

Newsletter



PRIDE

RESPECT

KINDNESS

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

Get ready to discover 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 about our Year 8 students' December trip to France, our successful school production of Mary Poppins, and how well our charity ambassadors continue to spread kindness within the school and beyond. Also, discover how the new school houses encourage community and competition between staff and students.



Headteacher's Welcome

At the end of this term, we say our fond farewells to two really special members of staff who have been part of our school community for over 30 years. Barbara has worked in our kitchen since 1993 and, during that time, has held a number of positions, including kitchen manager. Barbara is such a kind, thoughtful, and hard-working member of staff who is always full of infectious levels of energy. Bernie joined the site team in 2014 and quickly became a valued member of staff. He always turns his hand to the array of maintenance issues skilfully. They decided to retire together, and we wish them lots of happiness in their next chapter.

Mrs R Johnson

Headteacher



Our Students Say It Best

"Working on the PRK podcast has been incredible. I am in charge of equipment and have worked on the logo, recordings and interviews. Plus, I've made new friends in other year groups."

Daniel I, Year 7

"Studying GCSE Psychology is fascinating. I absolutely love learning about the human mind and how it works. I enjoy Maths and getting the opportunity to use my problem-solving skills."

William E, Year 10

"In music, we have been working in pairs to create superhero themes using keyboards. Playing the violin helps me understand classwork better, so I always look forward to music lessons."

Gracie-Mae W, Year 8

"Recently, I loved creating a logo for the house logo competition, getting to use the computers at school to get creative and enter my submission for Serpent house."

Phoenix H, Year 11

"I was involved in making the props and set pieces for Mary Poppins. I enjoyed learning new skills as well as different and more efficient ways to work."

Charlie K, Year 9

"I really enjoy the enrichment opportunities that I have been offered in sixth form. I was worried that I would be bored in sixth form because I was only doing three subjects, but there is plenty to keep me busy. From completing the Tomorrow's Teachers course to deeper research and reading into my selected subjects, I always have something to do. I'm thoroughly enjoying my sixth form experience."

Katie B, Year 12



Mary Poppins

The sounds of 'Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious', 'Feed the Birds' and 'A Spoonful of Sugar' echoed around the school in February as the cast of Mary Poppins prepared for the show.

Members of every year group were involved in the acting, singing, dancing, stage management team and set construction of the thought provoking but joyous musical.

Primary school students from the local area came to a matinee on the Tuesday before the cast performed three evening shows in front of their friends, families and teachers.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way - from loaning props, buying costumes, sending in broken umbrellas - it is really appreciated.



Mary Poppins



Mary Poppins



“Practically perfect in every way!”



We were blown away by the talented cast's ability to bring the beloved characters to life, the impressive set design and costumes that transported the audience to Cherry Tree Lane, and the infectious energy and enthusiasm that radiated from the performers. The musical should be praised for capturing the magic and whimsy of the original story, while also showcasing the dedication and hard work of the students involved in the production.

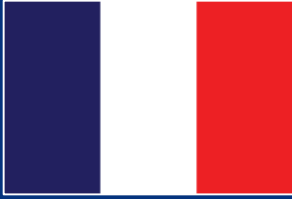
Miss Balewski, Mrs Baines and Miss Housley worked tirelessly to ensure the production was a delight for the audience and that each member of the cast and crew felt involved and valued. Year 13 students Cadence K and Caitlin R who played Mary and Bert respectively, steered the show with strong vocals, brilliant acting and fabulous choreography. Caitlin said, “Mary Poppins has exceeded my expectations for how much fun I thought it would be. I’m so grateful for all the memories that I have been able to create with such wonderful people.” Cadence added, “I have adored learning about Mary and putting my own spin on this ‘practically perfect’ character who I’ve grown up with. I’ve loved working with all of the younger ones but I can’t believe this is my last show!”.

Philippa B and Scarlett B played Jane and Michael Banks, who skipped about with Mary and Bert, exploring new worlds and learning valuable lessons along the way, whilst performing pitch perfect numbers. Year 12 students Zack D and Katie B played George and Winifred Banks with sincerity and whimsy when Mary entered their lives. Lola F and Frankie A completed the Banks household as Mrs Brill and Robertson Ay, long term staff of the Banks family.

‘Feed the Birds’ led by Poppy H in Year 8 was breath-taking, with Poppy embodying the character, as the ensemble guided the birds around the stage and through the audience for a truly moving part of the show. ‘Brimstone and Treacle’ led by Matilda A-T was sensational. She loved the monochromatic villainous role sharing, “I will look back with fond memories, thanks to this production.” We cannot wait to see what the combined efforts of the Dance, Drama and Music departments produce next year!



Year 8 Trip



In the last week of the autumn term, forty Year 8 students travelled to northern France and Belgium for our annual visit to the Lille Christmas market. We were lucky to stay for two nights in Le Manoir, the main building of the Château d'Ebblinghem.

During the stay, students met Bruno, the baker at Boulangerie d'Escœuilles. Bruno explained the bread-making process to them, and they all tried their hand at shaping bread dough. After this, students visited the Christmas Market in the northern city of Lille, France's fifth biggest city. Despite the rain, our students bought many sweet treats and gifts.

During the evenings, students had a disco in the games room, a festive quiz, and a Christmas meal.

On our return journey, we made a stop at the P&J Chocolate workshop in Adinkerke, Belgium. Here, our students learned about the chocolate-making process and had the opportunity to decorate their chocolate bar.

As always, our students demonstrated our school values of pride, respect, and kindness throughout and were a credit to our school. I would like to extend a huge thank you to the accompanying staff, without whom the visit would not have been possible.



Year 8 Trip



Maliyah C, 8JB

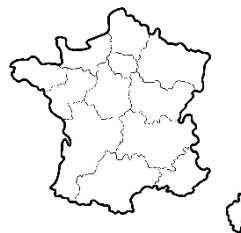
"I had a great time with my friends, and enjoyed decorating my chocolate bar in the chocolate factory. At the bakery, I loved learning about the process of how they made bread in the wood-fired oven."

Seth C, 8KK

"Visiting the Christmas market was my favourite activity, I loved the atmosphere and being able to practise my French! At the accommodation, I liked sharing a room with my friends and the food was great. Trying snails was a new experience to me, but I liked them."

Ryleigh S, 8NP

"As this was the first time I had been abroad, I was nervous beforehand, but I had so many new experiences during the trip. Being surrounded by friends and school staff made me feel safe and able to enjoy myself. I loved trying snails...I ate five of them! Walking around the market was so much fun, getting to explore the stands with my friends and buy some Christmas presents."



House Totals

120

Serpent

Staff points: 35



Pegasus

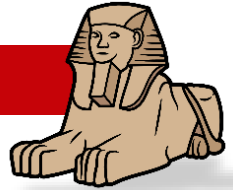
Staff points: 40

102

100

Sphinx

Staff points: 50



Centaur

Staff points: 40

91

House System



Staff Volleyball

This term saw the launch of our new house system with students attending their first house assemblies. Students were invited to take part in their first house challenge, to design their house logo and motto.

One Friday afternoon, staff battled it out on the volleyball court to win some house points. The standard of play was great, with staff displaying high levels of enthusiasm and teamwork. The competition was very close with Serpent and Sphinx facing off in the final. This time the points and trophy came home with Sphinx. Well done to all!

The winning team: Sphinx



What's next?

Check our Facebook page soon to discover our house logos (designed by the students!) Next week, we will also see the start of our first sports house matches. The Easter Egg Football Cup (girls) is a five-a-side football tournament for Year 7 and 8, with swimming galas taking place throughout the week.



Staff Bake Off

Eight members of staff took part in our first house bake-off judged by two of our Year 7 students. The teams were tasked with baking six Easter themed cupcakes. All teams were judged on teamwork, decoration and taste. It was a tough decision for our students but the results were: 1st-Centaur, 2nd-Pegasus, 3rd-Sphinx and 4th-Serpent.

We are looking forward to the first house sports competition. Well done team Centaur!





The EDI (Equality, diversity and inclusion) group meet regularly in school to discuss ways they can celebrate these themes and have a wider influence on their peers. As part of their work, they have created a school charter that articulates what we all do: champion our culture and ethos of pride, respect, and kindness and celebrate diversity. The charter has been signed by representatives of both the student and staff leadership teams to demonstrate the importance of these values for our whole community. The charter will be displayed in classrooms and key areas around the school, and students have been asked to sign the charter virtually and make a pledge for ways they can embody its values.

There have been some excellent pledges; such as:

Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form

Our School Charter

Our collective vision is for a safe school environment where all students feel represented and happy.

We want everyone in our community to:

- Take **pride** in their identity and feel accepted.
- **Respect** and value others.
- Show **kindness** and compassion to those both similar and different.
- Understand the protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010.
- Celebrate **diversity**, champion **inclusivity** and be **tolerant**.



"I pledge to keep the school environment a safe and fun place for all to learn so that students feel happy and accepted at BBHS."

Year 8 student

"I solemnly promise that I will represent these values to the best of my ability, accept diversity, include everyone, show pride, respect and kindness. If one of my peers does not show these values, I will challenge them or report them."

Year 9 student

"I pledge to uphold the values of the school charter. I ensure that I will value and respect others' identities and stand up for these values."

Year 10 student

"I pledge to follow the values of the school charter, encourage others to do so, and challenge anybody who is not displaying them."

Year 11 student

"I pledge to listen to and respect my peers even if we have different opinions on something."

Sixth form student

"I will treat all the students equally and respectfully and support any differentiation on account of religion, community of language or gender orientation. I will continuously build my own capacities in teaching so that I can impart quality education to my students and school community."

Member of staff



The work of the Charity Ambassadors has inspired many other groups of students to continue our volunteering project in the Older Adults department at the Royal Stoke Hospital. Just before Christmas, an enthusiastic group of carol singers toured the wards, bringing a little Christmas cheer to the patients. Since then, we have put on a variety show, taken the cast of Mary Poppins to perform, and a group of sixth form students have led an arts and crafts workshop. Plans for future visits include a performance from the dance department and befriending activities with Year 12 Health and Social Care students.

As a school, we have been recognised by UHNM Charity for our 5 years of the Hug in a Bag project. A group of representatives from Years 7-10 who participated in the project were selected to attend a presentation from the team. The huge BeEpic award stands proudly in N6a and reflects the hard work of our entire school community. The students who started Hug in a Bag when they were in Year 7 are now about to sit their GCSE exams; watch this space for an opportunity for this year group to make a final and very fitting visit to the hospital before they leave us.

Fundraising continues through the Bag2School campaign and our popular Blythe's Got Talent show. The proceeds from both will support our work and allow us to continue spreading simple yet powerful acts of kindness. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported us over the last five years.

World Book Day



World Book Day

The library was transformed into a book-tasting café to celebrate World Book Day by Mrs Jones. Students had the opportunity to select five different genres of books and get a flavour of different types of literature. It was lovely to see everyone get into character, choosing a book for each course off the menu. They were waited on by our fantastic sixth form volunteers. Students then gave feedback about what they liked and disliked about each book and were given the opportunity to take any of the books they enjoyed home. Everyone who participated was rewarded with a book from the World Book Day selection.

Horror Writing Webinar

As part of our celebrations for World Book Day, some students also had the opportunity to listen to a real-life horror author. Author S.J. Wills spoke to students about her blockbuster novel 'Bite Risk'. In the book, Sel Archer lives in a normal town with normal residents, except for one night a month when the full moon comes out, almost all of the adults turn into werewolves, and it is up to the young people to protect themselves from danger. Students benefitted from hearing S.J. talk about how she has developed her career in writing, and she provided some tips and advice on how students could improve their creative writing.



Year 10 Creative Corner

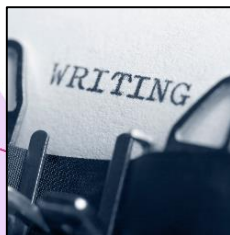
Lily A 10LM



Lily has taken inspiration from her favourite musician, Taylor Swift and has started to sew her different album titles onto a pair of Converse trainers. Lily said, "I love Taylor's music and felt inspired to customise some shoes so I could celebrate her albums whenever I wear them!" Well done Lily - 'they'll never get out of style'!



Tamsin C 10SL



Tamsin has loved the medium of writing for a long time, feeling it is a suitable way "to process emotions and cope with stress." Her writing takes on different subjects from pets to grief; we think Tamsin has a bright future using her passion and talent to create wonderful writing.



Amber S 10SGF



Amber has a passion for drawing and often finds inspiration from people. She likes creating some of her characters and fascinating backgrounds for their histories. She finds drawing to be "calming," preferring to focus on anatomy in her free time, whereas she explores the animal world during GCSE Art lessons.



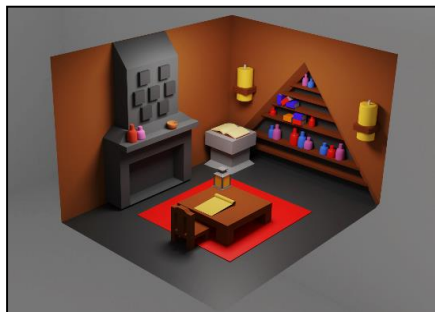
CELEBRATING STUDENT IMAGINATION

Year 10 Creative Corner

Joe K 10SGF



Joe likes to do 3D modelling using software called Blender, taking inspiration from some of his favourite TV shows and elevating everyday spaces. Joe finds that it "helps him to relax" - we think that these 3D models are impressive Joe!



Chloe H 10LRO



Chloe loves art. She finds comfort in the process of creating something beautiful, and it's a way for her to channel her thoughts and emotions. Through art, she can express herself and explore her creativity to the fullest. It's not just a hobby, but a therapeutic activity that enables her to relax and unwind.



We are so impressed by our students' creativity, both inside and outside the classroom. Our Year 10 students who have shared their passions with us are just a small section of our creatives here at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form. We intend to showcase more students and their creative passions in future newsletters.

CELEBRATING STUDENT IMAGINATION

Year 7 Inspires Programme



The Inspires Programme has been a great success this term, with the first group of Year 7 students working hard each week to develop several essential skills. The skills the students have been focusing on are communication, speaking and listening, leadership, how to aim high both in school and in future careers, how to stay positive when faced with challenges, creativity, problem-solving and teamwork. The students have completed a number of different challenges and activities each week, which have helped them improve and develop these skills. These activities have allowed the students to work collaboratively each week, developing their resilience and ability to think hard to overcome complex challenges.

Seeing the students' confidence and resilience growing each week has been fantastic. The students were photographed participating in two challenges, one building the tallest tower and one building a strong bridge holding some objects. The students were placed in teams and first had to discuss the tasks and use their problem-solving skills to build the tallest tower and a bridge using only paper, Sellotape, and paper cups.

The students used their thinking skills to overcome the barriers they faced and produced some fantastic work. The students should be extremely proud of their achievements, which saw them working effectively in teams to produce some amazing work.

As a reward for their excellent work, the students have been invited to attend a trip to Clip and Climb. The students will spend the morning at the climbing centre, giving them another opportunity to demonstrate their excellent problem-solving skills.

Careers Fair



Students gained so much from the careers fair and really appreciated the support and guidance from all of the representatives. From universities and colleges to apprenticeship and training providers, our students were able to speak to a mixture of visitors to discuss their future options.

A special mention to Miss Housley, Mrs Baines and Mr Goodwin, plus all the student leaders for their efforts and hard work which ensured the day was a success.





On the 23rd of February, some of our Year 9 leaders completed their whistlers training. They spent the morning learning the theory behind officiating and in the afternoon they were able to put their skills and knowledge into practice. Well done to all of them for successfully completing the training.



Three of our athletes competed at the County Schools Cross Country Championships. We are so proud of their achievements. Holly (right), Year 9, won her race to qualify for the English Schools Cross Country Championships. Corey (left) and Harry, Year 8, raced against Year 9 athletes and finished exceptionally well! Congratulations to you all!



Well done to Blythe Bridge in the EFL Girls Cup! The girls narrowly missed out on the semi-final after a draw in the final game. A huge thank you to Wigan Athletic Community Trust for hosting the event and the EFL for providing the girls with such a great opportunity!



A frosty January throwback of our cross-country runners, who braved the cold for after-school training. We were impressed with their commitment and resilience. Well done, team!



Football Update

The U13 boys team hosted Wilnecote School. Despite tricky conditions, Blythe dominated the entire game and played some great football, coming out 5-1 winners. Goal scorers: Matt W, Olly F, Kian W x2, Jaiden H. Player of the match: Jaiden H for his efforts given in continuously pressing.

The U15 girls travelled to de Ferrers Academy. Playing a strong de Ferrers team, Blythe battled well and deservedly got back on top to go in 1-1 at HT. In the second half, Blythe stepped up their game and started to dominate, running out 4-1 winners. Goal scorers: Lola S x2, Jaimee-Leigh W, Poppy E. Player of the match: Grace D for having an excellent first half and dealing with their biggest threat very well.

We wish both teams luck in the next round of the county cup.

Netball Tournament

The U15 Netball team attended the Stoke-on-Trent City Tournament. During the matches, the students demonstrated outstanding teamwork and communication skills.

Each game was 14 minutes long, with 7-minute halves. They played four games in total, with some high scores. We won three out of the four games, with our highest-scoring game being 11-2 against Trentham Academy.

Overall, we finished in second place in the City Netball Tournament. Well done, Blythe!

We want to say a huge thank you to our sports leaders who have consistently led skills and drills sessions during training and who never miss a game to support us on the side-lines.



County Cricket Final

The closely fought county finals featured a fantastic standard of cricket. In the U13 and U15 competitions, second place was determined by runs scored after two teams were level on points. Twenty-nine runs decided the U13s, while just two runs separated the two schools in the U15s. Well done to our U13 team for finishing as runners up.



Football Success



Some of our students took part in a 7-a-side girls' football tournament. Eight schools took part, with all teams playing each other. The standard of play was excellent, and our girls did not disappoint, winning every game and taking the trophy home! It was an incredible team effort with outstanding performances from all.



Year 7 Partnership Games



A group of Year 7 students were selected to represent Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form in the Stoke-on-Trent Partnership Games. They embarked on six different activities (indoor athletics, track and field, cricket, basketball, ultimate frisbee and hand-eye coordination skills). Our students worked together to collect as many tokens as possible. They were awarded tokens demonstrating the following School Games values: passion, self-belief, honesty, determination and teamwork. As a team, they collected 17 out of 18 tokens! The students received the Silver Award for their efforts! Well done, Blythe.



Prom Marketplace

BBHS Online Prom Marketplace

*Do you have a prom dress, suit, shoes or accessory gathering dust? Do you want to help others and spread a little kindness?
Are you in the process of prom shopping, but finding prices unaffordable for a single-wear garment?*

Look no further than our ALL NEW BBHS Online Prom Marketplace. Here's how it works:

- 1) **Looking to donate?** Scan the QR code or follow the link below, fill in our form and follow the simple instructions. You can choose what proportion of the money raised from the sale of your donated item to keep, and what to offer to UHNM Charity via our Hug in a Bag project in school. You set the price of your item.
- 2) **Looking to buy?** Once donations begin to accumulate, they will be advertised on our online marketplace – the link to this is under 'school links' on FROG, or at <https://frog.bb-hs.co.uk/onlineprommarketplace>. If you wish to try on or view an item in person, we can arrange this. The site will be updated constantly according to stock, so please keep checking back!

Questions? See Mrs Pheasey in school, or email l.pheasey@bb-hs.co.uk



<https://forms.office.com/e/AtBLrskNt>

Chess

Well done to Emily W (Sphinx) and Dexter H (Centaur), who lead the week 1 and 2 lunchtime chess leagues. Forty-six students have participated in the league so far this year. New students are always welcome to come along, compete and make new friends.

See Mr Pugh for more information.

Mr K Pugh – Teacher of Maths



Due to technical issues during recording, we are unable to publish our episode with former Deputy Headteacher Mr Leese. However, we didn't want anyone to miss out on Mr Leese's fantastic insights, so a member of our podcast team transcribed the conversation for our school community to read. Please enjoy a brief extract below and follow the QR code below to discover our first official episode with Assistant Headteacher Mrs Adams.

Students: Welcome to the PRK podcast, which is the new podcast that we talk about news around school and what's happening. And today's guest is Mr Leese.

Mr Leese: Afternoon, everybody.

Students: Right. We've got a few questions for you, sir. So, we are going to get rolling with that. What is your fondest memory of Blythe Bridge High School?

Mr Leese: So, I would find that a really difficult question to answer. I think. So, I'm probably going to go with the one that makes me laugh the most when I think about it. I'm going to rewind about six years, maybe more. And it was a Year 6 welcome evening for parents, which we do in July every year. I remember that one year, it was so popular with students and parents that the site team hadn't put enough chairs out. I realised this as the parents and students were coming in, and the hall was already full, and we'd still got about 15 minutes to go before we were due to start talking. There was a queue of parents, maybe 50 or 60, still going down the wooden stairs and outside the front door. So me, Mrs Johnson and Mr Jackson decided it would be a good idea to run down the maths corridor to get another 60 chairs to run back into the hall, to put them into the extra rows. However, we hadn't factored in that it was 25 degrees Celsius, still at six o'clock at night. So, by the time I'd got onto the stage to talk, I was sweating so much from the running that it was dripping off my nose onto my speech. I struggled to get through my speech because all the words became blurred, and I just had to miss words out. Every time I think about that, it makes me laugh my head off to think of me, Mrs Johnson, and Mr Jackson running up and down that corridor with chairs and then running off to the stage.

Students: At least you got your cardio for the day.

Mr Leese: Got the cardio in for the day, probably for the week actually afterwards.

Students: Right. We're going to have a couple of debate questions now. Does pineapple belong on a pizza?

Mr Leese: Pineapple has a place on a pizza. But I would say my personal preference would be for it not to be on a pizza.

Get ready for something exciting! Our upcoming PRK Podcast page on FROG is coming soon. You'll be able to read the rest of our interview with Mr Leese, as well as additional updates. We're so excited to share it with you and hope you'll love listening as much as we loved putting it together.



Listen to our
first episode:





During their training day in February, students preparing for the Duke of Edinburgh Award learned how to set up gas fires and plan their routes for the upcoming summer expeditions. Miss Townshend was particularly impressed with the Year 9 students preparing to take on their Bronze Award, observing how the groups worked well together, collaborating maturely and calmly. The students eagerly anticipate the summer term and are excited for the opportunity to apply their skills. Those pursuing their Silver Award continue to work together efficiently and effectively.

The Duke of Edinburgh website explains the benefits to participants: "DofE gives them character traits like confidence and resilience that can boost their mental health and well-being and help them face and overcome personal challenges." We wish our students the best of luck with their Awards and look forward to further updates in the summer newsletter.



Heads of Year



Year 7

Congratulations on completing your second term at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form. Our Year 7 students have been working incredibly hard, achieving positive behaviour scores and earning a reward trip after the Easter break. We're extremely proud of those who reached the total points required.

Our Year 7 students have extracurricular passports, earning 20 achievement points when they attend five clubs. Seeing so many students get involved in our school community is outstanding.



In collaboration with Mrs Pheasey, our charity ambassadors have been actively raising funds for the UHNM charity, visiting patients in hospital, and taking on projects. We're delighted to see our students embody our school values, particularly those who are consistently kind and respectful towards others.

I want to thank parents and carers for their continued support over this last term. I hope you all have a relaxing Easter, ready for another busy term.

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



Seeing so many Year 7 students get involved with our school production of Mary Poppins was excellent. It really highlighted their confidence and performing skills. Well done to the staff and students involved. What a tremendous show.



Form stars of the term

7CBA Adam Q

Adam, you are always one of the first people to help with tasks in form and around school. You demonstrate an amazing BfL in your lessons and take great pride in the amount of achievement points you collect throughout the term. You are an exceptional role model to your peers. Well done, Adam.

7HDR Arthur O'K

Arthur reflects on how he can improve in all subjects and tries his hardest to improve and become his best self.

7HW Ella-Rose R

Ella is an incredibly hard-working member of Year 7 who fully embodies our school values of pride, respect and kindness. She has had an exceptional term, receiving a full house of 1s three times! I am very proud of how well you have settled into secondary school and you fully deserve this recognition.



Year 7 students have experienced many fantastic opportunities this term, from the Skills Champions volunteering at the careers fair to embracing the library activities on World Book Day to tackling the Stoke-on-Trent Partnership Games. We are always proud of those students who are pleased to represent our school. We love hearing from visitors that our students have impressed them with their exceptional behaviour and manners.

Our Year 7 students have shown great enthusiasm for our extracurricular clubs. The escape room is a popular choice, with students enjoying the challenge of the puzzles. We're also seeing a lot of participation in cross country, STEM, cheerleading, and swimming. Many Year 7 students also use homework club to stay on top of their assignments. A special mention to Mr Knight and the students working on the PRK podcast, which is a welcome addition to our extracurricular opportunities.



Heads of Year



7KH Noah B

Noah has been chosen for working hard since coming to high school and consistently embodying the school's values.

7KSA George R

An excellent attitude to school, engagement with activities such as church reading, and coping with an errant microphone. All-around star student.

7LP Daisy M

An incredibly kind and caring individual who always has a smile and a kind word. A valued and respected member of our form who is a fantastic role model to all. The world needs more Daisies.

7SAL Charlotte C

Charlotte is a role model in our form, always challenging the other students to want to reach four 1s in a day. Charlotte achieves this at least twice a week and is modest when doing so. Charlotte's reading in form is exemplary and really encapsulates what it means to read for her own enjoyment - it is not a chore for Charlotte but an enjoyable chunk of the day where she can escape into other worlds. Her contributions to citizenship are always insightful and thoughtful. I am very lucky to have Charlotte as a form tutee, and I look forward to seeing her achieve everything that she deserves during her school time.



Year 7 Top Achievers up to 8/3/24

Freya B 7CBA 1715
Anya B 7KH 1662
Aviaana A 7CBA 1661
Ruby M 7CBA 1636
Eleanor D 7LP 1619
Adam Q 7CBA 1605
Jessica N 7CBA 1572
Theo K 7KH 1566
Charlotte C 7SAL 1526
Lacey C 7CBA 1516

Heads of Year

Year 8

Year 8, congratulations on your remarkable achievements during the spring term. We have witnessed your unwavering support for the school in many activities, and many of you have stepped up to leadership roles. Your participation in the careers fair, where you interacted with our visitors, was fantastic. The staff who attended the Lille trip in December were very impressed by our students' conduct and enthusiasm, which made me proud as their Head of Year.

I have been particularly impressed by the ongoing work of our charity ambassadors and the students who are hard at work on the PRK podcast.

This half term, you have focused on parliamentary democracy and studied the role of the royal family, linking their roles to British Values and our school ethos of pride, respect, and kindness.

This term, we have accumulated 94 students onto the silver reward. We look forward to celebrating with you after the Easter break.

As we conclude the term, you will have completed your mock exams in core subjects. These exams have not only emphasised the importance of revision but have also prepared you for future challenges. Keep up the excellent work, and we hope you get the results that reflect your hard work and determination.

Have a wonderful Easter break, and we will welcome you back to school with your perfect uniform on Monday, 8th April!

Miss K Fargher
Head of Year 8
Teacher of Science



Form stars of the term

8AK James S

Congratulations on being awarded the 'Star of the Term' for 8AK! Your achievement is a testament to your exceptional behaviour, unwavering dedication to learning, and the positive impact you've had on those around you. Your consistently outstanding behaviour scores reflect your commitment to excellence and genuine kindness and respect towards others. Your passion for learning has not gone unnoticed, as you consistently strive for academic excellence and contribute positively to the learning environment. Your classmates and teachers appreciate your enthusiasm, and your infectious smile has undoubtedly brightened the days of those fortunate enough to share classes with you. Your well-rounded qualities make you a fantastic person: this recognition is well-deserved. Keep up the excellent work, and continue to inspire and uplift those in your school community.

8BRO Evie E

This student has been nominated for Star of the Term for always showing our core values of pride, respect and kindness in all her actions. Her work in lessons this year has been outstanding, and she is really pushing herself to achieve the best she can. She is a role model for those around her in how she treats others and shows respect for herself.

8JB Anneliese C

I am thrilled to nominate Anneliese for the Star of the Term award due to her exceptional contributions to citizenship lessons, active participation in various activities, and willingness to assist the form tutor. Anneliese consistently maintains an excellent attitude throughout her lessons, setting a positive example for her peers. Her dedication to school life's academic and social aspects makes her a great candidate for this well-deserved award.

8KK Lewis B

This student comes into school every day with a positive attitude and a smile on their face. They work hard in every single lesson no matter what and always put their all into school. This student is a true role model for our form and embodies the correct attitude, behaviours, and outlook. Well done for always making such a strong effort and trying your best daily.

8KMP Sadew W K

Well done for making such a great start at BBHS. Sadew contributes well in his lessons and can always be relied upon to try his best. He is making good progress in all subjects but is doing exceptionally well in Maths. Sadew is a pleasure to teach.

8NC Charlotte H

Charlotte is consistently dedicated and determined throughout all aspects of her academic studies at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form, and I will continue to be amazed by her every day at school. Well done; you thoroughly deserve it.

8NP Reuben L

I have seen Reuben become so much more confident in himself and in lessons, through his positive contributions, attitude and commitment to his work. Well done Reuben!

Year 8 Top Achievers up to 8/3/24

Frankie A 8NP 1854
Evangeline S 8NP 1740
James S 8AK 1683
Kirsty S 8NC 1647
Asia N 8KK 1611
Freya L 8BRO 1597
Niamh T-F 8NC 1588
Jacob H 8BRO 1587
Lily M 8BRO 1584
Effie-Mae D 8AK 1565

Heads of Year

Year 9

Year 9 have had an extremely positive term to feedback on. We particularly enjoyed a morning of engineering delivered by the Inspirational Learning Group. We received fantastic feedback about their excellent behaviour, engagement, teamwork and communication. We are really looking forward to a further session in the summer term.

Congratulations to our sporting stars this term. There is much to be celebrated in Year 9, namely in football and cross country, with our Year 9 Your Time Leaders also completing their whistlers training. Good luck to the Year 9 girls who have their next round of the County Cup – Football coming up. It's been great to catch up with the Year 9 Africa Team, who have most recently attended a social event at Port Vale FC in preparation for their volunteering work in Kenya 2025. It's also been lovely to learn about some of the volunteering already underway amongst the year group for their Bronze DofE Award. They have been proactive, and to see this in action, whether at the gardening club or swimming pool, is a credit to their determination and work ethic. We're also immensely proud of our Year 9 pupils who performed in Mary Poppins in February. What a fantastic show!

We have worked hard this term on the positive impact that good behaviour and punctuality can have on our wellbeing, as well as the positive impact that this has on those around us. I feel really proud when I see this in action daily, and we celebrate success and achievement weekly.

Below is our 'Top 10' for outstanding achievers to date. Thank you to all of you for displaying pride, respect and kindness throughout school life. Congratulations to you all on a really successful half term, and I hope you all have a wonderful Easter break.

Mrs S Davies
Head of Year 9
Teacher of PE



An update on Kenya 2025 by Joshua G

We're about halfway through the fundraising, and I am on target for fundraising.

Last week, we had a social event where we played a quiz and bingo with students from other schools who are going to Africa. This was really helpful as it means we're not complete strangers when we go.

We have some exciting upcoming events, such as quiz and bingo nights and a match day collection at Port Vale.



Year 9 Top Achievers up to 8/3/24

Joshua G 9ERJ 1342
Bradley S 9HH 1289
Michael F 9CFL 1267
Jessica C 9CFI 1260
Natasha H-T 9KKN 1252
Aaron L 9KKN 1250
Scarlett W-H 9NG 1246
Layla D 9HH 1244
Jessica C 9KKN 1223
Chelsea R 9HH 1220



Form stars of the term

9CFL Paige B

For always demonstrating the school's core values and consistently gaining the most 1s in the form.

9ERJ Lola S

Lola truly embodies the school's values of pride, respect and kindness in everything she does. Not only is she committed to her learning, but she also excels in sports. Lola is a role model to her peers, and seeing how she spreads positivity around the community is inspiring.

9HH Layla D

She is a fantastic student, who really embodies the school values of pride, respect and kindness. She is usually in the top BfL scores each week for the year group and is very polite and engaged with her learning.

9JB Y Ava M

She has excellent behaviour in all lessons, is always polite and respectful, has made a real effort to fit into life at Blythe Bridge, and has settled in really well.

9KKN Tabatha S

A student who consistently shows a hardworking and dedicated attitude towards all areas of student life at Blythe Bridge. She always has a smile on her face in form and is always polite to both staff and her peers. A pleasure to have in 9KKN.

9LKB Nancy L

Nancy consistently demonstrates the school values of pride, respect, and kindness. She is conscientious across the curriculum and is recognised by staff for her diligence. On occasion, she has appeared in the top portion of the year group for outstanding behaviour in learning this year.

9NG Oscar M

For his ability to see and respect contrasting points of view.

Heads of Year

Year 10

I feel that for each newsletter contribution I make, I begin by saying what an incredibly busy term we have had, but this term has been no exception! GCSEs are well underway, and students are working towards their mock examinations, which commence on the 15th of April 2024. Students have recently received their subject's progress report; therefore, this would be an excellent start in identifying the subject areas that require improvement and for additional revision to be completed in these subjects. If you have any queries regarding revision material, please ask your teachers; they will be able to point you in the right direction.

Year 10 have received a wide breadth of assemblies, which include Holocaust Memorial Day, how to be organised, the importance of a healthy mind and body, Ramadan and World Book Day, to name a few. It has been fantastic to see students fully engaging with these assemblies, and having the opportunity to explore key topics not necessarily covered within the curriculum has been an important element of increasing students' awareness and cultural capital. During citizenship lessons, students have been exploring key ethical topics such as euthanasia, genetic engineering and capital punishment, which has enabled students to build on key skills such as debating and communication skills and analysis and evaluation, which can be transferred into other subject areas. Students are now learning about employability and transferable skills, which will be crucial as they move closer to their work experience and start thinking about their future careers. There will be a continuous focus on careers and choices after GCSEs to prepare students for the following stages of their lives.

As I write this, I am preparing for your end-of-term celebration assembly. It makes me incredibly proud to see all of the wonderful

comments made by form tutors regarding the form stars, and I cannot wait to share with you the winners for these and the pride, respect, and kindness awards. Top behaviour for learning, top achievement points and 100% attendance will also be honoured, showing students' commitment to their learning.

I want to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers once again for their continued support over this last term. I wish you all a restful Easter in preparation for another extremely busy term.

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



Form stars of the term

10GM Elijah C

This student has been awarded the form star of the term award due to their fantastic attitude towards learning and school life. They have accumulated a significant number of achievement points, reflecting their diligence in all they do, going above and beyond what is expected. They always volunteer to read during form time and are an outstanding asset to the form group and Year 10.

10HBL George M

This student has been awarded the form star of the term award because they have shown a significant increase in confidence this year. This student is always polite, has a perfect uniform, and is prepared to learn. They consistently achieve 1s in lessons and normally achieve the most 1s in the form. During citizenship, I have seen this student become much more confident in their thoughts

and abilities now volunteering to answer questions and make fantastic contributions to lessons.

10LM Ari R

This student has been awarded the form star of the term award because he has a consistently positive attitude towards learning and school life. They are one of the most positive students I have come across, and the fact that he is always cheerful, friendly and enthusiastic is hugely commendable. He sets a great example of staying optimistic in the face of the challenges and stresses of school and is well-deserving of the star of the term.

10LLM Scarlett B

This student has been awarded the form star of the term award because they are such an asset to the form. They enter the form room every day with a smiling face, engage in all citizenship lessons, and are a thoughtful and lovely person. Their recent performance in the Mary Poppins production was superb and absolutely blew me away. I couldn't be more proud of them.

10LRO Taylor F

Despite the challenges of switching schools mid-term during their GCSEs, this student has excelled at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form. Their remarkable transition is a credit to their resilience and adaptability. Notably, they have earned the prestigious star of the term title for their outstanding contributions and positive influence on teachers and peers. They embody Blythe Bridge High School's core values: pride, respect, and kindness. Their resilience and adaptability reflect not only their character but also highlight the supportive environment fostered by the school community.

Heads of Year



Unsurprisingly, they have earned the esteemed title of Star of the Term, as their positive influence and dedication exemplify the essence of Blythe Bridge High School's values.

10RJJ Millie B

This student has been awarded the form star of the term award because she approaches all form time activities and citizenship lessons with a really positive mind-set and determination to do well. She takes pride in her work and always gives 100%. She is polite and respectful to everyone in the form and a great role model to her peers.

10SGF Jack S

This student has been awarded the form star of the term award because they are always focused and hard-working in all he does. They clearly reflect the school ethos of pride, respect, and kindness. Well done!

10SL Thinethma W K

This student has been awarded the form star of the term because she has settled into Blythe Bridge so well and tries exceptionally hard in all elements of school life. She has only been here for a short time but already feels like a well-established member of 10SL, and I am very proud of the progress she has made and continues to make. She is kind and conscientious, studious and mature, and a true asset to the school! I have no doubt that she will continue to progress and impress all of her teachers.

Pride: Eshaan R

This student has been awarded the pride award for his contributions to a Year 7 and 8 assembly and his enthusiasm and passion while presenting to younger children in a primary school. He was an excellent role model and was proud to represent Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form.

Respect: Krrish C

This student has been awarded the respect award for his outstanding contribution to a recent Year 7 and 8 assembly and his successful visit to a primary school, during which he spoke confidently regarding his religion. This student was an excellent ambassador for our school, demonstrating what an incredibly respectful young man he is.

Kindness: Alfie D

This student has been awarded the kindness award for their commitment to projects outside of lessons. The amount of time they have given to support with media projects, including weekend tasks, showcasing our Port Vale students is commendable. This, coupled with their positive attitude towards staff and peers, reflects what a kind and caring young man this student is.



Year 10 students Eshaan and Krrish join Year 8 student Toby to record a podcast for an assembly on Ramadan.



Sydney W and Scarlett B work on a future inspired banner at the Mitchell Arts Centre as part of a work experience week in partnership with BBC 'Bring The Drama'.

Year 10 Top Achievers up to 8/3/24

Jorja H 10HBL 1420
Elijah C 10GM 1312
Ryan E 10HBL 1309
Will H 10HBL 1280
Phoebe C 10GM 1279
Ella R 10GM 1265
Isabelle R 10HBL 1236
Joshua S 10LLM 1202
Krrish C 10GM 1190
Callum J 10GM 1176



We were amazed at how many Year 10 students got involved with Mary Poppins. Well done for your hard work!

Heads of Year

Year 11

This term was always going to be the most challenging for our Year 11 students. With a full set of mock examinations coupled with a countdown to their final GCSE examinations, the pressure has been on from the start.

Seeing how our Year 11 students have handled the challenges has made me extremely proud. Be it the completion of coursework for GCSE and BTEC qualifications, the never-ending revision timetables in place at home, or the general experience of this being their final year of high school, every student has surpassed themselves. The attitude, enthusiasm, and role modelling have been excellent, and we can honestly say that Year 11 students have become the true leaders of our school's student community. I am speechless when I see how many of our Year 11 students have already surpassed the total of 1000 prom points. It is a true testament to your endless hard work and outstanding attitude.

By the time this term ends, our Year 11 students will have 23 days left of school before the start of their GCSE examinations. It does not feel like a week ago that we were celebrating our return to school in September and discussing key dates for the year ahead.

The narrative from day one has revolved around preparation for their examinations and using all the support around them to ensure they give themselves the best possible opportunity to get some excellent final outcomes. Final outcomes that are justified with all of the hard work that has gone in. I implore our Year 11 students to use every lesson, revision session and revision time at home to get themselves into the best possible position for their final examinations. Time is flying, and before we know it, we will be able to celebrate the examinations being over and look forward to the summer ahead and the next chapter in their educational pathway.

Even with all that is going on with their studies, our Year 11 students have still been busy being part of all the great things that our school has to offer. Several Year 11 students were part of the exceptional Mary Poppins school production, a final chance for them to showcase their talents on stage. We have a number of students involved in the cadet forces outside of school, with one having the rare opportunity to meet members of the royal family recently. We still have a large number of boys and girls representing the school in football and playing for clubs in the local area. Our rugby players are catching up with fixtures lost to the weather and chasing representation at county level.

The future has been on our students' minds from the beginning of this year, with the realisation that everything will change at the end of June 2024. Most of our students have already applied for sixth form or local colleges/apprenticeships, but for those still undecided, I ask that you spend a bit of time over the next few weeks to secure yourselves an opportunity to continue with your education post-16.

We have all experienced what feels like a quick, challenging and decisive term here at BBHS, but the best is yet to come.

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

"Motivation is what gets
you started. Habit is what
keeps you going."
-Jim Ryan

Year 11 Top Achievers up to 8/3/24

Charlie C 11GBR 1634
Evie H 11LGI 1554
Nikoli L 11ESH 1549
Matthew T 11JL 1532
Jessie H 11JL 1487
Reece M 11DH 1480
Owen L 11GBR 1468
Harry S 11ESH 1457
Loukia C 11LGI 1416
Lara B 11DH 1405

Our Students



Our Students



100% Attendance

Year 7

Name	Reg
Aviaana A	7CBA
Izabella A	7KSA
Charlotte C	7SAL
Billy D	7HW
Reuben D	7LP
Nyah D	7HW
Eleanor D	7LP
Benjamin G	7SAL
Holly H	7KSA
Abigail H	7SAL
Freddie J	7CBA
Sophie J	7KH
Ruby M	7CBA
Ben M	7SAL
Molly M	7KH
Brooke M	7HW
Samuel N	7HW
George P	7CBA
Hattie S	7KSA
Joshua T	7HW
Benjamin W	7CBA
Cayman W-T	7HDR

Year 8

Name	Reg
Cole A	8BRO
Frankie A	8NP
Joseph A	8JB
Ava B	8KK
Ava B	8KMP
Evie B	8NP
Jacob C	8JB
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
Bella G	8AK
Willow M	8NP
Jack M	8NP
Ryleigh S	8NP
Kirsty S	8NC
James S	8AK

Year 9

Name	Reg
Lyla A	9NG
Jessica C	9CFL
Lily D	9JBY
Natasha H-T	9KKN
Maxwell K	9HH
Bradley S	9HH
Phoebe W	9JBY

Year 10

Name	Reg
Daisy B	10LLM
Grace B	10SL
Olivia B	10GM
Daniel C	10LLM
Freya C	10LLM
Darcy E	10LM
Leila F	10LRO
Jorja H	10HBL
Ella R	10GM
Isabelle R	10HBL
Samuel S	10RJJ

Year 11

Name	Reg
Madison B	11ESH
Daniella B	11LGI
Alfie B	11KC
Charlie C	11GBR
Will D	11NAZ
Alex F	11ESH
Isabel H	11ESH
Evie H	11LGI
Oliver L-W	11KC
Owen L	11GBR
Libby M	11GBR
Katie S	11DH
Matthew T	11JL

Up to 8th March
2024

Transition

Summer School 2024

Yes, it's back! Summer School 2024 is a unique opportunity for Year 6 students.

I trust all Year 6 families received our welcome letter in early March and have considered enrolling your children in one of our two scheduled events, each offering a range of exciting and unique experiences.

"The activities were great and very different from those in Year 6. You met the new staff and used the science and technology classrooms. We had never used the equipment before, and it was a brilliant learning experience. I didn't realise twenty-one other primaries sent students into Year 7. I made many new friends, explored the school, and learnt hands-on business, technology, and science skills." Ethan, Year 7.

"I was the only student transferring from my primary school. I had already attended the intake event, but these additional three days really allowed me to create new friendship groups, easing my worries about September. The cooking was great, and my clock still works. I really enjoyed designing a theme park. I recommend it to all Year 6 students." Anya, Year 7



Year 6 Students

Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form have now officially received the fantastic news that 200 Year 6 students will join our school community on September 1st. Plans are already in an advanced stage, with students having the opportunity to attend their annual New Intake days on Monday, 1st & Tuesday, July 2nd. Parents will also be invited to meet Headteacher Mrs Johnson and her Leadership team on Monday, July 1st, from 6:00 pm onwards. In June, information will be sent to families about form groups, uniforms and day-to-day routines.

Year 5 Transition

Students within Year 5 at partnership schools have continued to attend their annual transition mornings in preparation for September 2025.

Isla from Springcroft said, "The school looks really big but it was nice to visit the different classrooms. I liked DT and making my keyring."

Fellow Year 5 student Pippa from Meir Heath Academy commented, "The science was really fun. I enjoyed seeing the solutions change colour if they were acid or alkali."

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 11th May: Science Fun Fest
(nominated students only)

Tuesday 25th June: Maths Puzzle Day

Monday 8th – Friday 12th July: Open week



Sixth Form



Keele Trip

Forty three Year 12 students travelled to Keele University after February half term.

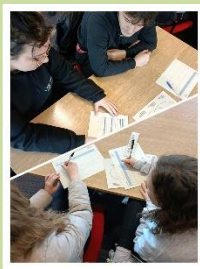
They had a tour around the campus, a student finance talk, a chance to ask current students questions about student life and find out about the university application process. This trip now sets those students up well to have something to compare to when on future university open days.



School and Beyond

Sixth form students on our Tomorrow's Teachers programme experienced a day of visits to educational sites, including a visit to the Faculty of Education at Edge Hill University. Students were able to attend a university tour and workshops including one on lesson planning. Later that afternoon, students visited Kingsmead School. They thoroughly enjoyed their time touring another school within our MAT, especially meeting some of the animals on their school farm.

Thank you to the staff at Kingsmead School and Edge Hill University for inviting us.



Eco-Garden Club

Our newest animal, Princess, was a generous donation from Mrs Mitton and her daughters. They learned of our search for a companion for Bertie, our rabbit, and the match was made. Since then, it's been a delightful union, with Princess asserting her dominance over the rabbit hutch. Both lionhead rabbits and Princess occasionally even snatches food from Bertie's mouth, adding a playful dynamic to their relationship!

Our Eco-Garden is witnessing a surge in student participation, with many students joining us for the DoF award and volunteering in the garden. We're particularly proud of the continuity, with students often starting in Year 7 and staying until Year 11. Despite the challenging weather, the group has begun digging a path in the garden, a project that will make walking easier once it's filled with bark. The garden's beauty is a testament to our students' hard work and their commitment to improving it together. The daffodils, planted by our gardeners last year, are now in full bloom, adding a vibrant touch to the garden.

Our woodland project is an exciting venture, offering students unique experiences in bush craft. We've created a log seating area from reclaimed wood, and I am teaching them the art of making a fence using dead branches without any tools! We've also built a seat and a small shelter area. The estate's natural surroundings provide a perfect backdrop, with sightings of wild rabbits, Canadian geese, red kites, and vultures.

Our chickens are happy when they see our school busy and are very social. They lay fewer eggs when the school is empty. The chickens run towards our Year 7 students because they know they will feed them – especially with worms, their favourite treat!



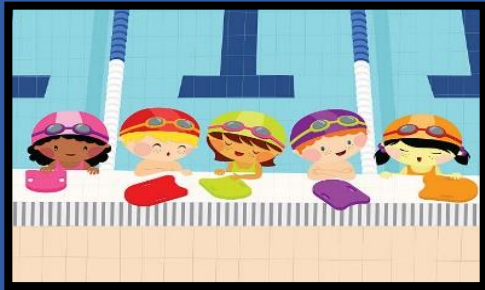
As the garden is self-funded, whatever fundraising we do goes back into the garden. Selling eggs, vegetables, or flowers—the money goes back into the garden to buy materials and feed for the animals. Any kind of donation would be most appreciated, seeds, pots, tools—we are grateful for them.

Any students wanting to help in the garden need old clothes, as it can get muddy and cold. But our budding gardeners are never deterred by cold weather; they love to go outside and get stuck in.

We invite any students to join us at the Eco-Garden Club if you're interested in spending more time outdoors or need a break to unwind. We look forward to seeing you there.



Swimming



High Five Swimming

The Year 5 students from all our feeder schools have been attending weekly Masterclass sessions starting on January 31st. We have 25 students who have all been showing their amazing swimming skills throughout all four strokes. Recently, we finished a lesson on competitive starts, and we have some awesome diving skills. I am looking forward to our galas later in the year for them to be able to show them off. Each week, the students are completing small activities towards learning water polo, and are getting very strong at treading water and ball passing in the water. I hope the students are as excited as I am to put all these new skills into practice for our water polo competition. Finally, a huge well done to all of the students who attended. It is a pleasure to teach the group each week with them, who are focused on advancing their techniques in every aspect.



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.

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

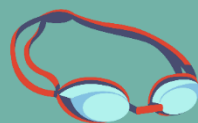
Our FREE early bird swim continues to be popular on Tuesday mornings from 7:45-8:15 a.m. This session is open to all year groups. Start your day with a splash! Our after-school swim clubs also continue, Tuesday 3:10-4:00 girls and Wednesday 3:10-4:00 boys.

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 are all about movement through the water, confidence and fun!

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





ROYAL
LIFE SAVING
SOCIETY UK

NPLQ

10
RLSS UK

Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form Lifeguard Course!!

Starting 21st June 11am-7pm running for five Fridays(excluding 5th July).

Assessment Monday 22nd July.

Pre-requisites

Candidates are required to be 16 at the date of assessment.

Be able to meet the following criteria:

- Jump/dive into deep water
- Swim 50 metres in no more than 60 seconds
- Swim 100 metres continuously on front
- Swim 100 metres continuously on back
- In deep water, tread water for 30 seconds
- Surface dive to the floor of the pool
- Climb out unaided without a ladder or steps

Limited Spaces

12 spaces available reserve yours now with £50.00 deposit. Full Price £275 payable before start date.

Job Opportunities

Once fully qualified guaranteed interview for potential work at
Blythe Bridge High School Pool starting September 2024.

Contact

For More information email
LMSwimschool.LM@outlook.com

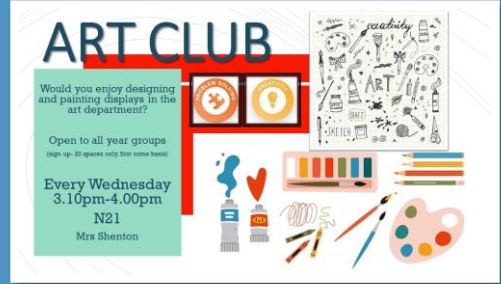


Extra Curricular Clubs



Kickstart

The club remains a popular spot for students to start off their day, as they can grab some breakfast, catch up on their homework and socialise with other students. Some students also enjoy playing games and chatting with their friends while having their toast and hot chocolate, while a couple of others continue working on their crochet projects.



Art Club

Art Club continues to inspire creative students! 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



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s4swimschool.uk

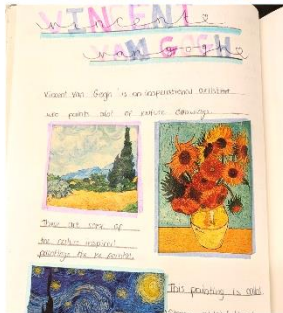
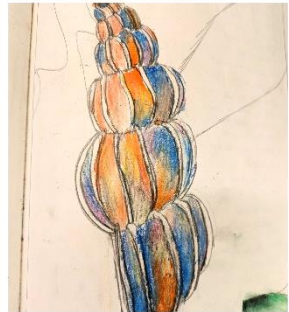
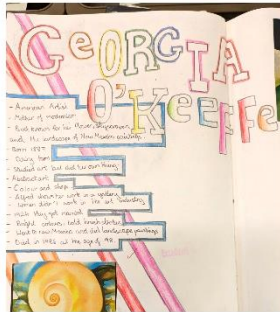
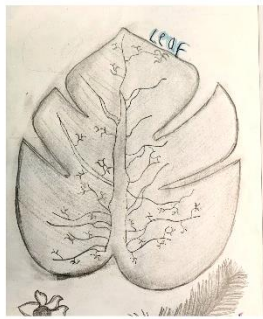
Year 7 Art

Students have been exploring the theme of man-made objects. They have produced a still life drawing of man-made objects experimenting with line, tone, shape and texture. They have explored the artwork of Jim Dine and created artwork inspired by Jim Dine's tools series.



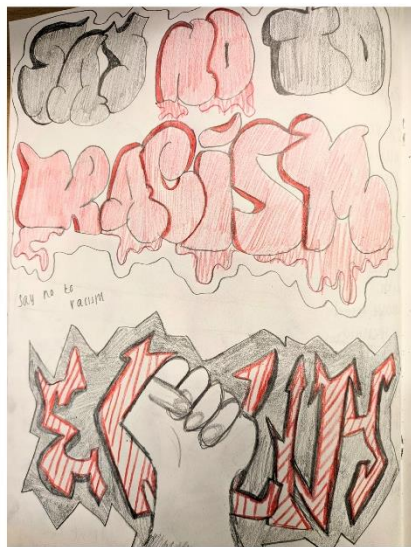
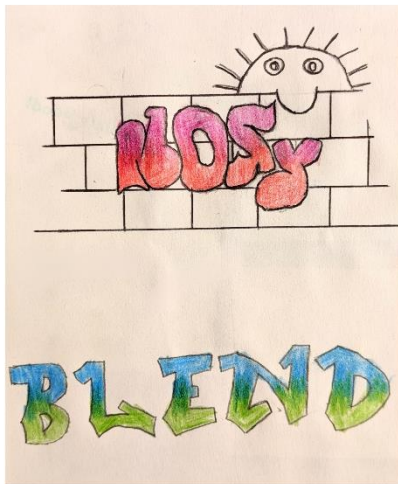
Year 8 Art

Students have been exploring the theme of nature. They have looked at the artwork of Georgia O'Keeffe, experimenting with oil pastels to explore how O'Keeffe uses colour and tone. They also explored the work of Vincent Van Gogh, creating landscape and sunflower paintings.



Year 9 Art

Students have been exploring Graffiti and Street Art. They have experimented with typography, creating their own 'Tag' designs. They have explored the artwork of renowned British street artist Banksy and looked into the meaning behind the artwork.



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 and processes and have gained new skills and understanding of media and materials. They also examined various painting styles, exploring different art movements such as Fauvism and Expressionism.

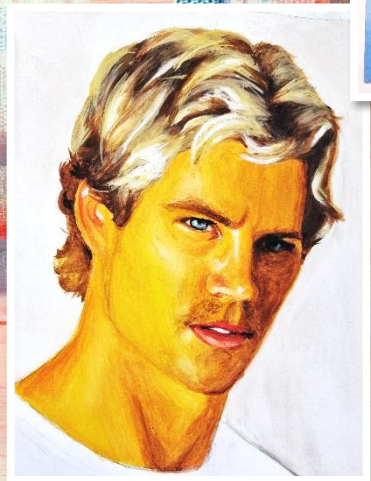
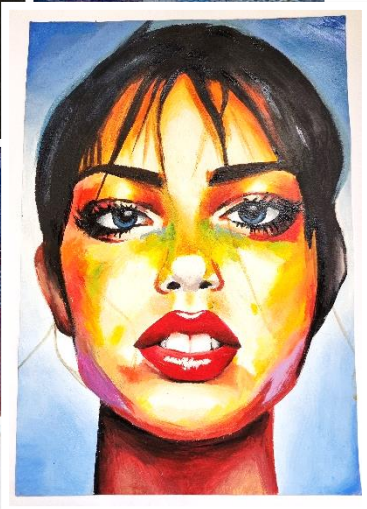
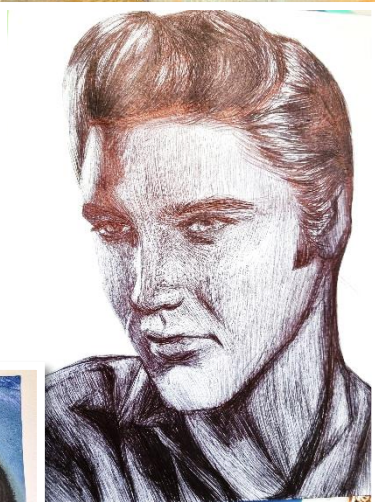
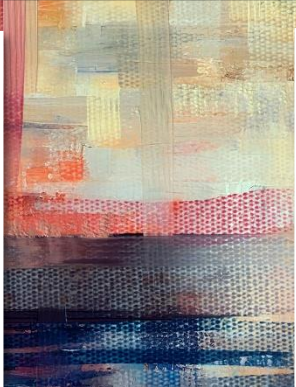
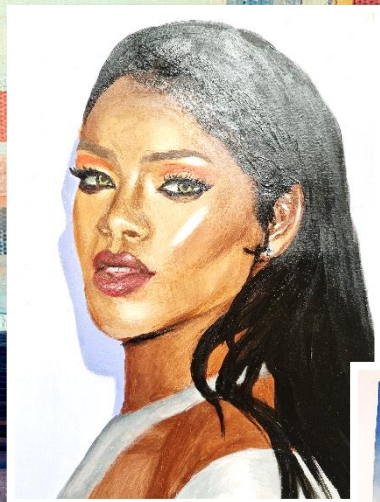


Year 10 Art



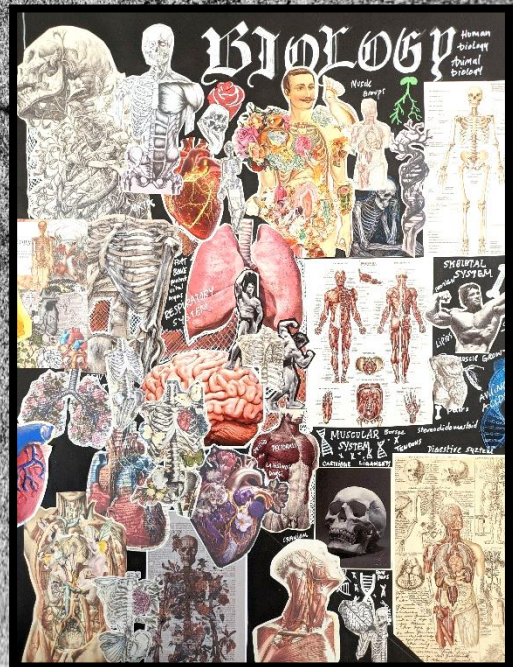
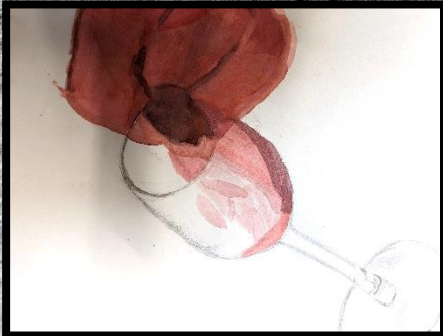
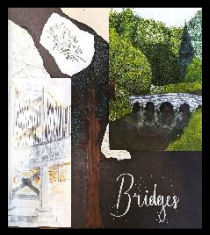
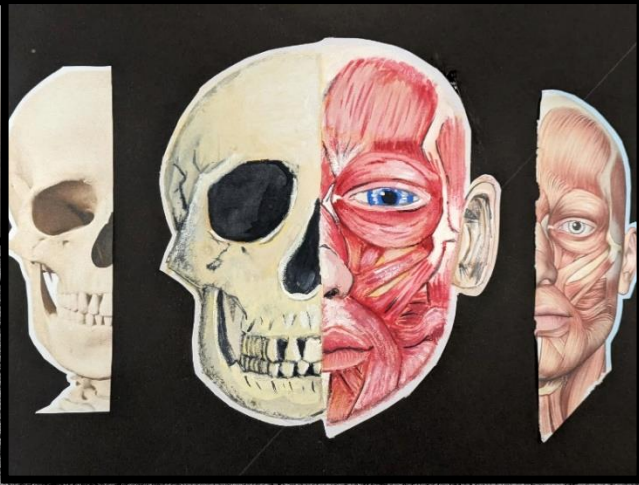
Year 11 Art

Year 11 have had a busy term, preparing for their GCSE Art exams, which will take place on the 21st and 22nd of March 2024. Staff are excited to see what work they produce over the 10 hours.



A Level Art

Our Year 13 A-level art students have now finished their coursework and have started the exam preparation, exploring individual topics such as 'Feline, Bridges and Science'.



A Level Art

Hospital sixth form visit

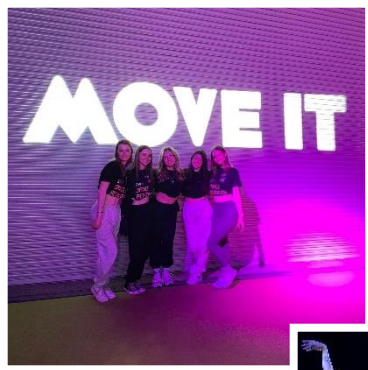
Our A-level art and photography students had a great opportunity to work with the patients in the elderly care unit at Stoke Hospital. They helped the patients make Easter cards building their own confidence, communication and leadership skills.



Manchester Art Gallery and Whitworth Gallery

Our art trip to Manchester Art Gallery and the Whitworth Gallery with our A-level art students was a success. We got to see a variety of exhibitions including fashion, photography and traditional painting. It provided an excellent opportunity for our students to experience art first hand and artwork created by different cultures and ethnicities.





Dance students enjoyed their trip to MOVE IT at the ExCeL London, a three-day event which "celebrates all forms of dance and the performing arts." Our students thoroughly appreciated the diverse range of dance at this magnificent celebration of the performing arts.

www.moveitdance.co.uk



Source: @moveitshow Instagram



Well done to our Year 10 dancers for entertaining the residents of Hilderstone Hall Care Home and involving them in some armchair dancing to 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow.'



Recently, during a volunteering session at the Royal Stoke University Hospital, the charity ambassadors teamed up with the talented Year 10 dancers to visit the elderly care wards. The team showcased solos and duets and then instructed the patients in some chair exercises. Well done to all involved; some superb leadership and a rewarding opportunity for our students.

Drama



Six students represented BBHS at the recent JTMAT Drama Subject Excellence Day which was held at The Lichfield Garrick. Two students from each key stage took part in a workshop led by a director from the theatre alongside other schools in the MAT. From the ideas created in the workshop, each student is now working on creating their own monologue which they will perform in the competition day in May.



Food Technology

Year 9 students had a mission: whip up an Easter-themed cake decked out with all the bells and whistles! Eggs, flowers, chocolate biscuits and sprinkles sat on top of buttercream-covered cakes. Well done Year 9!





Women's History Month

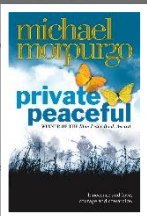
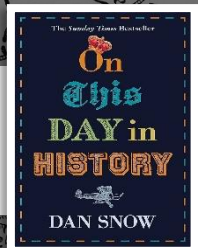
We have celebrated Women's History Month this term by delivering a school-wide assembly led by the History Ambassadors. Women's History Month runs throughout March to highlight the fantastic women worldwide and how women have fought for and achieved equality throughout history. It also highlights the inequality women still face worldwide. The History Ambassadors did a fantastic job of delivering this vital message to the school through their assembly and acknowledging the achievements of some remarkable women in history. Here are some of our amazing History Ambassadors showing their support on International Women's Day, which is celebrated on March 8th. They are sharing the heart-hand gesture, symbolising this year's theme of inclusion.



World Book Day in History

We celebrated World Book Day on March 7th. We created a page on Frog listing books applicable to the History curriculum from Year 7 to Year 13. This can be found on the 'History Reads' tab on the History page on FROG. Here are a couple of books recommended by our History Ambassadors and why they love them.

'On This Day in History' by Dan Snow. This book is amazing because every page is dedicated to an event that happened in history on that particular day. It is really exciting to see what has happened every day, and through reading this book, I have learnt so much about lots of different historical events.



'Private Peaceful' by Michael Morpurgo follows the lives of two young brothers who enlist in the First World War. It gives a personal insight into the horrors of life during the war and highlights the British Army's practice of executing its own soldiers during the First World War. It's a brilliant read.

All About History

Lessons from Auschwitz

This term, we also participated in the Lessons from Auschwitz project, where two members of our Year 12 history class had the opportunity to visit Auschwitz and attend seminars led by camp survivors. Lucy has written a moving piece describing her experience visiting the camp.



My Auschwitz Experience, by Lucy I, Year 12

Visiting Auschwitz was a sombre and emotional experience that was full of haunting reminders of the atrocities that were committed throughout the Holocaust by the Nazis and their collaborators. Auschwitz, the original concentration camp, stands as a reminder of people's experiences, but also serves as a poignant symbol of resilience and remembrance.

Visitors can witness the bravery of those who endured unimaginable suffering while paying tribute to the millions who lost their lives. Despite the darkness of its history, Auschwitz has transformed into a beacon of education and advocacy against hate, ensuring that the world never forgets the horrors of the past and strives towards a future of peace and understanding.

Auschwitz houses a variety of artefacts that serve as powerful reminders of the suffering that occurred within its walls. Exhibits include personal belongings such as shoes, suitcases, and glasses collected from victims. However, the most shocking and horrifying artefact is the almost two tonnes of hair which was shaved from prisoners' heads upon their arrival to Auschwitz. Another quite frankly shocking artefact is the book of names, which contains the name of every known Holocaust victim. The sheer size of the book serves as a stark reminder of the millions of lives that were brutally extinguished during the Holocaust. These artefacts tell the stories of the millions who were killed at the hands of the Nazis and their collaborators and help to highlight the importance of bearing witness to such atrocities to ensure they are never repeated.

As visitors you are able to witness these haunting artefacts first hand which provides you with a connection to the individuals who suffered and died within the camp.



Recorder Festival

Eight of our musicians attended the recorder festival to play alongside 650 recorder players from over the city. The recorder festival ran over three days and over 1500 young people took part in the performances. This is an incredible achievement! We run 'The Festies' recorder group on Fridays at lunch in N18. You do not need your own recorder, we can loan you one, but anyone is welcome to join us. Next year, we would love for our school to do a solo in the concert, so the more the merrier!



MusicShare

We took 13 of our singers who signed up to the MusicShare concert at Endon High School. It was lovely to hear music from Endon High School and hear a snippet from their production of 'Oklahoma!' as well as the soloists, the fantastic singing from Tamworth Enterprise College and a superb performance of one of our favourite choir pieces from 'Les Misérables'. Well done to all involved. We are working on pieces for our Summer Concert, 'Music from Around the World'. Anyone is welcome to join in VoiceBox - no auditions necessary.



Summer Concert

We have our summer concert on Thursday 4th July and welcome you all to watch. Reminder for instrumentalists - if you have lessons through school, you must attend an extra curricular activity.

As always, if anyone has any instrumental donations/sheet music donations/music accessories, please get in touch as we would be most grateful - h.balewski@bb-hs.co.uk

Modern Foreign Languages



La Chandeleur Year 9 French Culture

La Chandeleur is a traditional French holiday that is celebrated on February 2nd. The holiday is celebrated with the making and eating of crêpes, which are often served with a variety of sweet or savoury fillings. Traditionally, families gather to eat crêpes, and if the cook can successfully flip a crêpe with one hand while holding a coin in their dominant hand the family will have a prosperous year.

To celebrate the French holiday, Mrs Cotterill asked her Year 9 students to create a pancake dish – with Joshua G taking home the prize for best presentation and Adam K claiming bronze. Well done to all of the students who took part in this creative homework.



Modern Foreign Languages

Let's discover how Easter is celebrated in Argentina! Get ready for an egg-citing adventure!



Easter in Argentina: A Blend of Tradition and Fun

In Argentina, Easter is not just about chocolate eggs and bunnies; it's a time when families come together to celebrate both the religious and cultural aspects of this special holiday.

Holy Week Processions

The week leading up to Easter Sunday, known as Holy Week, is a significant time for many Argentinians. People attend church services and participate in processions that re-enact the events leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Some of these processions are incredibly elaborate, with participants wearing traditional costumes and carrying statues and crosses through the streets.



Easter Eggs and Sweet Treats

Just like in many other parts of the world, Easter in Argentina is also about indulging in delicious treats! Children eagerly await the arrival of the Easter Bunny, who hides chocolate eggs and treats around the house or in the garden for them to find on Easter Sunday morning.



Traditional Argentine Easter Foods

Argentinians have their own unique culinary traditions for Easter. One popular dish is "Rosca de Pascua," a sweet bread ring decorated with colourful sprinkles and sometimes filled with dulce de leche or cream. Families also gather to enjoy a hearty meal together, often featuring roasted lamb, seafood, and other festive dishes.



Fun and Games

In addition to attending church services and enjoying delicious food, Easter in Argentina is also a time for fun and games! Families and friends come together for picnics, barbecues, and outdoor activities, making the most of the holiday weekend.



The Power of Recognition

There's something truly magical about being acknowledged for your hard work and dedication. Whether it's a pat on the back, a round of applause, or a shiny trophy, recognition fuels our spirits and ignites our drive to succeed. As such, we are delighted that over 300 students that study MFL have already achieved their bronze or silver awards for excellent hard work in lessons. We are looking forward to celebrating more success with you in the summer term.



Modern Foreign Languages

Vocabulary builder

English	French	Spanish
Bunny	Un lapin	Un conejo
Chicks	Des poussins	Los pollitos
Daffodils	Des jonquilles	Los narcisos
Easter	Les Pâques	La Pascua
Easter Sunday	Le dimanche de Pâques	El Domingo de Pascua
Flowers	Des fleurs	Las flores
Good Friday	Le vendredi saint	El Viernes Santo
Lamb	Un agneau	Un cordero
Spring	Le printemps	La primavera
Tulips	Des tulipes	Los tulipanes



A special visitor

Lauren, a former student, visited a range of students on Monday, February 26th, to explain how studying languages changed her life. Lauren has achieved remarkable success in her language studies. After completing her BA in French, Spanish, and Portuguese, she went on to earn her Master's degree in Comparative Literature. Today, she lives and works in Nancy, France, a testament to the transformative power of language education.

During her visit, Lauren shared Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form's profound impact on her language journey. She spoke about the benefits of learning a language at a higher education level and shared fascinating stories from her life in France. When asked about the influence of our school on her future, Lauren was quick to credit the high quality of education she received here. She also praised her teachers, many of whom are still in the department, for their role in fostering her resilience and passion for languages.

When reflecting on her visit, Lauren shared, "It was an immense pleasure to return to my former high school and be welcomed with open arms to the department that shaped me into the linguist I am today. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to share with staff and students alike the benefits of studying languages in further education and sharing the world of opportunities that having an additional language can have on both your personal and professional life. My success is a testament to the MFL department at Blythe Bridge. I hope my story has inspired students to consider studying languages further."

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Lauren for taking the time to speak to several classes and answer their enthusiastic questions. Her visit was a valuable opportunity for our students to learn from a successful language graduate. Lauren's journey is a shining example of the endless possibilities that open up when you pursue a language.

Attendance

The top three year groups for overall attendance up to 1st March 2024 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

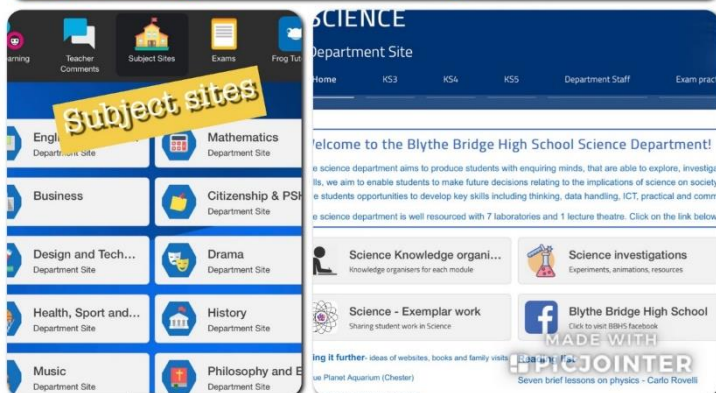
All students are expected to be in school at 8.45am in good time for Period 1. Any student who arrives after this time is marked late on the register. Two lates per week result in a 30-minute detention after school. It is essential that you ensure your child arrives at school on time to prevent disruption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

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

