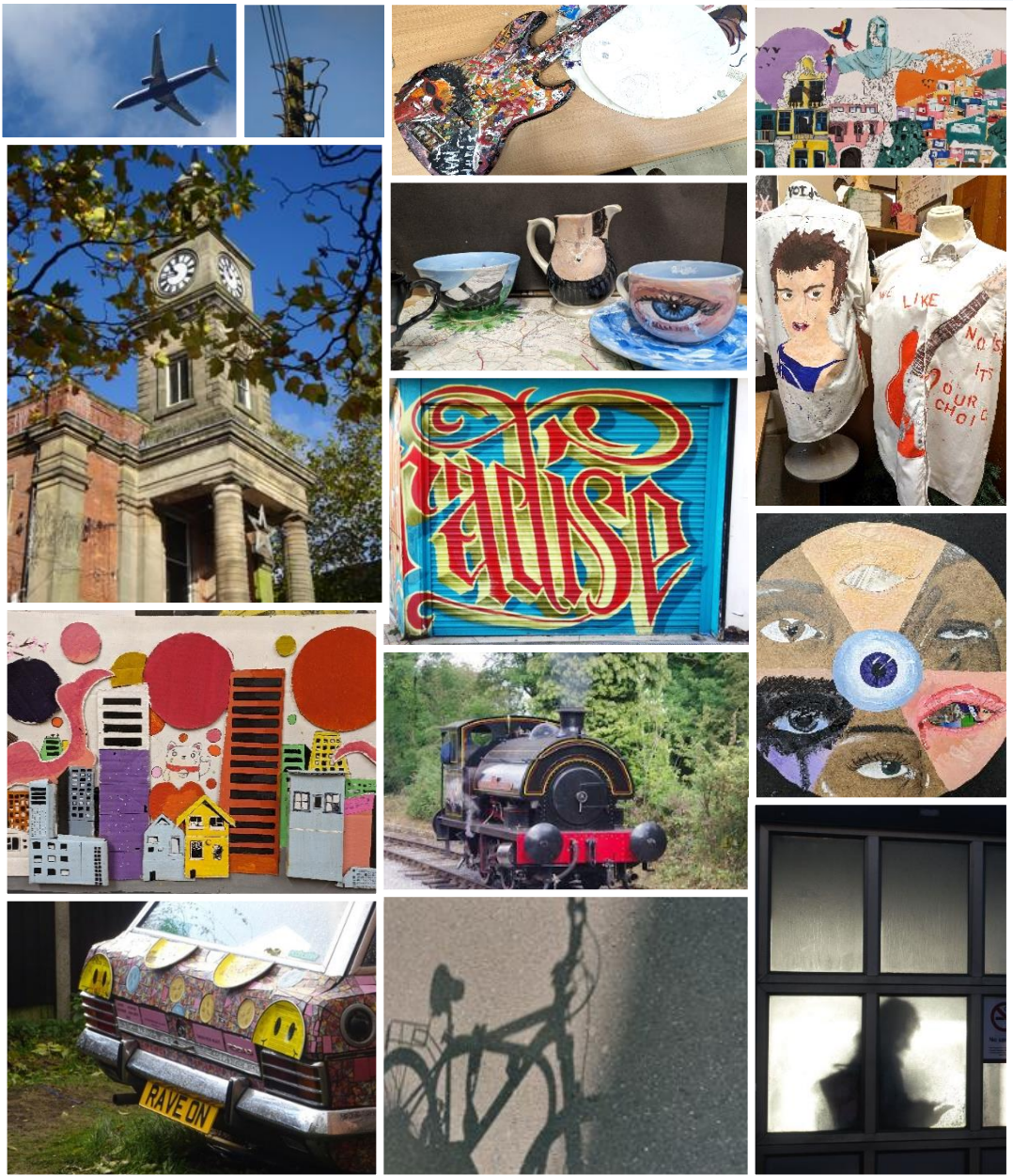
Year 10 Art

Students have been exploring and experimenting with a wide variety of art media looking at the subject matter of animals. They have learned new techniques, processes and have gained new skills and understanding of media and materials.



A Level Art

Our year 13 Art students are all in the final process of completing their individual coursework projects. Through personal investigations, each student has chosen and developed their own project ideas and concepts, exploring a wide range of media, materials, processes and techniques.



Computer Science

UK Bebras - All year groups

During computer science lessons in November, students in all year groups participated in this year's Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge. The competitors are set a range of logic puzzles and have 40 minutes to work their way through them.

Logic and computational thinking skills are at the heart of programming, information technology and computer science. Being able to decompose and abstract information is a fundamental skill which many students have without realising it.

Nineteen students finished in the top 10% nationally from over 400,000 competitors.

Juniors (Year 7)
Joseph C
Michael O
Harry G
Theo B
Zach H
Xavier D

Inters (Years 8 & 9)

Kayleigh L

Seth D

Olivia H

Mikayla W

Lily H

Dexter H

Thomas K

Oscar M

Lola H

Joseph C

Jessica C

Seniors (Y10 & Y11)

Ruben L

Elite (Y12 & Y13)

Branden H

Example question

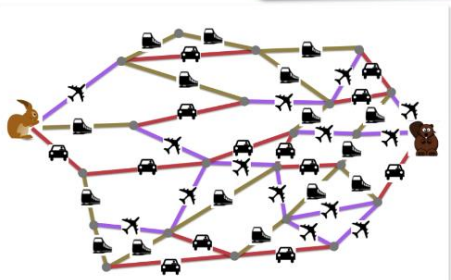
Ecologically Friendly Trip

Rob the rabbit would like to visit his friend Bell the beaver. The map shows several possible routes that Rob can take. Different symbols stand for different means of transportation. Traveling one step:

- by airplane costs five ecology points,
- by car costs three ecology points,
- by train costs one ecology point.

Problem:

What is the least number of ecology points required to complete the journey by any route?



Homework Help

- Set aside time each evening to check Frog for homework and complete it. If you always do it at the same time, it becomes a habit and, therefore, it is more likely that you will do it.
- If you struggle to remember to check for homework, set an alarm on your phone to go off at the same time each weekday, say 4 pm. Set a label on the alarm: "Check Frog for homework".
- Complete your homework in a quiet place. Avoid distractions such as your mobile phone, the internet or music. Particularly if you are trying to learn key terms or concepts, music doesn't help with learning - in fact, listening to music makes you learn less, so you will have to work harder.
- Once you complete the homework, put it in your school bag or upload it to Frog straight away.
- Please don't leave the homework until the night before it is due. If you try to complete it sooner, you can contact your teacher. If you struggle to complete it the night it is due, your teacher can't help you.
- Remember there is homework club after school if you need help accessing Frog or don't have a computer at home. If you use homework club, you don't have any homework to do once you get home. You can keep school and home separate.
- Pair up with a homework 'buddy'. But make sure it is someone you will work with and not just mess about with. You can support each other, which might make it less likely you won't do it, as you would let your buddy down.
- Pair the homework with something you enjoy. Do the homework, then the thing you enjoy as a reward. But don't do the thing you enjoy first, as you may never get to the homework!
- Write each homework on a Post-it note or index card - or make a checklist. Use these to prioritise what you will do first. Tear up the Post-it note or index card when complete - this also can be satisfying.
- Have a day when you don't do any homework. Keep this day free. It's time to do something else.

Dance

Year 7 Dance Classes

I wanted to personally congratulate my dance classes who were amazing in the festival of arts, you all worked so hard I could not have been more proud of you all. The feedback from the audience on the night was beautiful to hear on how much they enjoyed your dance pieces. A huge well done to all who attended, and good luck in your Christmas dance offs!



Year 7 - 9 Dance Club

Jess C and Emily P (Year 13) have had amazing success with Monday Dance club which is open to Year 7-9s. The Year 7 students were amazing in the recent FOTA doing their Grease medley I could not have been more proud of their performance on the night.



MOVE IT

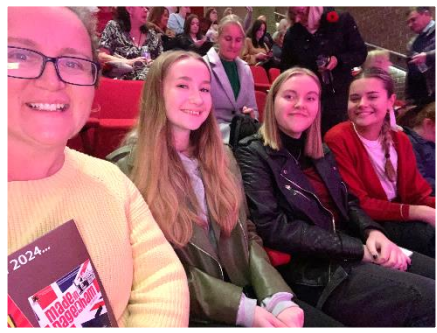
A Level and GCSE dance students are gearing up for their trip to MOVE it 2024! at the Excel Academy in London. Students need to pay their deposits and book their classes online – see the letter sent home for more details.



Newcastle-under-Lyme Christmas Light Switch On

On the 25th November we took 30+ dance students ranging from Year 7 to Year 13 to perform at the Newcastle-under-Lyme Christmas light switch on event. The students were absolutely amazing and as always we draw a huge crowd of supporters! The students were amazing and I received a lovely email from the organiser saying how much they enjoy having us every year, and how fantastic our performance was.

Drama



"Go, Go, Go Joseph!"

Students past and present went to support other past and present students who were appearing in 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' at the Stoke Rep in November.



"Tomorrow is tomorrow"

Year 12 and 13 Drama BTEC students performed extracts from 'Antigone' by Sophocles in November. The infamous Greek tragedy follows the story of Oedipus' daughter Antigone who wishes to bury her brother, even though the new king Creon has forbidden it.

What happens when man imposes rules that go against those of the Gods?





After receiving a delivery of over 1,500 books, the English department was thrilled to hand out the purchased revision guide bundles and literature texts to those that purchased them through ParentPay before half term. We hope students will find these useful both in and outside of lessons on the run up to their GCSE examinations.



GCSE English literature and drama trip to see Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*

On Wednesday 13th December, we took our Year 10 and 11 students to see The Scarlett Theatre's production of *A Christmas Carol*. As this is one of the GCSE literature texts that our students study for their examinations, it was a great way to consolidate their understanding of this Victorian novella. For those that also study GCSE drama it was a fantastic way to see some of our theories brought to the stage. The students' behaviour throughout the visit was fantastic. It was a brilliant day all round and a lovely way to finish the Autumn term.



Year 7 Book Club



A new Book Club for Year 7 students will be starting in January. It will take place in week 2 of the timetable on Tuesday lunchtimes in N9 and will provide opportunities for shared reading, discussion, quizzes and other activities to bring books to life.

As well as academic benefits, reading for pleasure enriches our lives, providing social and emotional gains, including increased empathy and social skills, improved health and wellbeing, and enjoyment and stimulation of the imagination.

Please come and join us in N9 starting on Tuesday, 9th January. Bring your lunch.



Library Ambassadors



Introducing our new library ambassadors!
Students from across all year groups were selected to champion the reading ethos within our school.

Mrs Jones, our librarian, is very excited to be working with you all and can not wait for all the new and exciting events in the library.

All About History



A very big welcome to all of our History Ambassadors who will be taking on the role of promoting History throughout the school. Their role will include; creating form time activities to commemorate different historical events, keeping up to date with the history notice boards, putting together the History newsletter and being all round great Historians. (Lucy I, Isobel G, Tamsin C, Isla H, Aliyah H, Logan C, Amelia D, Keira P and Ava W)

What is Remembrance Day and how did we commemorate this as a school?

The first armistice day was exactly one year after the end of world war 1 and the two minutes silence was at the suggestion of King George V as period of reflection for those who had fallen during the war. After the end of WW2 armistice day was renamed remembrance Sunday and in 1956 it was decided that it would take place on the second Sunday of every November. The most recognisable symbol of remembrance is the poppy, which became associated with world war one after hundreds of them grew on the battle fields in Belgium and northern France. In 1921 the Royal British Legion began making and selling red paper poppies.

Similar celebrations take place at US veterans' day and Australia, Canada and France's own Remembrance Day which takes place around a similar time of the year. As a school we paid our respects by holding a two minutes silence at 11am for the fallen soldiers of both world wars and also any other military conflicts that have taken place where people may have lost their lives. To mark the beginning of the two minutes silence we also had students located around the school playing the last post as a mark of respect because the song is a representation of soldiers going to their final resting place.

(Lucy I, Year 12)

All About History

So far in History...

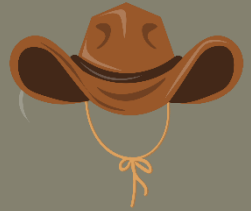
"What I have enjoyed about history this year is learning about WW1 and WW2. My favourite part has been looking at Operation Barbarossa, when Hitler betrayed Stalin and invaded the USSR."
(Amelia D, Year 9)

"I have most enjoyed learning about the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings. I have enjoyed learning where and how the Anglo-Saxons lived and looking at where the Vikings came from and their use of longboats to travel. History is always fun and educational."
(Ava W, Year 7)



"I have always liked history, but after learning about the American West, I have started to love it! It is not just learning dates but more about learning the back story of different countries, religions and cultures. Plus, the amazing history teachers."
(Aliyah H, Year 10)

"So far in history, we've learned about the American West and medicine through time, which are amazing and interesting topics. The History department is incredible, and the teachers are always creative in their teaching approach."
(Tamsin C, Year 10)



"I chose GCSE History because I have always loved and enjoyed it. We do four topics, Medicine, American West, Elizabethan England and Weimar and Nazi Germany. I have learned so much information this year in all of my lessons, and I have become really confident with my ability in history."
(Isla H, Year 10)

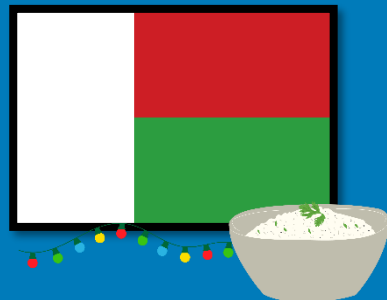




Christmas Trip to Lille

Students in Year 8 are busily preparing and packing for their upcoming trip to the Lille Christmas market in France. Forty Year 8 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. They will also visit a bakery and chocolate workshop. We will be staying in a French château in the countryside.

Mr. D Sutton – Curriculum Leader for MFL



Christmas in Madagascar

As Christmas approaches, we are delighted to turn our attention to the unique and vibrant celebrations of Christmas in Madagascar.

Madagascar is part of the Francophone world and has French as one of its official languages. Nestled off the southeastern coast of Africa, this island nation boasts a rich cultural tapestry that beautifully influences its festive traditions.

A sense of joy, community, and spirituality characterises the spirit of Christmas in Madagascar. Weeks before the big day, Malagasy families carefully decorate their homes with vibrant decorations and festive lights. The air is filled with the aroma of traditional Malagasy dishes being prepared as families come together to share in the season's excitement.

While the exact dishes may vary depending on regional and individual preferences, some traditional Malagasy foods may be enjoyed during Christmas. Ravitoto is a traditional Malagasy dish made with mashed cassava leaves and meat, typically pork. It's a hearty and flavourful dish that is often served with rice. Akoho sy Voanio is a chicken dish cooked in coconut milk and flavoured with various spices. It's a popular and delicious Malagasy dish that may be served during special occasions like Christmas.

While gift-giving is not as extravagant as in some Western cultures, the Malagasy people place great importance on thoughtful and meaningful presents. Additionally, Christmas is a time for acts of kindness and charity, as communities come together to support those in need, embodying the season's true spirit.

Mrs N Hughes -Deputy Curriculum
Leader for MFL

Music



Our musicians have been incredibly busy in the run-up to Christmas. We've taken lots of opportunities to spread the Christmas cheer.

Some highlights are the Springcroft Christmas Fayre, where we sang carols—and the Entrust Christmas concert at Victoria Hall. It was lovely to see ex-student Ellie R there as she performed her Staffordshire Young Musician 2023-winning performance.

And of course our fantastic Christmas concert in our very own hall - we look forward to this every year and this year was just as special.

Well done to all the musicians involved! If anyone would like to try brass lessons, clarinet/saxophone lessons or violin lessons in the new term, please get in contact with h.balewski@bb-hs.co.uk

Attendance

The top three year groups for overall attendance up to 8th December 2023 are:



The top three forms per year group



Attendance

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 Absence/Critical	Severely Absent/Critical
No more than 6 days/12 sessions absent in a year	No more than 10 days/20 sessions absent in a year	More than 10 days/20 sessions absent in a year	19 days/38 sessions or more absent from school in a year	95 days/190 sessions or more absent in a year

Days off school add up to lost learning

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 misses...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
1 day per fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

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	1 hour 40 minutes 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 ½ years

Attendance

Attendance – Is 90% good?

90% attendance at the end of the academic year:

- 19 days missed, 38 sessions missed
 - ½ day every week missed
 - Almost 4 weeks of school
- 19 days x 4 lessons = 76 hours of learning
 - 57 lessons missed
- DfE: Persistent absentee

90% attendance for all 5 years:

- 95 days missed, 190 sessions missed
- ½ day every week missed for 5 years
- Almost 20 weeks of school or a term and a half
 - 95 days x 4 lessons = 380 hours of learning
 - 285 lessons missed
- DfE: Drop in GCSE grades

Important to note

- Talk regularly with your child about school and how they feel about it.
- Contact Mrs Moore (attendance@bb-hs.co.uk) as soon as possible to tell us why your child is absent on every day of absence
 - Only grant days at home for genuine illness
 - Contact your form tutor to discuss any concerns
- JTMAT has a graduated response to attendance and punctuality
- Attendance letters in line with the JTMAT policy will be sent if attendance is a concern
- We are following the JTMAT policy and a leave of absence in term time could lead to a Fixed Penalty Notice

Punctuality

All students are expected to be in school at 8.45am in good time for Period 1. Any student who arrives after this time is marked late on the register. Two lates per week result in a 30-minute detention after school. It is essential that you ensure your child arrives at school on time to prevent disruption to your child's own learning and that of others. Late after the registers have closed is classified as an unauthorised absence.

Online Safety Newsletter

November 2023

Staying safe on a PlayStation

Internet Matters have teamed up with Sony Interactive Entertainment to create a quiz that you can play with your child to see who knows more about the safety options available on a PlayStation. Play the quiz here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/g/press-start-for-playstation-safety/>

Talking to your child about sexting

It is important that we talk to our children about the risks of sexting. We understand that it can be difficult to start these conversations though. 'Children 1st' have an area on their website offering advice on talking to your child about sexting and ideas on how to start a conversation:

<https://www.children1st.org.uk/help-for-families/parentline-scotland/guidance-advice/sexting>

Amaze have also created a useful video – 'Sexting: What Should You Do?' which is worth a watch:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RWxAIMnKupE>

Roblox

Roblox is a platform consisting of a collection of games. Players can either create games or play games that other users have created. It is free to download (however subscription options and in game/app purchases are available) and can be played across numerous devices. **A lot of the content is user**



generated, which may mean not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play. It is important to set up appropriate parental controls for your child.

What rating is Roblox?

PEGI rate Roblox with a Parental Guidance label, this is because it is difficult to rate due to the huge level of user generated content. It is rated for **'Teens'** on Google Play and **12+** on the App store.

What should I be aware of?

Chat Facility - Players can chat to each other on Roblox. You can turn communication off completely or add restrictions, such as only communicate with friends.

Virtual Currency - Players can buy Robux (their virtual currency) to buy in-game upgrades or accessories. For children under 13, you can set the Monthly Spend Restriction in settings.

Game content – as mentioned, users create games so sometimes the content/themes may not be appropriate for your child.

How do I report abuse and block users?

Roblox have a Report Abuse system so show your child how to use it to report inappropriate content as well as how to block other users. There are different ways of doing this depending on the device being used.

How do I set up parental controls and a pin?

Parental controls are available within settings. We recommend that you explore the parental controls available and set as appropriate. You can enable a PIN, which means that changes cannot be made without this pin. You can set up Allowed Experiences, which allows you to select age-appropriate experiences, so your child can only join experiences that match their age. Age categories available are for all, 9+, 13+ and 17+. All experiences are still searchable though.

To view content that is suitable for 17+, then a user must participate in a verification process by submitting valid ID.

Further information:

- <https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>
- <https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/roblox/>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 1.11.23.

TikTok

You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok.

TikTok is a social media platform for sharing and watching short video clips. Some of the videos on TikTok may not be appropriate for your child to view and there is also the risk of strangers contacting your child. If your child is using TikTok then make sure the appropriate security/privacy settings are on.



Account set up

By default, accounts for people under 16 are set to private at the start and we would recommend keeping it as this. This means your child must approve follower requests. You can read more about the other settings available (such as switching off comments and switching on restricted mode) here: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings>

As always, it is important that when setting up an account on TikTok, your child enters their real date of birth as accounts are tailored by age. For example, Direct Messaging is disabled for accounts aged 13-15 and they do not receive push notifications from 9pm. In addition, advertisements are tailored to the user's age.

Family Pairing

This allows you to link your own account to your child's account. You can then set controls such as restricted mode (limit the appearance of content that may not be appropriate) and screen time management. You can find out more here: <https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide/>

Inappropriate content, themes and challenges on TikTok

Whilst against TikTok's guidelines, explicit and inappropriate content can be found on this platform, for example nudity/sexual content and hate speech. We often see viral challenges on social media, some of which can be dangerous. If your child is using TikTok, chat to them regularly about what they are viewing.

Blocking and Reporting

Ensure your child knows how to use the safety features available to them, including how to report comments, direct messages and another user. You can find out more here: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety-hc/report-a-problem>

Further information

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok>

WhatsApp's editing feature

You must be at least 16 years old to use WhatsApp.

You may have noticed that WhatsApp have added an editing feature so you can change messages that you have sent for up to 15 minutes afterwards. Childnet have published a blog outlining what you should be aware of with this new feature:

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/finding-out-whatsapps-new-features-and-how-it-can-impact-online-safety/>

Sensitive Content Warning on Apple devices

Apple released their new iOS 17 operating system in September. One of the new features includes a "sensitive content warning." You can choose to receive a warning about any photos or videos that might contain nudity before you view them. It also links to related resources and guidance.

If Sensitive Content Warning is activated on your device and the device believes an image/video contains nudity, then your device will blur the image and display a warning so you can choose to view it or not. You can activate this setting in 'Privacy and Security.' You can find out more here:

<https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT213834>

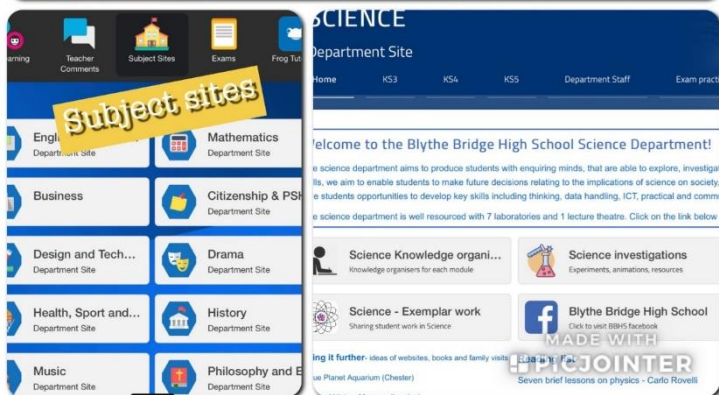
This article also links to further information about "Communication Safety on your child's Apple device." This is available for child accounts signed in with their Apple ID and part of a Family Sharing group.

Learning Platform

FROC - A learning platform available to students, parents and teachers, where you can access everything from subject resources to support any remote learning, homework, teachers and tutors' comments every week, attendance scores from lessons and achievement points.

Let's not forget the school letters, school links where other sites were created just for you and short tutorials for you to use if you need help navigating around the Frog platform. All as part of one learning platform!

Please get in touch with frogsupport@bb-hs.co.uk should you need help with your logins.



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

