Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form | Summer Term 2024

Newsletter 💥 🎵



Welcome to the latest edition of our school's Summer 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 sport successes, our fantastic students who participated in JTMAT Subject Excellence days, and how well our student ambassadors continue to show kindness within the school and beyond. Plus, meet our wonderful House Captains.







Headteacher's Welcome

Today, I have been involved in an assessment day for our Year 12 Tomorrow's Teachers students; I am so proud of how they have developed over the last 12 months and am hopeful that some of them will return to us as early career teachers in the very near future. With the ongoing issues with teacher recruitment nationally, it is encouraging to have such a group of passionate and talented students who are committed to joining our rewarding profession. In the ever circle of life, as we nurture students to potentially be our future workforce, we also have to say fond farewells to two staff members who are moving on to new positions. Both Mr Gibbons and Mrs Pheasey are taking up leadership posts in other schools, and although we will miss them both, we wish them all the best in their new roles.

As many of you are already aware, in August, the Department for Education (DfE) will introduce new regulations to improve student attendance. Schools in England will have to share their daily attendance with the DfE, and there will be changes to unauthorised absences and fines. Mrs Kadri will update you in more detail in forthcoming communication. We already have very good systems and procedures in place to support students to attend school every day, and this will not change; my thanks go to Mrs Kadri, Mrs Moore and the pastoral team, who work incredibly hard to help students overcome any barriers they face when it comes to attending school whilst maintaining our high standards.

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

Mrs R Johnson

Headteacher



Our Students Say It Best

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This term, I really enjoyed helping during the Year 4 Legacy Day and showing the younger children all of the opportunities our school offers. I liked helping out on the fitness stations! **Finlay M, Year 7** Taking part in Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award has been great. Hot dogs after six hours of walking hit the spot and I'm looking forward to the same during my next expedition. William S, Year 10

I love being a part of the careers team, I like getting to work with other people and improve my communication skills, as well as improve my knowledge of careers. **Chelsea E, Year 8** I have loved doing the school musicals. They were fun and I made lots of friends. Our teachers always worked so hard to produce such fantastic productions and I feel lucky to have been involved in them. **Matilda A-T, Year 11**

I appreciated our work experience day and getting the opportunity to participate in a real workplace. Jayden P, Year 9 I will definitely miss the memories of our lessons and how fun they were. Also, I have loved the endless support and encouragement given from my teachers, who have been amazing! The past seven years have been incredible, thank you BBHS! **Sophie B, Year 13**







Transition

New Intake 2024

Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form hosted the annual New Intake event for Year 6 students transferring for a September start.

Year 6 student Emily said, "I received a timetable in my welcome pack showing me all the different lessons I would be attending over the 2 days. The science was fun and I've written a letter to my new form tutor introducing myself. I'm also attending Summer School and cannot wait." Fellow student Milly commented, "The Year 7 guides were really helpful and one attended my primary last year. I really enjoyed the PE and DT. I cannot wait to use the machines and tools in technology."

This will be our largest year group studying at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form with <u>201</u> students starting on Tuesday 3rd September.



September



Year 4 Legacy Day

Year 4 students from across the Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form partnership attended their annual Legacy Day in June allowing the 170 participants to experience a variety of activities and sports. The Legacy Day was initiated as a direct result of Great Britain hosting the 2012 Olympic Games, with the intention of allowing as many students as possible to experience the enjoyment of sport and physical activity.

Year 4 student Jack from Forsbrook CE Primary School said, "The day was excellent. I really enjoyed trampolining and martial arts. The dance was fun. I'm going to ask my dad if I can have trampolining lessons!!" Fellow student Esther from Springcroft Primary commented, "The dance was super and I made lots of new friends from other schools. I really enjoyed the athletics and having a picnic at lunch."







Mr A Jackson - Senior Leader for Transition

Transition

Year 5 Science Fun Fest

Able & talented students had the opportunity to attend Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form in June to experience science lessons promoting 'higher order thinking' skills. The lessons were carefully designed to allow students the opportunity to work with chemicals in a controlled environment, explore renewable energy from vegetables, use microscopes to explore cell structures and learn how to lift large weights with minimal effort. Year 5 student Harry said, "I really enjoyed exploring how much energy is in icing sugar. It made me jump! Attaching lemons and potatoes to run an electric car was ace."

Daisy from Forsbrook CE Primary School commented, "The school is really big, but it was dead exciting being able to use the science labs and mix chemicals. I've also learned how to lift heavy objects like my dad with no effort."





Year 5 Maths Puzzle Day

Year 5 students again attended our annual Maths Puzzle Day on Tuesday, 25th June. Over 178 students had the opportunity to explore physical games designed to challenge and promote problem-solving skills. Year 5 student Oliver from Springcroft Primary said, "The day was brilliant. I really enjoyed balancing penguins on the iceberg. I also enjoyed creating the chair pyramid, although it did fall over in the end." Meir Heath Academy student Cara commented, "I already know lots of the staff as we have been to the high school lots. The number challenge was fantastic. I managed to solve the problem and find the missing letters by completing calculations."



Year 5 Open Week

Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form opened its doors to Year 5 students and families on Monday, 8th July. This annual event, which ran over five days allowed students and parents to view the school as a working environment. A Year 5 parent stated, "The school was very different from my high school experience. The school felt quiet and purposeful. Students were incredibly wellbehaved, and teachers were knowledgeable."

Another Year 5 parent said, "You were able to get a really good feel of the calm, friendly atmosphere around the building, where students are really at the centre of every decision made."

We look forward to welcoming Year 6 students on **Thursday**, **19th September**, for our annual New Intake Evening. Invitations will be sent out in September, and we cannot wait to welcome you to our school.

Mr A Jackson - Senior Leader for Transition

Year 5 Roman Day



On Friday 21st June, selected Year 5 students enjoyed a Romanthemed day here at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form.

STUDE

The students were tasked with acting as Roman soldiers for the day, and their job was to try to keep Britain under control following the Roman invasion in 43AD. The students quickly got on board and understood the importance of their task. They made helmets before considering the different methods the Romans employed to keep control. They learnt about Boudica and her attempted takeover before considering what life was like day to day for a Roman Centurion.

The final task of the day centred around designing a Roman shield, and the students worked enthusiastically to create some brilliant shields. They used these shields to perform Roman formations, such as the Tortoise and the Wedge. Mrs Avons was incredibly impressed with their enthusiasm and coordination.

Well done Year 5!



Kindness Week







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The PRK committee have met regularly this year to discuss ways they can champion our values of pride, respect and kindness. During these meetings, they often engaged in numerous discussions about how students can show their appreciation for their friends, peers, teachers and wider members of the school community. From these discussions, came the idea of a kindness week where students could celebrate and champion the kindness that permeates school life.

In preparation for the week, students were invited to order a kindness cookie for someone else in our community and write a commendation to accompany the small gift. The committee were delighted with the thoughtful nature of the commendations. For example, one read, "Thank you for being such an amazing friend and thank you for always being there for me." Many students also chose to send a kindness cookie to a member of staff and one commendation read, "You have really brought out my confidence this year. Thank you so much for helping me believe in myself more and giving me all these opportunities." Members of staff also wanted to get involved and there were numerous commendations thanking colleagues for their hard work this vear.

The PRK committee not only promoted the week, they also rolled their sleeves up and baked the cookies. They then let them cool, bagged them in individual packets and wrote individual name tags. These were then delivered to members of the school the following day. All this hard work paid off as they witnessed the smiles on the faces of those people receiving a cookie. The committee did not stop there and also delivered gifts of small sweets to local residents and businesses to recognise the kindness that our students experience both at school and within the wider community. What a wonderful week!

Our Year 7 and Year 8 gardeners also got involved in kindness week, using coloured paper to create a little gift for a family member, a friend or a teacher alongside a kind thank you message with it. They delivered some of these beautiful gifts themselves and showcased the best of their creativity and kindness.

Brilliant Club



Six Year 9 students have completed the Brilliant Club's Scholars Programme this year and have travelled to The University of Manchester for their graduation ceremony. Here, they toured the university campus and were awarded their certificate for successfully completing the challenging course. To be eligible for graduation, all students had to complete an extended piece of writing comparing different literary portrayals of King Arthur.

STUDEN

In preparation, the students took part in six seminar sessions with a university lecturer who specialised in this subject matter. They analysed different pieces of poetry and media portrayals of the legend of King Arthur. The students should be incredibly proud of their efforts.

The course was challenging and required them to adopt a committed and resilient approach to their learning. They consistently respected their university lecturer and showcased kindness whilst they worked collaboratively. Well done to all the students involved; you demonstrated our core values and worked incredibly hard to succeed.

Congratulations to:

- Louis C
- Honey-Rose C-K
- Ben J
- Max K
- Amelia D
- Chelsea R

Wire Workshop



Sixth Form art and photography students had the opportunity to work with Year 3 students at Forsbrook CE Primary School. They all showed excellent communication skills and supported the young students to create wire sculptures.











Sixth Form



Farewell Year 13!

As our Year 13 students faced their final exams with us, teachers were kind enough to provide revision fuel in the form of snacks, refreshments and a fun atmosphere to prepare our students for their exams. We wish all of our Year 13 students the best of luck in their future adventures.



The business department would like to say goodbye to Year 13, it has been a pleasure to teach you A-level over the last 2 years and some even longer from GCSE, you have engaged throughout the course and you will be missed. We wish you all the best in your future endeavours.



A Special Visit

Tomorrow's Teachers had the opportunity to put some of their learning into practice when they welcomed children from St Mary's Primary School Tunstall. Our students led three separate workshops where the children experienced the school's escape room, solved a range of maths puzzles and participated in a science experiment.



First Aid Training

In July, Year 12 NCS students had an incredible opportunity to enhance their skills and gain essential knowledge through a valuable First Aid Training program.

Sixth Form



Charity Fundraising

A group of Year 12 students undertook a sponsored walk and litter pick around Longton Park as part of their social action project with NCS. Thank you to everyone who has sponsored and supported them.

All money raised will go towards buying resources for the LUOSKO Cerman Shepherd Dog Rescue Centre in Cheadle.

Jodrell Bank Visit

A-level physics students had a fabulous visit to Jodrell Bank in June.

In addition to visiting the Space Dome for a journey through the history of the universe, they took part in a workshop using radio telescope data to calculate the mass of a galaxy and discovered more about the famous Lovell Telescope, including why it is the shape it is.







GOODBYE & GOOD LUCK

YEAR 11





Africa 2026





Our Year 9 students are fundraising towards their trip to Kenya.

They visited Port Vale FC during the final game of the season and collected a massive £769.03 in aid of their trip.

Congratulations on such a big boost to your fundraising!

Fantasy Football League

Well done to Jack M for winning the student fantasy football league. 36 students entered and the competition was close throughout. As usual, it was Sixth Form and Year 11 students who dominated the top of the league, but it was Jack in Year 8 that came out on top.

The top 10 students were: 1 Jack M 2 James M 3 Tom S 4 Tanayeh B 5 Ashton W 6 Arthur A 7 Will H 8 Samuel S 9 Harry B 10 Jenson L





Year 11 eative

"I'm building a tiny shop. It combines painting, cutting out and putting stuff together. It's been relaxing to do in between my revision." **Matilda A-T, 11JL**





"I enjoy drawing because it's a form of escapism, I can express myself in any shape or form when I do art or photography. I love to make my picture look nostalgic, like they were captured in the early 2000s." Elexis B-W, 11NAZ





"My art is mainly inspired by the Netflix show 'Arcane', as well as punk rock bands like Destructo Disk, Destroy Boys, and The Oozes!" Emily W, 11NAZ

CELEBRATING STUDENT IMAGINATION

House Updates



House Captains

Please meet our new house captains as chosen by both staff and students. House captains will be in post for a full year helping to lead and encourage their peers to participate in as many different house competitions and opportunities as possible.

Our staff house champions will be on hand to support and guide them along the way. Congratulations to all our chosen students!



House Spelling Bee

During the summer term, we launched our school inter-house spelling bee competition. Round 1 involved all four houses competing head to head in a written spelling challenge. All results were then collated to identify the students who made it to round 2. Due to the high standard of spelling, 27 were invited to participate, and the top performers of round 1 were Toby B 8NC, James S 8AK & Finlay M 7KSA, all of whom achieved full marks of 19/19 during round 1. Congratulations to all!

od filling

House Totals

Up to 21/6/2024

155

Serpent

Staff points: 35









Charity Work

1



Intergenerational love

Our first tentative steps into the West Building Were poignant...telling, Of the subconscious divide society has forged Between generations. It needs dispelling.

So that's what we set out to do, Our passionate group of ten. We embarked on a journey, To bring the community together again and again.

The reality of older adult care was hard-hitting, The loneliness, the isolation, the worries of patients are real. The passion of the staff fighting against dwindling budgets, The cocktail of compassion, empathy and vulnerability Which we could all immediately feel.

We committed to a year of fortnightly visits, With the aim of spreading kindness, Showing compassion and care to those who need it, Making memories to remind us

Of our school values of pride, respect and kindness, The importance of these beyond our school gate Our mission was simple, and once we began The ideas flowed, we did not hesitate.

From drama and games to simple befriending, From arts and crafts to singing and dance, The benefits to patients were clear to see, What a great opportunity to be able to enhance

The wonderful work of our NHS, The unwavering dedication the staff show, We have loved bringing generations together And once you've experienced it, you'll know

That kindness is mighty, its impact is lasting, Not just on the patients but on our students, too. Often, our journey back to school is reflective, It's hard to express how what we do

Makes us feel. It is best summed up with a quote From a student who upon leaving the first visit Reflected, "Miss, I don't know how I feel.... Whatever it is, it is powerful."

Mrs L Pheasey

Duke of Edinburgh



What a fantastic term for our bronze and silver DofE students. They demonstrated incredible determination, teamwork, and resilience during their practice expedition. Well done to all.

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









THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

NALES ALLEY

Miss A Townshend - Duke of Edinburgh Manager

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award



Miss A Townshend - Duke of Edinburgh Manager

Basketball Success

UI2 BOYS PREMIER PLAYOFF

In April, one of our Year 7 students, James, flew to Dublin to compete as part of the U12's Manchester Giants basketball team in a tournament organised by NABA Basketball Academy. They emerged as the overall tournament champions, remaining undefeated throughout the competition.

During the semi-final, they were tied with Stockport Falcons at halftime, but they rallied in the 3rd and 4th quarters, securing a victory with a score of 83-55.

The final match against Manchester Magic was a tough battle, with the game being tied for most of its duration. The intense game lasted for 2 hours. With only around 1 minute left, the score was 47-48 in favour of Manchester Giants. James made a crucial 3-pointer, resulting in an eruption of celebration as their team won 55-52, claiming the title of overall North West Champions.

Looking ahead, James aspires to attend a university in America to pursue a basketball scholarship and realise his dream of playing for an NBA team.

> MANCHESTER GIANTS

NORTH WEST



Fantastic Fundraising

We want to say how proud we are of our Year 7 students who hosted a charity fundraising event in Stallington Village, all in aid of Stoke Homeless Outreach. What is inspirational about this story is that the students did so by themselves!

Over the last few months, they have been meeting to practise dance routines in order to put on a show for their local community, **Eleanor J** taught 10 local children the routines ranging in age from 5 to 12 years old with the help of **Joshua T**, **Anya B and Leila K**.

Not only did they perform, but they also organised other fundraising activities, like guessing the number of beans in a jar, selling raffle tickets, playing a lucky dip, and buying cakes and sweets. After this, the students set off around the village selling more raffle tickets, with a lucky neighbour winning the top prize that day!

We are blown away by the kindness you have shown! The students raised $\underline{f145}$ for the charity, and our school community wants to give you each a shout-out. We are very proud of what you have achieved.



Subject Excellence



John Taylor School invited English students from across the whole of the MAT to participate in a Subject Excellence competition. Professional journalists served as judges for the entries.

Students in 10Y1 enthusiastically entered the competition, focusing on rhetoric in their submissions. We are thrilled to announce that five students from Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form received commendations for their entries, with Krrish C (centre) earning a Bronze Award.



Mrs Johnson presented certificates to our Year 8 and Year 10 students who represented BBHS at the recent JTMAT Drama Subject Excellence competition.

Lily A won the Year 9/10 section and all students were presented with certificates of participation.

Enterprise Day

YFAR 8

ENTERPRISE DAY

In April, all Year 8 students participated in an enterprise event that involved designing, producing, and marketing their own bath bomb company.

UDE

Six winning teams made it through to the final panel presentations in the afternoon, which were given in front of Mrs Johnson, Miss Fargher, Mr Boumford (chair of governors), and the Year 7 Skills Champions.

Well done to all Year 8 for showing excellent essential skills throughout the day!

Mr M Goodwin - Assistant Headteacher (Curriculum: Mathematics) & Careers Leader 26

JTMAT Student Leadership Extravaganza

Year 7 Skills Leaders attended the JTMAT Student Leadership Extravaganza at Fradley Park. The training and work they have done this year were showcased throughout the day. Their confidence in speaking, listening, positivity, teamwork, and leadership skills were outstanding and a perfect example of our school's core values. Well done, Skills Leaders, you are future leaders in the making!

Thank you to Mr Goodwin for introducing and developing the Year 7 Skills Leaders role. We know how proud you are of them.

Adam Q - "We visited Fradley Park in Lichfield. It was a great experience for everyone, and we had a fantastic time."

Michael O – "We got the chance to work alongside other children and get to know them. It was a really nice day."



Skills Builder

Thank you to Sophie from The Skills Builder Partnership for delivering a workshop with Mr Goodwin to our Year 8 Skills Champions.

They completed many tasks including discussions in designing a inter-house competition to showcase the skills.



Mr M Goodwin - Assistant Headteacher (Curriculum: Mathematics) & Careers Leader

Art Club

Our students in the Art Club have been collaborating to design and paint the cabinets in our art classrooms. We are truly impressed by their teamwork and creativity.









Chess League

The school chess leagues have proved to be very popular again this year with over 50 students taking part. Thursday Week 1 lunchtimes sees Year 9, 10 and sixth form competing whilst Friday week 2 lunchtimes is when the Year 7,8 and 11 competition takes place. Each student can play one match per session with points being awarded as follows:

5pts win by checkmate 4pts win by points 3pts draw/stalemate 2pts lose on points 1pt lose by checkmate

Results - top five in each league: Week 1 League 1st Dexter H 9CFL 2nd Michael F 9CFL 3rd Beau N 9CFL 4th Robin X 9NG 5th Josh G 9ERJ & Thomas M 9CFL



Week 2 League 1st Aaron W 11LGI 2nd Emily W 11NAZ 3rd Ryan H 7LP 4th Tor M 8JB 5th Joshua E 8KK

Well done to Dexter H and Aaron W who won their leagues.



Mr K Pugh - Teacher of Mathematics

Chess Tournament



Thirty-seven students competed in this year's Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form's whole school chess tournament. This year's competition was played to a very high standard, and Dexter H (Centaur) came out on top by skilfully winning all of his games. Zach D (Serpent) and Ryan H (Serpent) finished joint second, with Charlie B (Sphinx) coming third. Well done to all the students involved!



Mr K Pugh - Teacher of Mathematics

Tournaments



U15 Girls' Football County Cup Winners!

What a team and what a result—a very resounding 8-1 win for Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form against Moorside. Every player contributed a real team effort; well done to all, and a huge thank you to the fans who travelled to support us.

We spoke to captain Poppy E, Year 10, on the win: "It was such an exciting match. We worked really well as a team and brought the win home for Blythe." Fellow Year 10 teammate Darcy E shares Poppy's excitement about the team's win: "Our younger teammates add something different to the team, and it's fantastic to play alongside different age groups." Regarding football inspiration, Darcy looks up to Lucy Bronze, and Poppy loves Alessia Russo.

Congratulations to the whole team!



Year 7 City Champions

In May, the Year 7 and 8 teams travelled to City of Stoke FC to play in the finals of this year's city competition. Both teams had won the south final to get to the final.

In the first final, our Year 8 team faced a formidable Excel team. Despite the 6-3 loss, our team displayed an admirable amount of pride and resilience. They never gave up, even scoring two late goals that had Excel on edge. Coal scorers: Reece B x2, Ollie F. Following the Year 8 final, our Year 7 team took on Horizon Academy. They started the game with a bang, completely dominating the first half and going into the break with a 4-0 lead. The second half was a mirror image of the first, with our team maintaining the pressure and extending their lead. Despite some late goals from Horizon, our team's 7-2 victory was well-deserved. The concentration and desire they showed was a significant improvement from the semi-final win and something they should carry into the next year–goal scorers: Ethan x2, Mason x2, Billy, George, OG. Both teams should be proud of reaching the finals–commiserations to our Year 8 team and congratulations to Year 7.

We spoke with George R and George P to reflect on their win. "It was fantastic. We were over the moon to win! We were so happy.", George R shared. "Billy scored a great goal, Mason scored a penalty, and Cobi played really well in his first game with us. Everyone played excellently, and we felt we worked hard to try and win.", George P remembered. For football inspiration? George R likes Son Heung-min and James Maddison. George P prefers Kobbie Mainoo or Harry Maguire.

Athletics



Our Year 7 SUPER 8's Athletics team ventured to Northwood stadium in June. They competed in both track and field events against schools in the Stoke-on-Trent area.

Overall, we finished in 2nd place! Our students demonstrated pride, respect and kindness in everything that they did and were a real credit to our school.

We certainly had the loudest cheer when a teammate was completing their race! Well done Year 7, great work!



Our Year 7 and Year 8 athletes competed at the Stoke City Schools Athletics Championships at Northwood Stadium in June.

Some fantastic individual performances have resulted in a number of athletes now being asked to represent Stoke at the county championships at Tamworth in a few weeks.



Congratulations to the following: Eve M - 1st in the Year 7 HJ Bob W - 1st in the Year 7 100m Ethan W-H - 2nd in the Year 7 1500m Year 7 Boys Relay Team - 1st in the Relay Final Year 7 Girls Relay Team - 1st in the Relay Final Tilly H - 1st in the Year 8 200m Tilly H - 2nd in the Year 8 Long Jump

It was an excellent afternoon, and all the students represented the school with pride. We could not be prouder of you all and thank you for performing so well.

Mrs H Willott - Curriculum Leader of Health, Sport & Exercise



During this academic year, eleven Year 9 girls were offered the opportunity to take part in a sports leadership course. The course itself is designed to encourage more females to take up leadership roles in sport whilst exploring the impact of female sports leaders on participation of females in sport.

2.5

The course involved completing seven online learning modules alongside practical training. The group has been absolutely fantastic, and a number of them were also given the opportunity to complete a whistlers training day. This involved learning about the role of football officials and developing their ability to referee and run the line during competitive matches.

To assess their competency when leading and to give them time to practise key skills, the participants have led a football session for nursery children, organised a house football tournament, and are currently planning an Olympic Day for our Year 7 Inspires groups. Their dedication

and initiative are truly commendable. The students have all been fantastic, emulating our school values of pride, respect and kindness, and we cannot wait to see them use their leadership skills even more next year.



U15 Cricket Update

The UI5 girls and boys teams played in the first round of the Staffordshire County Softball Cricket Tournament. The boys played some excellent cricket to top their group. Seth E was the hero in their closest game. hitting a four off the final ball to complete a massive run chase. On the day, the weather was the only winner as the rain closed in, which meant that the semi-finals and finals could not be played. Topping their group did mean that the boys qualified for the county finals, which is a great achievement.

The U15 girls also made it through to the county finals. After a slow start and losing their first game, the girls responded well to win their next game against the eventual winners. They had a big score batting first in their last group game to go through to the semi-finals. Unfortunately, a strong batting performance from Denstone meant that BBHS lost the semi-final. The team did beat Painsley in the third-place play-off to make it through to the county final.

The U15 girls' cricket team travelled to Edgbaston Indoor Cricket Centre, to take part in the regional finals of the softball tournament. Playing in a very high standard, the girls played some excellent cricket and were just 10 runs short of qualifying for the final on the day. The girls were a credit to the school throughout, showing all of our core values. It was an excellent achievement to qualify for this stage of the competition and great to see the girls enjoy the topquality facilities.

Mrs H Willott - Curriculum Leader of Health, Sport & Exercise

616



Football Tournament

PE

In April, the Year 7 girls' 5 a-side football team participated in the city football tournament. The whole team played incredibly well, winning all games except one. They scored a huge 22 goals across 7 matches! The only game they did lose was by one goal, and it was against the tournament winners. They finished the tournament in an impressive second place. We are very proud of them all!

Football vs Homophobia

A group of Year 8 students took part in a 'Football vs Homophobia' event at Staffordshire University. This involved appearances from guest speakers from the 'Football vs Homophobia' campaign, Q&A with a Stoke City Women's team player, a raising awareness workshop and ended with a football tournament. Our students contributed throughout the day, winning both the poster competition and football tournament. Well done to all involved, it was a great way to raise awareness of diversity and inclusion through sport.





Sports Leaders

In May, we had four young leaders help to run a Year 3 cricket tournament at Caverswall CC. Zach C, Harry B, Rory H and Zac F were excellent leaders on the day, and staff from Staffordshire Cricket could not speak highly enough of the students.

It is great to see our students upholding the school's core values whilst also developing leadership skills. Well done on helping make the day such a success. ĺ











Heads of Year

Year 7

It is hard to believe that this will be the last article of the year for the newsletter and that Year 7 will soon be Year 8. There have been so many fantastic moments over the last term, but a personal highlight is seeing the current Year 7's involvement in the transition of Year 6 as we get ready to welcome the new cohort of Year 7, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have been involved and say how proud we are of the way you have represented the school.

This term has been marked by numerous sporting achievements, from athletics to football. A special shout out to the Year 7 boys football team, who emerged as the overall city champions. These victories are a testament to your hard work and dedication. The skills champions, under the guidance of Mr Goodwin, have been instrumental in providing career links across subjects. The extra-curricular clubs have been buzzing with activity, showcasing the diverse talents of our students.

I would like to thank Mrs Pheasey once again for her dedicated work with the UHNM charity. Some of her form group, 7LP, were fortunate enough to represent Blythe Bridge High School and Sixth Form at Royal Stoke to provide patients with activities and company for the morning, showing the utmost respect and kindness.

This first academic year for Year 7 has been a very busy one indeed. I want to congratulate them on their transition into high school life and wish the cohort a safe and restful summer. We look forward to welcoming them back as Year 8s in September.

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



Form stars of the year

7CBA - Adam Q

This student is a hardworking individual who constantly demonstrates respect during the school day. They exhibit a conscientious and mature approach to learning, which has been a pleasure to observe over this academic year and is a clear sign of what an excellent young person they are becoming. This student is always one of the first through the door during tutor time and always has a welcoming smile on their face. This student is always willing to go the extra mile to help others and displays pride in how they conduct themselves in and around the school. This is demonstrated by their kindness in how they speak to their peers and adults alike. This student is an exceptional role model. Well done!

7HDR - Charlie S

This nomination goes to somebody who personifies humbleness, intelligence and gentleness. It is for a person who always thinks about the kindest way to behave, so their input improves life and experiences for themselves and everyone else. With a bright smile and inquisitive eyes, they bring a sense of purpose to everything they strive for. This nomination recognises the courage someone demonstrates when it is more needed: when intellect leads to truth and knowledge. So, the exciting aspects of life can be discussed.

Heads of Year

7HW - Robert M

This person has been nominated for form star of the year because the progress they have made this year has been absolutely amazing and I am immensely proud of them. When they first started they were quiet and nervous at school, often needing a lot of support and encouragement. Now they are confident and so much more independent. They are a person who always emulates our school values of pride, respect and kindness and their smile every morning brightens up my day.

7KH - Joshua F

The form star for 7KH is somebody who has epitomised the values of pride, respect and kindness since beginning with us in September. They are an exceptional student who has shone both in lessons and as a member of the school community. This person always greets everybody they meet with a smile and will always go out of their way to help both members of staff and their peers. It has been an absolute pleasure to have them a part of 7KH this year, and I look forward to seeing their achievements in the years to come.

7KSA - Ryan H

It has been a pleasure having this student in my form. They are unassuming, polite, hardworking, and just get on with it. Their ability to rely on intrinsic motivation—coming from their own willingness to improve rather than rely on rewards—is amazing. They have made an excellent start to their journey at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form, and I am sure they will continue to flourish and grow as we move into Year 8.

7LP - Poppy J

It has been an absolute pleasure to witness this student's first year at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form. Their resilience, positivity and exceptionally polite and conscientious nature make them a true credit to our form, and their growth in confidence is a joy to see. This student sets high expectations for themselves and is a consistently positive role model to all around them. This student has a guiet, unassuming, humble nature, and I am incredibly proud of them. It has been a privilege to be this student's form tutor and I wish them all the very best for the remainder of their time in our school.

7SAL - Charlotte C

This student has been nominated for my form star award because they have blown me away this year with their kindness, perseverance, intelligence and patience. This student is a role model for our entire form with their reading, something which they do for the love of reading, not just because it is a part of our school culture, for their ability to settle into a completely different school experience compared to primary school with ease, and for their outstanding behaviour in lessons. This student has received 1's for 53% of their lessons, an outstanding achievement, and has received numerous amounts of chocolate rewards as a result. I look forward to being your form tutor for the next four years, and I cannot wait to see you achieve all that you set out to do.











Year 7 Top Achievers up to 12/6/24

Freya B 7CBA 2542 Ruby M 7CBA 2473 Adam Q 7CBA 2353

Year 8

Throughout the year, our students have been actively engaged in a wide range of extracurricular activities. From achieving sporting triumphs in football and athletics to enjoying reward trips, from participating in the production of Mary Poppins to seizing leadership opportunities within the school, our students have truly made the most of their time outside the classroom.

Undoubtedly, one of the standout events of the year was the Halloween school disco. Not only did students have a fantastic evening, but they also raised a significant amount of money for the UHNM charity. The work of all students and staff involved ensured it was a fantastic evening for each and every person.

Staff at Blythe Bridge High School and Sixth Form had the challenge of nominating students for form tutor and subject awards. This was not an easy decision for the staff, but it highlights the outstanding achievements of the children nominated. Reading through all the nominations and seeing how many students were nominated was a pleasure.

We look forward to welcoming students back in September as they start Year 9!

Miss K Fargher Head of Year 8 Teacher of Science



$\star \star \star \star$

Form stars of the year

8AK – James S

A standout student from 8AK who has truly exemplified excellence this year. This student has set a shining example for us all by achieving the top number of achievement points in the form, maintaining a remarkable 100% attendance record. and being consistently friendly. helpful, and enthusiastic. His dedication and commitment to his studies, coupled with his positive attitude and willingness to lend a helping hand, have made a significant impact on our school community. He takes great pride in his achievements and inspires those around him to strive for their best.

8BRO - Mitchell B

This student has been nominated because he has shown a really positive attitude to learning in the majority of his lessons. He has also made great efforts to improve his behaviour, where it has fallen short of expectations at times. He shows a fantastic level of maturity when reflecting on his actions and mistakes. He is increasingly taking this more mature attitude into his lessons and showing his potential to provide a positive role model to others in the year group. I have no doubt that if he continues in the way he is, he can achieve the role of prefect when he reaches Year 11. I have awarded him the form star of the year award for 8BRO for his continual improvement, hard work, and positive role modelling.

8JB - Leah C

This year, this student has been an outstanding example of our school values: pride, respect, and kindness. They consistently demonstrate perfect manners and impeccable behaviour, earning numerous points for their academic achievements. This student takes great pride in their work, always striving for excellence and setting high standards for themself.

Their respect for their peers and teachers is evident in their polite interactions and willingness to listen and learn. Moreover, this student's kindness shines through in their daily actions. They have come out of their shell and engaged more in conversations with their peers and me, forming strong and meaningful friendships. Their lovely presence brings joy to our form group, and their remarkable progress this year is a testament to their hard work and dedication.

8KK - Ava B

This student is kind, caring. respectful, and enthusiastic about being at our school. This student works very hard academically, and they are a pleasure to have in the classroom. The main reason I have nominated this student. however, is not only how they carry themselves at school but also for their involvement in the school charities. They have spent so much time putting as much as possible into the UHNM charity, which shows how truly empathetic and selfless this student is. This student has worked alongside Mrs Pheasey to become a charity ambassador, and they have brought so much joy to people in difficult times. They have also done this in our form by constantly being positive and always displaying a bright smile. Please continue to do what vou do.



8KMP - Holly C

This student has been nominated as the form star of the year from 8KMP because of their excellent attitude and work ethic throughout the year. They work well in lessons. producing good guality, well-presented work and will also participate in class discussions. This student is friendly and kind to others and always seems to be in a cheery mood. They have made good progress in all subjects, especially maths, where they moved up a set. They always offer valuable contributions to citizenship lessons and, overall, really deserve this award.

8NC - Charlotte H

This student continually strives to demonstrate exceptional standards and values. She is a hardworking individual who shines in everything she does. Her manners and polite demeanour are exemplary. Her respect and consideration for her peers and staff are truly admirable.

Overall, a delightful, friendly and passionate individual everyone can aspire to be like.

8NP - Reuben L

I am delighted to say my form star of the year is a student who has flourished academically and personally. Over the year, they have gained remarkable confidence, allowing them to express their opinions, engage in meaningful debates, and stand up for what is right. Their courage to voice their thoughts and convictions has been inspiring to witness.

Beyond the classroom, they have formed solid friendships grounded in mutual respect, demonstrating the values of empathy and understanding. Their dedication to extracurricular activities, especially their involvement in the gardening club, highlights their commitment to the wider school community and their desire to make a positive impact.

In addition to their contributions outside the classroom, they always respect the silent reading policy and come to school well-prepared, showing consistent dedication to their studies and respect for the learning environment.

Having such a dedicated, respectful, and enthusiastic student in our form has been an absolute pleasure and well done on an outstanding year!











Year 8 Top Achievers up to 14/6/24

Frankie A 8NP 2768 James S 8AK 2417 Evangeline S 8NP 2415

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Year 9

Year 9, I cannot believe how time has flown and that we are in our final weeks of the school year.

There has been so much to celebrate this term. We have fully embraced the options process, and I have had so many interesting conversations with you about your GCSE options choices, and also your future aspirations. I know that your teachers spoke so highly of your conduct and the questions that you asked on the recent options evening.

I was excited to hear about vour first DofE Bronze expedition and you didn't disappoint. Feedback was, again. excellent. I know that you applied yourselves with pride, respect and resilience. I enjoyed hearing about 'who had cooked what' and how hard you had worked during the physical elements of the two days. It has been great to see so many of our year group taking on leadership and volunteering opportunities too. Whether this be within school. or out in our local community.

There has been continued fundraising for those going to Kenya, with some lovely reports back from Port Vale FC regarding how well our pupils interacted with members of the local community. Well done to all involved. As a whole we have seen some excellent progress as a year group against many of our aims for this school year. Something that has significantly improved is our punctuality, both to school and to your lessons. The learning opportunities that are created when we are on time and ready to learn are endless. We enjoyed an excellent celebration evening in June and look forward to another engineering morning in July. We will have all secured our GCSE options and I look forward to following you through to Year 10, after a restful summer break.

Well done on a fantastic term Year 9!

Mrs S Davies Head of Year 9 Teacher of PE

 $\star \star \star \star$

Form stars of the year

9CFL - Holly T

This student has been nominated in recognition of their outstanding contributions and exemplary attitude across all areas of school life. This is reflected in their impressive progress data and exemplary behaviour scores this year. Their dedication to academic excellence and positive conduct serves as an inspiration to peers and staff alike. Beyond their academic achievements, they have been fully involved in the wider school community.

They have represented our school with distinction in numerous sporting events. showcasing their talent and commitment. Notably, they have achieved county honours in football, cricket, and athletics. Their remarkable performance extends to representing the school at the prestigious English School's Cross-Country event. They embody all of the school's core values of pride, respect and kindness and are a pleasure to have in the form group.

9ERJ - Lola S

This year, 9ERJ's form star is awarded to a remarkable student who exemplifies pride, respect, and kindness in every aspect of her school life. Her caring nature towards her peers is truly admirable, and she consistently demonstrates incredible resilience across the curriculum. She always keeps her standards from slipping below expected levels and always strives to do her best. Her dedication and positive attitude make her a shining example for others. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition.

9HH - Karina H

This student consistently achieves the top behaviour scores for the year group and has repeatedly achieved a behaviour score of below 1.5, which shows that they receive 1s in most lessons. This shows that their attitude to learning is outstanding in over half of their lessons each day, which is also reflected in the fact that they always have their reading book, equipment, and uniform. This pupil is polite and kind to their peers and a joy to have in the form. Congratulations!

9JBY - Ava M

This student has been an asset to Blythe Bridge High School and Sixth Form. They have settled into school life respectfully and are well-liked amongst both staff and peers. This student has really developed in confidence, and we are excited to follow their progress as they move through to Year 10.

9KKN - Keira-Mae H

It has been a pleasure to see this young person develop in all areas of school life. I have had the privilege of watching them grow in confidence and become an established member of their form and year group. They consistently have a positive outlook, show kindness, and are respectful around school and during tutor time. They show genuine concern about their progress and a desire to succeed. They aspire to travel the world and ensure those they meet have the best experiences, which is a testament to their character. If we continue down this road, they will have a successful time here at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form and in their future endeavours.

9LKB - Lydia S

This student continues to be an absolute asset to Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form. I am in awe of this student for their conscientious attitude, endless kindness, and fierce determination. They embrace the diversity and uniqueness of our school community, and work hard to help shape and develop our inclusive ethos. This student is exceptional in the classroom and regularly receives commendation in our weekly roundup for receiving a remarkable number of outstanding behaviours scores. As a keen reader, I am regularly astonished by the number of books they devour. I cannot wait to see what this student achieves as they embark on their GCSE

9NG - Harry B

This student scores 1s and 2s in lessons. They do particularly well in English and PE lessons. They were quite ill in the spring term and had to have some time away from school; when they returned, they gave 100% effort despite still feeling lethargic and not fully recovered. Their friends missed them enormously whilst they were absent, and the care, compassion and love they have for them was evident. I can see that they are tired at times, yet they still give their best. They have continued to embark on the Duke of Edinburgh Award and have been part of the school Cricket team.

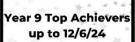












Joshua G 9ERJ 1954 Michael F 9CFL 1893 Jessica C 9CFL 1837

Our Students













Our Students







Year 10

This academic year has had many highlights that underpin the outstanding achievements many of our students have demonstrated, both in and outside of the classroom. Pride, respect and kindness continue to be at the centre of all we do, and I am proud of the mature young adults many of our students have become.

As I reflect at the end of another academic year, I would like to thank the amazing Year 10 pastoral team who have again shone in the support they have given to your children, and this will continue as students transition into Year 11. I would also like to thank parents and carers for all of your support over the last twelve months. The unity between parents/ carers, students and school staff has never been so important, especially as we move ever closer to students sitting their **GCSE** examinations. The pastoral team and I look forward to working with you all again with the first important event of the academic year, the year ahead evening, taking place in early September.

Students have continued to excel with their achievement points and behaviour for learning scores, and there is a big focus on celebration throughout this half term. As I am writing this, we are busy planning our annual celebration evening, and I cannot wait to share the many successes and lovely messages from staff about so many of our students. We are also looking at our next school leaders. with the prefect applications being underway. It is imperative that students have the opportunity to nurture and grow key skills and qualities that will enhance their applications to post 16 provisions and beyond, and being part of the student leadership team will certainly provide the opportunity to do this. I am excited to introduce our future student leaders to you all.

As the end of term fast approaches, there is certainly no slowing down for Year 10. We have a number of students who have visited Spain, which was a fantastic opportunity for students to practise their linguistic skills. A big thank you to Mr Sutton. who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make this trip happen. There has been a significant focus on careers; therefore, it is a privilege that students still have the opportunity to attend work experience, providing students with the opportunity to gain an insight into the working world and broadening our student's knowledge of industries and sectors. I look forward to our students sharing their experiences with us upon returning to school.

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



Form stars of the year

10GM - Olivia B

This student has been awarded the form star of the year for a number of reasons: exemplary attendance, fantastic contributions and support of sporting events, consistently on time to form and citizenship, consistently improving their lesson scores and taking pride in being known for excellent behaviour for learning. They are polite, funny, and driven, and I hope this award helps them feel further empowered to go on and smash Year 11.

10HBL – Jorja H

This student has been nominated for my form star of the year because they are a true asset to both our school community and 10HBL. They are a role model for all students in their perfect uniform, their consistently outstanding attitude and effort in lessons, their behaviour average of 1.6 and politeness towards all. greeting everyone they meet throughout the day with a smile. With over 1900 achievement points, they are one of the top students in the school and have approached the start of GCSEs this year like they do all challenges, with 100% effort and determination to succeed. Outside of their academic success, they played a vital role behind the scenes of Matilda, operating the lights for the shows and helping to make the sets and props with the art club. They take quiet pride in their achievements but do not seek the public praise they deserve. I am incredibly proud of them.

10LM - William S

I have nominated this student as form star of the year in recognition of their unwavering commitment to excellence and exemplary character. They pay attention to detail and are committed to doing their best in everything they do, setting a great example for their peers. They are always kind. considerate, and ready to help others. Their hardworking attitude is evident in their approach to all aspects of school life, and they have a strong work ethic that is recognised by all who meet them. They also demonstrate maturity through their thoughtful choices and respectful behaviour and should be very proud of their accomplishments in Year 10. Well done. Will!

10LLM - Jessica S

This student has been nominated for form star of the year for numerous reasons. They are polite, kind, and quietly conscientious. When they walk into form time each day, they greet me with a smile, and even if something is troubling them, they will not let that ruin their day. They always have full equipment with them, and their uniform is impeccable. There is not one lesson where this student does not shine, putting 100% effort into any given task. I also have the pleasure of teaching this student English Literature, and to see how they have progressed in this subject from Year 9 is incredible. I could not ask for a more hard-working student to have in the form and I cannot wait to see what they are capable of in Year 11.

10LRO - Harshdeep S

This student has been awarded the form star of the year as they are an exceptional candidate for this award at our school. Their unwavering commitment to academic excellence reflects immense pride in their school work. They demonstrate respect for themselves and their peers, fostering a positive and inclusive learning environment. Their kindness extends beyond the classroom, making them an example of compassion for all. This student takes every lesson constantly developing and pushing themselves to achieve their best. Their multifaceted excellence truly exemplifies the spirit of our school community. Well done!

10RJJ - Millie B

This student is my form star of the year because they are an absolute pleasure to mentor and an excellent role model to their peers. I'd describe them as the perfect tutee. They come to school looking smart, well equipped and ready to learn every day. They are organised, punctual and one of the first to arrive at my room for registration.

They are polite and always greet me with a smile before saying, "Good morning, Miss" or "How was your day, Miss?" They are a kind young lady who has a very positive outlook on life. They work well in a team and have strong communication skills. They are a good listener and are always supportive to others. They aim high and set themselves challenging but achievable goals in lessons. They work incredibly hard during Citizenship lessons, have an inquisitive nature, and approach all sensitive topics with maturity. During reading time, they follow the text and story well, fully immersing themselves into each book we read. They take real pride in their work and always give 100%. It is very clear that they enjoy school, and I enjoy having them in my form.

10SGF - Skye K

This student has been awarded the form star of the year because they have made impressive progress in all of their subjects. They effortlessly do the right thing and are always ready to do whatever is expected of them. Their quiet, yet effective approach is something other students could learn from. It is a pleasure to have them in the form.

10SL - Tamsin C

This student has been nominated as form star of the year as day after day, this student goes above and beyond the call of duty. Whether it is being kind to other students, usually by offering a shoulder to cry on or lending a listening ear, assisting staff in simple day-to-day tasks that make our jobs just that much easier, or organising what precious spare time they have to devote themselves to their studies, this student never fails to impress me. They are by far, one of the most resilient. academically gifted and studious of our student body. They also happen to be an extraordinarily kind youngster. This student seems to flourish more and more every year and I am privileged to be their form tutor.











Year 10 Top Achievers up to 12/6/24

Jorja H 10HBL 1983 Phoebe C 10GM 1942 Elijah C 10GM 1918

Year 11

Well, we finally made it! After two vears of hard work. dedication. and resilience, our Year 11 students have completed all their external GCSE examinations. I must say how proud I am of every single one of them for having gone through this experience in the manner they have, demonstrating our school values on a daily basis. Even when they were entering their second exam of the day or in some cases their third. they were all extremely positive. I am confident that we will see some excellent outcomes, and thoroughly look forward to celebrating these with students in August.

On Friday, 24th May, we celebrated our "Leavers' Day", which was a great occasion. During lunchtime. we had the X v Y football match, which was watched by nearly all the students at lunch. along with others from other year groups. In the afternoon, we had our Leavers' Assembly, where the students were embarrassed to see themselves from vears gone by. Form tutors shared messages and the annual shirt signing; it was a beautiful moment to have an unofficial goodbye to our lovely students.



Recently, we celebrated our Year 11 prom at the DoubleTree by Hilton. This magnificent event celebrated the Year 11 students' time with us at school. Seeing over 150 Year 11 students having fun and enjoying a final moment together before leaving BBHS was unbelievable.

It has been the most wonderful final year for our Year 11 students. We have shared so many highs and great moments with you all. You have been an unbelievable vear group over the past five years, and I could not be prouder of the people you have become. You are ready for the next step in your journey, and I hope that you all look back on your time with us with fondness and a smile on your face.

Enjoy your time off for the summer and I look forward to seeing you all for one last time on results day in August.

Signing off for one last time.

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

"So often you find that the students you're trying to inspire are the ones that end up inspiring you." — Sean Junkins













100% Attendance

Up to 7/6/24

Year 7

Name	Reg
Aviaana A	7CBA
Izabella A	7KSA
Eleanor D	7LP
Benjamin G	7SAL
Holly H	7KSA
Abigail H	7SAL
Aaliyah H	7HW
Freddie J	7CBA
Sophie J	7KH
Fotis K	7KH
Ruby M	7CBA
Ben M	7SAL
Molly M	7KH
Hattie S	7KSA
Fredderick Ralph S	7HW
Joshua T	7SAL

Year 8	
Name	Reg
Frankie A	8NP
Joseph A	8JB
Ava B	8KK
Jacob C	8JB
Anneliese C	8JB
Seth D	8NP
Joe D	8NC
Corey E	8AK
Kayleigh F	8NC
Martin G	8KMP
Rylie H	8KK
Willow M	8NP
Jack M	8NP
James S	8AK

Year 9	
Name	Reg
Jessica C	9CFL
Lily D	9ЈВҮ
Maxwell K	энн
Olivia N	9NG
Phoebe W	9ЈВҮ

Year 10

Name	Reg
Grace B	10SL
Olivia B	10GM
Daniel C	10LLM
Freya C	10LLM
Leila F	10LRO
Jorja H	10HBL
Evie J	10SL
Ella R	10GM
Samuel S	10RJJ

Reward Trips



The reward trips in April were a great success, with three groups of students enjoying their time at the CineBowl. Our students had a great time watching 'Migration', enjoying pizza, ice skating, and bowling.

Our most recent reward trip took students to Alton Towers to enjoy a sunny day of thrilling rides and fun with their friends.

Congratulations to all the students who qualified for the reward trips and for their excellent behaviour. We love seeing our students showcasing their manners and respect for others, exploring new experiences with their peers, and building resilience.



Library



Short Story Competition

Congratulations to Charlotte C, Gracie F & Chelsea R for winning our short story competition. These entries will now go head-to-head against the winners from all the other academies for an overall winner.

Good luck to our finalists!



A Generous Gift

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A huge thank you to Year 11 student William D who has kindly donated an amazing collection of books to our library.

Students can now enjoy The Wizard Of Once series, The Trials of Apollo, Percy Jackson and many more.

A Prize with Purpose

We were delighted to welcome Hayley from Bookbabies - In Partnership with Usborne as she delivered our prize for Mental Health Awareness Week.

Thank you so much for these lovely books, which can now be found in the PRK corner of our teenager toolkit in our school library. The students will love reading these!

A huge thank you to Mrs Jones and everyone who voted for us.



Literary Lowdown

This term, we saw the start of a brand new feature, 'Literary Lowdown', which includes books from our recommended reads.

We heard from Darci G, who thinks you should look at 'The End of Everything' from our Year 7 collection.

Also, Molly-Jean, Year 8, recommends 'The War of the Worlds' from our Year 8 recommended reads section.

If any student is interested in exploring these books, please feel free to visit the library.



Mrs H Jones - Librarian

Eco-Garden Club

No doubt many of us will agree that gardening has long been a source of pleasure and a way to unwind. In today's world of social media and influencers, it is harder than ever to get young people off their phones and out into nature. From Alan Titchmarsh to Monty Don, these golden-agers are probably not on teenagers' list of top influencers. However, gardening can offer plenty of physical and mental health benefits for young people, and it can be fun too. We want young people to be happy and feel good about themselves. Even just having a break from a computer screen can help a child slow down and reflect. It gives them time to process their thoughts without distraction and gardens are often peaceful places that help reduce stress and anxiety. The sense of achievement in a voung person's eves as a plant grows or spending time with one of the animals can be amazing to see. It is something they can own and feel proud about.

The beauty of gardening is that it can be done individually or with others. Either way, it encourages children to explore their identity. When done in groups, it can be a subtle way to get young people to socialise and work together to create something. And not only that, they might even be able eat what they have grown at the end!

This is why we have found that our alternative curriculum sessions along with the extracurricular activities in the eco-garden have had a huge impact on our students. But don't take our word for it; their own feedback says it all!

Working collaboratively on garden projects can also strengthen relationships, build social skills, and create a sense of belonging and community, the perfect example being when our students designed and created paths around our garden. to make movements in winter less treacherous and muddy. There are therefore a lot of problem-solving tasks that teach patience and resilience. If something isn't turning out the way they wanted, growing or starting to die, children need to put their heads together to figure out how to solve this.

In recent years, there has been a lot of focus on the importance of teaching children mindfulness. Gardening gives a great opportunity for this. It offers them an opportunity to focus on the present and stop thinking about what comes next. As simple as this may sound, everyday life for children can be full of people and things seeking their constant attention so this is the ideal environment for them to take a breather. Furthermore, gardening can help young people be more observant, as they watch the changes happening in the garden over time. They can even develop a sense of belonging the more time they spend there. It can be comforting to have a place to go to if things get too much; this is why we call our eco-garden "our little corner of paradise!"

"When in the garden, I can just focus on being a kid. Mrs Cotterill is very funny, patient and kind. We learn so much, and even when we work inside. we still get the chance to be creative. The garden benefits the whole school, as well as our class." - Amy-Jean S, 7LP

"The physical work is really rewarding. When Mrs Cotterill lets the rabbits out, we love to watch them. We learn so much about trees and nature, including litter picking in the woods. Miss runs a competition that the team with the biggest bin bag of litter wins a prize!" – Bradley R, 7SAL

"I love the practical activities we get to do in the garden, like cleaning out the chickens and other animals." - Poppy H, 7HW

"As soon as you step into the garden, everything else goes away. We can focus on the jobs that need to be done and have fun." – Louis B, 7KSA

"Being in the garden is really fun; it feels like you're at home in your garden, and it prepares you for the future. I love seeing the chickens when we fill up their water and our display of poppies made from old water bottles." – Zac H, 8AK

"The garden makes me feel free; we get to work on our creative and problem-solving skills." - Grace H, 8AK

"We love getting to interact with our friends in the garden. Looking after the animals makes us feel better when we get stressed." – Alisha R. 8BRO & Maisie T. 8KMP



Swimming

High Five Swimming

A huge well done to our High Five Swimming and water polo students!

We had the strongest swimmers from six of our feeder schools come together to create our Masterclass. Since January, they have attended weekly sessions, working on their stroke technique, stamina, competitive starts and turns. They have worked really hard each week and used some transferrable skills to help with their water polo.

We ended with our inter-school swimming gala and water polo competitions! Forsbrook CE Primary School won the gala, and a mixed team from Fulford Primary School and Meir Heath Academy triumphed in water polo. We hope you have enjoyed these sessions and continue to develop your amazing skills.

Some of our talented swimmers are





Swim School

pictured.

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 Cold 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 adaptions 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



Miss L Martin - Pool Manager



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 todau!

m: 07903 857471 finnenau@s4swimschool.co.uk s4swimschool.uk

Term Times

Our swimming courses run parallel with the school terms.

Holidaus

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



Year 7 Art

Year 7 were set a challenge to show how imaginative they could be when creating a hat made from recycled materials. Art staff were very impressed with their creations.



Year 7 Art

Year 7 students are currently exploring African Art. In this project students look at the artwork of the Ndebele tribe and the influence this has had on contemporary design. They have researched and produced a painting inspired by the pattern buildings in the Ndebele villages.



Year 8 Art

Year 8 students are currently exploring the theme of Architecture. They have been looking at the art movement Fauvism and the architectural work of Antoni Gaudí. They have produced a painting in the Fauvism style of local architecture and also taken inspiration from Gaudí's 'Le Drac' lizard sculpture.































Year 8 Art





























Year 9 Art

Year 9 students are currently exploring the subject matter of 'Aquatics'. They have looked at the artwork of Vincent Scarpace and produced oil pastel pieces of fish exploring colour and texture.



Year 10 Art

Year 10 students have been working on self-negotiated projects this term based on independently selected artists. They have been producing their own compositional ideas in a range of different media, materials, techniques and processes.

















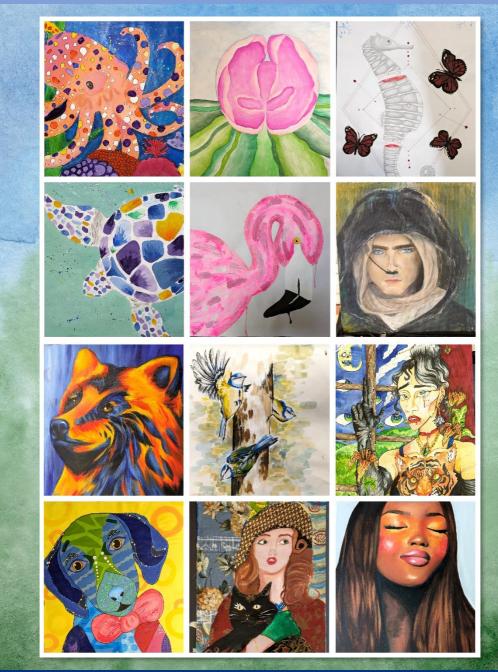






Year 11 Art

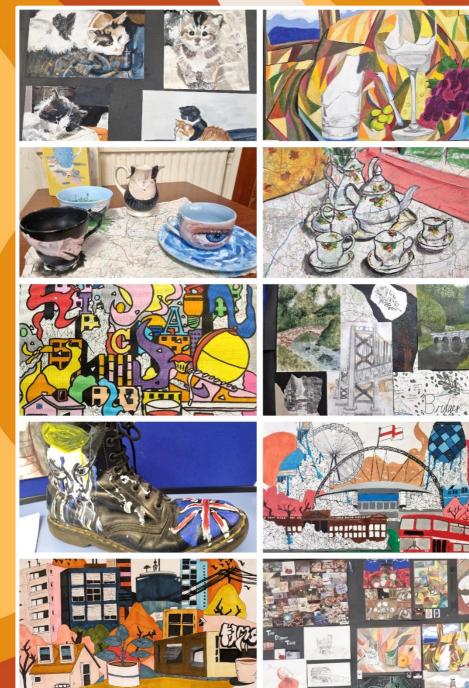
Year 11 students finished their GCSE course this term. We are incredibly proud of the work that our students have produced over the last two years. We hope to see lots of you return to study art at A Level next year.



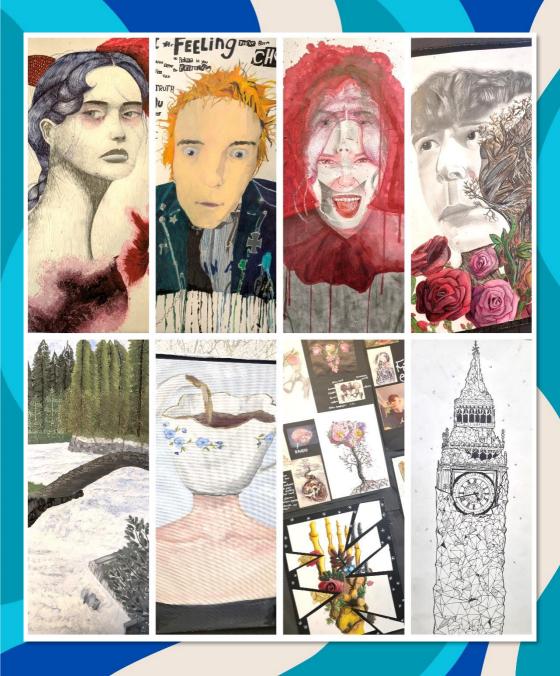
Year 11 Art



A Level Art



A Level Art



Drama



Subject Excellence Day

Six students travelled to The Lichfield Carrick Theatre in May to participate in the JTMAT Drama Subject Excellence Day. Each student had attended a workshop in January and was tasked with writing and rehearsing their own monologue in front of the other schools in the JTMAT and three professionals who direct and act at The Garrick. Although this day was a competition between the schools, the experience of doing it was more important than the competitive element. Performing in front of others, pushing themselves out of their comfort zones and receiving feedback from theatre professionals was really useful.

Zack, Izzy (not pictured as poorly, so Mrs Baines performed her monologue for her), Scarlett, Lily, Lucie, and Ava did really well and made Mrs Baines proud. They all received lovely feedback that they can use in their future performance work.

Lily A won the Year 9 & 10 prize, winning two free tickets to 'The Importance of Being... Earnest?' a hilarious and unpredictable twist on the comedy classic. Although not winners, the judges wanted to give special mention to the following students for their amazing performances: Lucie W, Zack D & Izabelle H. Well done!





Theatre Visit

Year 11 GCSE students went to see 'The Woman in Black' in April at The Crewe Lyceum Theatre.

Many of them jumped and screamed in fright at key moments in this wonderfully evocative play.

Huge thanks to Miss Townshend for taking us there.

Food Technology

Here are some examples of sweet and savoury products that Year 10 and Year 11 students have made for their GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition course.



Mrs L Shenton - Teacher of Food Technology

Food Technology





















Mrs L Shenton - Teacher of Food Technology

Geography

On the 5th of June, we celebrated World Environment Day and Earth Day by delivering an assembly to Years 7-10 on this year's theme, the importance of this issue, and Earth Day's history. Earth Day was first celebrated in 1989 by an American Senator following an oil spill. Now, Earth Day is celebrated globally by over 1 billion people. It selects a theme every year to raise awareness of and encourage the public to think about how they



can reduce their impact on the planet. Two Year 10 students did an outstanding job of delivering this year's theme and message to the school.

This year, the theme for Earth Day was 'Planet versus Plastic', chosen because, in 2024, the UN will sign a new plastic treaty and plan a strategy to reduce plastic usage, with the aim of a 60% reduction by 2040. As part of our celebrations, Year 10 shared some ways that students could reduce their single-use plastic, from reusing bottles to volunteering for the school litter picks.

300 students actively participated in the 'Big Blythe Bridge Plastic Count'. They diligently counted the number of plastics in their kitchen, bathroom, and school bag. The results were eye-opening, with an average of 27 visible (not in cupboards or hidden) pieces of plastic in the kitchen, 20 in the bathroom, and a shocking 9 pieces of single-use plastic in their school bags. One student even reported 33 pieces!

Thank you to Layla H and Holly B for their fantastic assembly and all the students who participated in the survey.



Modern Foreign Languages

	Vocabulary builder	
English	French	Spanish
Summer	L'été	El verano
lce cream	Une glace	El helado
Beach	La plage	La playa
Sun	Le soleil	El sol
Airplane	Un avion	El avión
Flowers	Des fleurs	Las flores
Suitcase	Une valise	Una maleta
Sunhat	Un chapeau d'été	Un sombrero
Sunglasses	Des lunettes de soleil	Las gafas de sol
Sandcastle	Un château de sable	Un castillo de arena

I have enjoyed learning about the different cultures, foods and special celebrations. I would like to go to Day of The Dead celebrations, because they make Pan de Muertos (sweet bread) which sounds tasty! Plus, I love the really colourful outfits and make up. The patterns are busy but very precise!- **Elouise C, Year 7**





My French lessons were the best! Mr McConvey was always motivating me to complete my Duolingo, which really encouraged me. Thank you sir! -Libby M, Year 11 Having Mrs Kadri as my Spanish teacher has completely changed my opinion on the subject. I look forward to and love every lesson. She does not accept students saying "I don't know" as an answer, which makes me try harder to understand and improve my Spanish. **-Tamsin C, Year 10**



Working towards my A-level in Spanish this year has been exciting. Learning about Spanish politics has really interested me, especially the Spanish dictatorship and discovering how this impacted the economy. - **Cabriel H, Year 12**

Music

Schools Sing Together

On 18th June we sang with multiple schools at the Stafford County Showground.

The winners of the Staffordshire Young Musician: Vocal Category were there to perform and were phenomenal.

Staffordshire County Youth Choir, which is newly formed, were also there and are looking for new singers to join in September! News about how to join will be sent out in the new academic year.



Moorlands Music Concert

On 27th June, the Jazz Orchestra and Choir performed at the Moorlands Music Concert, alongside Springcroft Primary School and William Amory School performed at Cheadle Academy. Moorlands is <u>free</u> to access and anyone who enjoys singing is welcome, as is any instrumentalist - even if you have only just started! Rehearsals are on Thursdays at William Amory 5pm - 6pm for instrumentalists, 6pm - 7pm for singers and start again in September. Come along for more music making and fun in September!





Primary Cluster Concert

We had a successful evening in June, bringing together a mixture of year groups, from Year 3 all the way to Year 13 for a musical extravaganza. Parents and carers were treated to a showcase of pieces performed by the whole group of 130 musicians, as well as hearing some of our extra curricular clubs demonstrate their talents. Well done to all students for their hard work!

Music

Year 10 and Year 6

Forsbrook CE Primary School band worked very hard on a performance of 'Seven Nation Army' and wanted an opportunity to perform. In April, we were lucky enough to host a collaboration session with our Year 10 GCSE music group.

The instrumentalists were fantastic and the singing was outstanding too! Two of our Year 10 bands played for them and we had a performance session together, singing and playing through a piece we learned on the day!

What incredible musicians we have both here and in the primary school and what a fabulous opportunity had by all! Well done to all involved - we are looking forward to the next collaboration!

Music From Around the World

On 4th July, we hosted our spectacular summer concert featuring our incredibly talented students performing music from across the globe. Huge congratulations to all the performers for their fantastic showcase, and best of luck to those embarking on new adventures!

Reminder for instrumentalists - if you have lessons through school, you must attend an extracurricular activity.

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







Miss H Balewski - Curriculum Leader of Music

Attendance

The top three year groups for overall attendance up to 7/6/24 are:



The top three forms per year group



Mrs D Moore - Attendance Officer

		Attendance	e Informatio	on			
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	days in a year, studen		-		school is o	open	
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97% and above		95% to 97% Less than 95%		Less than 90% Persistent		Less than 50%	
Excellent	Good	Conce	erning			Severely Absent/Critical	
No more than 6	No more than 10	more than 10 More than		Absence/Critical 19 days/38 session		95 days/190	
days/12 sessions	days/20 sessions	days/20 sessions		or more abs		sessions or more	
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Attendance - Is 90% good?

90% attendance at the end of the academic year:

• 19 days missed, 38 sessions missed

- $\cdot \frac{1}{2}$ 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

 \cdot 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

Kik

Kik state you must be 16 years of age to use the app.

What is Kik?

Kik is classed as a social network where users can message each other, share photos/videos as well as video chat.

What do I need to be aware of?

- Groups once a user joins a group then your child can receive messages from other members of that group. Some of the groups are centered around topics that are inappropriate for under 18s.
- Adverts
- Location sharing
- Explicit content including images, videos and messages.
- Live streaming/videos risk of seeing/hearing inappropriate content.
- Talking to strangers

What parental controls does Kik offer?

Kik does have reporting and blocking tools as outlined here: <u>https://kikhelpcenter.zendesk.com/</u> <u>hc/en-us/articles/4402400774043-</u> <u>What-can-i-do-if-my-teen-has-</u> <u>received-an-unwanted-or-</u> inappropriate-message

Further information

- <u>https://parentzone.org.uk/artic</u> <u>le/kik</u>
- <u>https://www.nspcc.org.uk/kee</u> ping-children-safe/onlinesafety/social-media/chat-apps/

Check age ratings!

There is so much that we can do online nowadays including playing games, chatting with others, watching TV or sharing our videos/photographs. Being online can be great but it is important that we set boundaries for our children to



keep them safe whist they explore being online, develop their digital resilience and understanding of what to do if anything negative happens when online.

So how can we help keep our children safe? We can start by checking age restrictions/ratings. It is important that we follow these to ensure that what our children are doing or seeing online is appropriate for their age.

Where can I find age ratings?

Films: The British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) rate films. This page includes a link to a 'Parents' Guide to Age Ratings': https://www.cbbfc.co.uk/resources/viewing-films-safely-online.

Video games: PEGI provides age classifications for video games. PEGI considers the age suitability of a game, not the level of difficulty. It is important to note that PEGI do not take into consideration user generated content within games (such as on Roblox) and chat facilities within games.

Apps: Check the individual age ratings within the relevant app store. We also recommend that you download any apps and play them yourself to check their suitability.

Social Media: All social media networks have a minimum age rating; they are all at least 13+.

What else can I do?

- Explain the importance of age ratings to your child.
- Go online together to see what your child is accessing.
- Set up parental controls on your broadband, devices and on any individual apps that your child is using. This will reduce the chances of them accessing or viewing anything unsuitable.

 Chat to your child regularly about what they are doing online and as always, remind your child that if anything is worrying them then they should talk to you or another trusted adult.

Further information

You can find out more here: https://www.bbc.com/ownit/take-control/understanding-age-ratings

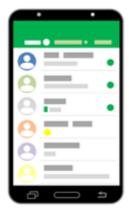
> Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 01.06.24.

June 2024

Chatting online

Following a recent report by the BBC detailing how a child was asked for inappropriate images when chatting online (source: <u>https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-68616730</u>), we thought we would discuss the dangers your child might face when communicating with strangers online.

In addition to social media apps that include a chat facility, most online games also allow communication, for example FIFA and Fortnite. Depending on the game, this may be via the in-game text chat, direct messages or talking through headphones. Some games do offer the ability to switch communication



off or restrict bad language so make sure settings appropriate to your child are set up for each of the games they play. You need to be aware that there are people who may use these games to start chatting to your child and then encourage them to chat on alternative apps (which are more private, encrypted or have fewer safety options). Talk to your child about the dangers of doing this.

What risks are there with chatting online?

- Bullying
- Inappropriate chat children may encounter explicit or inappropriate content.
- Contact from strangers talk to your child about who is contacting them online.
- Sharing personal information talk to your child about what information they share with others including images.
- Sextortion this is a form of blackmail where somebody threatens to share a nude/sexual image of you.

How can I mitigate the risks?

- Ensure your child is accessing age-appropriate apps/games and that appropriate parental controls are set up.
- Chat to your child about the risks above so they are aware of what can happen online.
- Depending on the age of your child, it may be more appropriate for devices to be used in family rooms so you can monitor what they are doing and if they are chatting to others.

Reporting other users

It can be difficult to moderate online chat so ensure your child knows how to block and report others who make them feel uncomfortable and that they know to talk to you or a trusted adult if they have any concerns.

Further information

<u>https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/Concerned-about-your-child/Online-contact-and-staying-safe/</u>

Tips to promote positive body image

If your child is viewing content online, particularly on social media, then the images they are seeing may be edited or even fake. A child may not yet be able to distinguish between reality and what is not real/fake, which may impact their own body image.

Internet Matters provide advice on how to empower your child to develop a positive body image and what you can do to help. Find out more here: <u>https://www.internetmatters.org/resou</u> <u>rces/promoting-positive-body-image-</u> <u>with-children/</u>

NCA issues urgent warning about sextortion

The National Crime Agency has issued an alert due to the rise in global cases. The NCA state that "all age groups and genders are being targeted, but a large proportion of cases have involved male victims aged between 14-18." [Source: https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov. uk/news/nca-issues-urgent-warningabout-sextortion]

Sextortion is a form of blackmail where somebody threatens to share a nude/sexual image of you. It is important to talk to your child about this issue due to the rise in cases, so your child is aware of the signs.

The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) outline on their website what to do if you or your child are a victim of sextortion. You can find out more here:

https://www.iwf.org.uk/resources/sext ortion/

https://oursaferschools.co.uk/2023/07/ 10/what-is-sextortion/

Frog

Learning Platform

FROG - 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

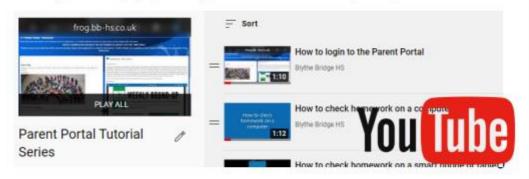


Please email frogsupport@bb-hs.co.uk if you require a password reset or further information.

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



BLYTHE BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COMMUNITY LETTINGS

BLYTHE BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form is excited to offer our school facilities to the local community and businesses.

If you are looking for a regular indoor or outdoor venue for your club or society, or a space for a one off event, we offer a range of facilities.

THESE INCLUDE

MUGA PITCHES GRASS FOOTBALL PITCHES MAIN HALL CLASSROOMS CICT SUITES CART FACILITIES
HARD COURTS
SWIMMING POOL





Scan the QR code for our price list and a copy of our hire request form 01782 392519 office@bb-hs.co.uk **ST11 9PW**



MAKE A DIFFERENCE & BECOME A GOVERNOR





BLYTHE BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

We are excited to offer two voluntary positions as governors

- Can you help develop our school's strategic vision?
- Are you willing to challenge, support and ask questions?
- Ensure that our money is well spent?
- Have you got skills to share?
- Are you interested in shaping the future for young people?

APPLY TODAY!

For more information contact Mrs Mitton office@bb-hs.co.uk We'd love to hear from you.