

# Newsletter



Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form | Autumn Term 2024



## 60th Anniversary Edition

# Headteacher's Welcome



This year marks a momentous occasion as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of our school's opening. To honour this milestone, a team of staff and students have been developing a range of events which will run throughout the year. The academic year started with special assemblies for each year group, which focused on our history and the changes in education during that time. Teachers across the whole of the curriculum have devised a variety of creative lessons that weave the anniversary into their teaching and learning. From special history projects exploring the school's past to maths lessons on trigonometry delivered 1960s style without scientific calculators, students will engage in a rich tapestry of experiences that highlight our community's journey.

We are inviting current parents, carers, students, alumni, and staff present and past to join us in celebrating this significant chapter in our school's history throughout the academic year. The Christmas concert this year is a 'Blast from the past'; alumni are filming 60-second careers – where are they now? and our biggest project is our Sixty at 60 pledges. Staff and students have been asked to contribute ideas for 60 projects or activities, adding the resources, apparatus or equipment to a wish list, with each item enriching the lives of our students and enhancing learning environments. The Sixty at 60 items range from subject-specific reading books to additional javelins and from a Robot Dog for Raspberry PI to world atlases, to name a few, with the link shared in this newsletter.

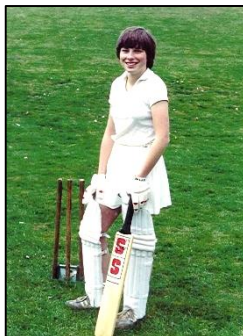
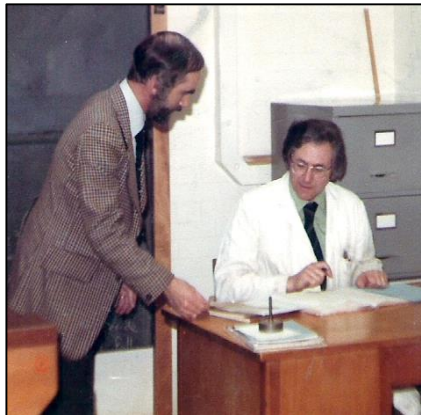
Finally, there will be opportunities for former staff and students to visit the school later this year, so to register your interest in this, please email [blythe60@bb-hs.co.uk](mailto:blythe60@bb-hs.co.uk).

**Mrs R Johnson**

**Headteacher**







# Student inventors grab award for the 'Flexicator'

BY KATHIE MCINNES  
EDUCATION REPORTER

A "TEAM" of young North Scotland inventors could find the key to helping orthodontics regain the use of their teeth and jaws.

The teenagers, from Rhyne Bridge High School, have designed a 'Flexicator' which can be fitted to any school chair to aid a patient's orthodontics.

Their ingenious device works by using compressors which drive a plastic glove, enabling a patient to exercise their teeth and jaws over seven minutes.

The pupils devised up the idea during sessions at their school's Young Engineers Club.

Now the Flexicator and two other pupil inventions, have helped earn Rhyne Bridge High a £1,000 prize for having the top young engineers' club in the country.

The school set up its club three years ago with support from engineering experts at nearby GVA, now known as General Domestic Appliances (GDA). The partnership has flourished and led to pupils not only being involved in exciting design projects, but becoming GDA trainees and



**BRIGHT SPARKS:** Young Engineers national director Dave Frosty hands the award to Rhyne Bridge High pupils.

Joining the company for work placements, club and competition with GVA, picking up its award as best support company of the year.

Last year, GVA, 14, one of the creative dynamos behind the Flexicator and is eventually hoping to pursue a career in design.

The said: "My son had a stroke and that is what started us thinking along these lines."

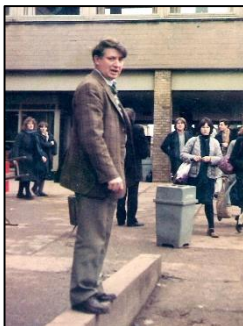
"A physiotherapist from Christie Hospital came to us and helped us with the project. We also went to Rhyne University to do the research."

Hopefully, the Flexicator will be used on actual patients at Christie Hospital.

The other two award-winning designs are a machine for assembling cooler controls and a gadget for improving the cooling effect's. Youngsters involved in the Young Engineers' club have also won several prizes and recognition for their work.

The club explores areas such as electronics, pneumatics and control systems.

Picture: Neil Foster










SCHOOL DAY	
Warning Bell	8.40 a.m.
School starts	8.45 a.m.
Registration/Assembly	8.45 a.m.
Lesson 1	8.55 a.m.
Lesson 2	9.25 a.m.
Tutorial	10.00 a.m.
Lesson 3	10.20 a.m.
Lesson 4	10.55 a.m.
BREAK	
Lesson 5	11.30 a.m.
Lesson 6	11.45 a.m.
	12.20 p.m.
LUNCH	
	12.55 p.m.
Warning Bell	1.40 p.m.
Registration	1.45 p.m.
Lesson 7	1.50 p.m.
Lesson 8	2.25 p.m.
School ends	3.00 p.m.









# BLYTHE BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

How are the different departments incorporating our anniversary into their lessons?

Department	Plan
 <b>Geography</b>	We are going to investigate how Blythe Bridge (the village) has changed over the last 60 years using maps and GIS tools.
 <b>Maths</b>	We will be using the trigonometry tables with Year 10 to show how they would have calculated trigonometric functions without a calculator, as they would have done 60 years ago!
 <b>DT</b>	We will discuss changes in culture and technology over the years by an engaging starter task for our students to guess whether a toy is newer or older than a 60 year old toy. Plus they can earn some house points!
 <b>PE</b>	We will share key sports moments based around the last 60 years. We will share also offer a guessing game on social media to reveal some of our local sporting legends.
 <b>Modern Foreign Languages</b>	We aim to provide two sets of 30 meals, inspired by either Spanish or French cuisine, to Stoke-on-Trent Churches Community Night Shelter.
 <b>Science</b>	In 1964-65, insulin was first synthesised, Kevlar was developed, and the cosmic microwave background (CMB) radiation (evidence for the Big Bang) was discovered. In science, students will look at the most important inventions and discoveries from 60 years ago and those from over the past 60 years.
 <b>Social Science</b>	We will make a video which can be shared with all form groups across the school with current social science students from Year 10-13 talking/showing famous psychology experiments from the '60s. Sociology students will share how education and the family have changed since the '60s. Criminologists sharing the advances that have happened in crime detection as well as law changes that have occurred since the '60s.



Department	Plan
 <b>Computer Science</b>	<p>GCSE and A-level students will be challenged to complete 60 coding challenges of varying difficulty. Also, we will look at BASIC, packet switching and the world's fastest computer at the time, the CDC 600, by Cray computers, which were all released/invented 60 years ago.</p>
 <b>Business Studies</b>	<p>We will look at businesses founded in 1964 and 1965 - Topshop, Haven Holidays, Bradford and Bingley, Jiffy packaging – (1965) - Northern Rock, Pizza Express, Thompson Travel, and Princess Yachts – and how they have changed, why they might not still be around – how technology has impacted them.</p>
 <b>Media</b>	<p>In Media, we will examine how events in the 1960s shaped the media landscape as we know it today. We will look at the representation of gender in advertising in the '60s compared with today, how pirate radio in the '60s led to the launch of BBC Radio 1 and how the idea of the teenager as a consumer evolved, how the representation of teenagers has changed since the 1960s by comparing the first ever Dr Who episode with a modern-day teen drama.</p>
 <b>RE</b>	<p>To commemorate the 60th anniversary, the RE department will have an ethical lesson from Years 8-11 that focuses on a key ethical theory of situation ethics. Situation ethics is an ethical theory created in the 1960s that states that you should do whatever is the most loving thing for any ethical dilemma. Students will apply this theory to many ethical scenarios whilst exploring the strengths and weaknesses of using this theory in modern-day society.</p>
 <b>Drama</b>	<p>We will do extracts from six plays that have been published in the last sixty years. Each year group will have a dedicated play, ensuring that all students have the opportunity to participate.</p>
 <b>History</b>	<p>In History, we will have a bespoke lesson for Key Stage 3 students who will experience life as a teenager in 1964 and the 1960s. We plan to consider the following - What was in the news? What clothes did people wear? What music did people listen to? What did youngsters do in their social time?</p>

# 60th Anniversary Wish List

Current staff and students have identified 60 projects that they would love your support to help to fund before the end of this anniversary year. Each item will help enrich the lives of our students and enhance our learning environment. Here is a selection of items that will support these projects.



**200 black, blue or red pens for revision packs**  
£8.20



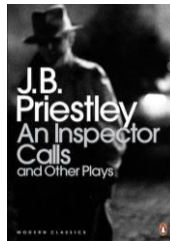
**Molecular model kit**  
£34.47



**Rounders ball**  
£4.50



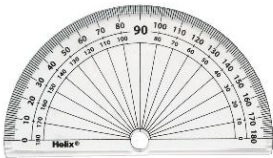
**3D Printer Filament for DT**  
£115.99



**Class set of GCSE Text**  
£254.70



**Reusable cups for evening events** £18.99



**Protractors for revision packs**  
£7.65



**LED lights and stand for Drama**  
£155.99



**Robot Dog Kit for Raspberry Pi**  
£119.95



**Film posters and props**  
From £4.69



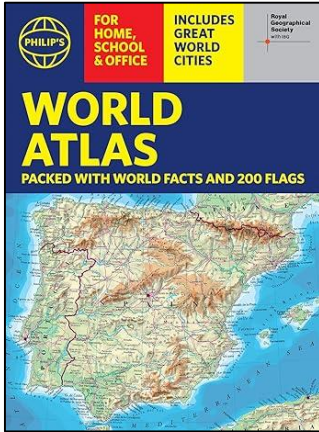
**Hand mixer**  
£14.99



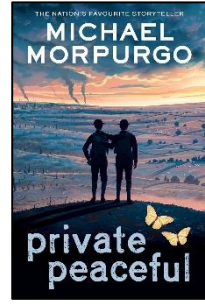
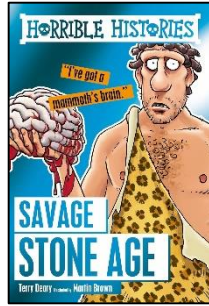
**Rewards trip to Go Ape**  
£168



# 60th Anniversary Wish List



**60 Atlases**  
£5.99 each



**Historical Book Selection**  
From £2.90



**10 Black Leotards**  
Variety of sizes  
£13.99 each

**10 Pairs of Jazz Shoes**  
Variety of sizes  
£13.69 each



**Uni Posca Medium Tip  
Paint Markers** £65.45



**Head Prefect & Senior  
Prefect Badges**  
£3.84 each



**600 Teabags for  
Kickstart (breakfast club)**  
£18



**10 Litter Pickers**  
£3.49 each



To access the full wish list please scan the QR code or visit [www.thingstogetme.com/1245033a542ab](http://www.thingstogetme.com/1245033a542ab) - thank you from all staff and students at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form.

# Our Students Say It Best

“The homework booklets have been really helpful in motivating me to complete my work. They are especially beneficial for students without devices to do their homework. I have also enjoyed my performance and music lessons, learning new songs and developing new skills. **Seren C, Year 7**”

“Starting to study my option choices of health and social care and psychology has been fantastic and they are excellent additions to my timetable. **Layla D, Year 10**”

“I love to participate in the Escape Room Club and think about the psychology behind the puzzles and how people approach problems. **Ben G, Year 8**”

“Year 11 has been excellent so far. My subjects interest me and I love getting to play football with my friends. **Ethan H, Year 11**”

“The school is all inclusive with a variety of subjects. Music has an amazing community and provides a safe and enjoyable learning experience. **Oliver W, Year 9**”

“The transition to sixth form study has been invigorating, and all of my friends and I relish the opportunity to delve into our subjects in detail, finding motivation in our work. **Lara B, Year 12**”







## Year 6 Summer School

Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form held its annual Year 6 summer school in both July and August. Both three-day events gave 119 participants the opportunity to engage in activities to develop their resilience skills through lessons in business, science, English, DT, cooking, French, drama, art, and PE. In addition, students could participate in a room hunt to explore the school and solve a puzzle.

Year 7 student Emily said, "I really enjoyed the summer school. I visited Blythe lots with my primary school, and I recognised lots of the other students. The activities were great fun, and I particularly enjoyed designing and making my clock. The shortbread I made was nice, and the room hunt allowed me to explore the school."

Fellow student Bodhi commented, "I really loved costing and designing the theme park in Business & IT. I found some lessons hard, including French, but I enjoyed all the activities. The science lessons were amazing, and I used equipment I had never seen before. I would definitely recommend the summer school to other Year 6 students."



## New Intake Evening

Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form held its annual Year 6 Intake Evening on Thursday, 19th September. Over 400 people took the opportunity to engage in departmental activities offered within the Year 7 curriculum. Families also had the chance to listen to a short presentation from the Headteacher, Mrs Johnson, and senior prefects whilst watching extracts from our highly successful school production 'Mary Poppins' and dance academy.

Parental feedback included, "We loved the school, including its warm, calm and welcoming environment", and "Your guides were outstanding. They were proud to represent the school and spoke highly of the opportunities offered." "Staff were incredibly professional and welcomed us into their classrooms. They were interested in my child's achievements at their current school."

Parents are reminded that all applications must be submitted to the city council/authority where you live by **Thursday, 31st October 2024**. Parents will be informed of the outcome of the application on **Saturday, 1st March 2025**.

## Year 6 Transition Mornings

Students attending partnership schools have been able to participate in their annual Year 6 Transition mornings in preparation for September 2025. Year 6 student Sophia from Meir Heath Academy said, "The science was ace. I could see all the cells and hairs of the plant leaf. I really enjoyed creating the onion slides and meeting the Year 7 students." Year 6 student Joe from Forsbrook commented, "The DT was ace. I loved designing my maze, cutting the materials and gluing them together. I'm looking forward to starting high school."

We look forward to inviting Year 6 students back into Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form on Monday, 30th June, and Tuesday, 1st July, for the annual Year 6 Intake days.



# From Primary to Secondary



Our Year 7 students have impressed the whole school community with their manners, hard work ethic and enthusiasm for learning. We caught up with some students to see how they've settled into secondary school life.

**Summer E, 7NAZ** – "I absolutely love taking part in extracurricular clubs and sports. I do cheer on Tuesdays, football on Wednesdays and cross country on Thursdays. I love racing in cross country and have made so many new friends at the clubs." Summer was one of 119 students who took part in our summer school, "The room hunt was really helpful in navigating my way around the school."

**Nico H, 7NAZ** – "Adjusting to secondary school after attending the summer school has been really positive. I really like my maths lessons and getting to do algebra! I feel I know my way around the school and similar to Summer, love cross country and the races."

**Charlie R, 7DH** – "I do football on Wednesdays which is really fun. I have found that the more that time passes, the better being at school is and you get used to it. I have made new friends (like Nico) and feel really comfortable being here."

**Amelia C, 7NAZ** – "It is so exciting being at a new school. You get to meet a lot of new people. It is nerve-wracking at first, but it's amazing as well. It's good to go to a big school and explore the building."

We asked the students what advice they had to students joining us next year.

**Summer** – "Don't be shy!"

**Nico** – "Don't worry about not finding your classrooms! People will help you."

**Amelia** – "Don't be scared, it is going to be fine!"

**Charlie** – "There may be some nerves, but it will soon become excitement."

Make sure to check out the Year 7 Creative Corner where some students share their fantastic hobbies and interests. For example, Jack H, 7RJJ is quite the thrill-seeker!





# One Year On

## One Year On by Aviaana A, Year 8

In the time I have been at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form, I have loved the first year of being part of the community.



I started off in Year 7 with a big smile on my face and an enthusiastic, positive mindset, excited for what I was preparing to be part of for the next 5 years or so. There are so many opportunities to get involved with such as: trampolining club, football club, dance club (which you can perform shows at) and so much more!

In my time at school, I have been part of the UHNM charity, meaning that I can take trips to hospitals to help the elderly and make them engaged in craft activities.

Summer school helped me and all the other people in my year who attended adjust to the school. I have made SO many friends in the past two years of being here, and I'm sure I'll make more in the years to come.

Whoever's reading this, no matter if you're someone who's looking to join this school or a current student reading this, I hope you think this school is as brilliant as I do!



Reward trip fun!



## Action!

Year 12 drama students are currently rehearsing their first performance piece of 'My Mother Said I Never Should' by Charlotte Keatley. The play is about the relationships between mothers and daughters and explores the themes of independence, growing up and secrets. It addresses the issues of teenage pregnancy, career prioritisation and single motherhood.

## Geography Trip to Wales

In July, a group of geographers travelled to sunny Wales to collect data. They visited Morfa Harlech, Betws-y-Coed, Llandundo and Criccieth. Fuelled by fajitas and frisbee, students enjoyed the trip, taking in the gorgeous Welsh scenery during their fieldwork.



## A New Cohort

Tomorrow's Teachers have received their student teacher lanyards! Their first task was to interview our teachers about their own career journeys. The students were very excited to be interviewing the staff and the staff were willing volunteers.

The sun was shining in September when Mrs Johnson and Mr Goodwin joined some of the sixth form students who are part of the football partnership with Port Vale FC Foundation. After photographs had been taken pitch side, they enjoyed seeing Port Vale get a 1-0 win against Chesterfield. Training for the Blythe Bridge team continues on a weekly basis with coaches from Port Vale.





# School Musical



This half term, we launched our latest school musical, 'We Will Rock You', which will see our talented students take on the fantastic hits of Queen. We were amazed to see over 70 students audition, including an enthusiastic group of theatre-loving Year 7 students to join our community of performers. The standard was so good that two extra sets of callbacks were needed in order to cast all the main parts. The students worked really hard to show that they can cope with the demands of singing, dancing and acting at the same time.

We are proud to announce our main cast is:

Galileo - Scarlett B  
Scaramouche - Pippa B  
Killer Queen - Ruby L  
Khashoggi - Zack D  
Buddy - Frankie A  
Britney Spears - Sydney W  
Ozzy Osbourne - Lucie W  
Paul McCartney - Oliver W  
Madonna - Freya B  
Sixx - Jorja L (and teacher)  
Quatro - Rory S  
Bruce Springsteen - Olivia-Grace I (and lead yuppie)  
Jackson Five - Hattie S  
Aretha Franklin - Lola F  
Mick Jagger - Georgina B  
Puff Daddy - Ellie D  
Lead Yuppies - Evie B and Lily S  
Doctors - Lily A and Carly S



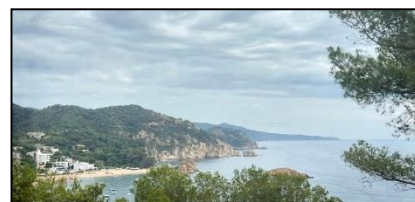
# Visit to Tossa de Mar, Spain

In June 2024, we visited Tossa de Mar in Spain with our eleventh group of Year 10 students. The group flew from London Heathrow Airport to Barcelona Airport before travelling to the town of Tossa de Mar on the Spanish Costa Brava. The students were accompanied by Mr Bailey, Mrs Goodwin, Mrs Kadri, Mr Roberts and Mr Sutton. Students spent the first day, as ever, travelling, sunbathing, swimming in the hotel pool, and then playing on the beach.

This year's itinerary included multiple new visits because the trip took place on different days than usual. In 2024, we visited Girona Cathedral, the Cosmo Caixa Science Museum in Barcelona and the Barça Immersive Tour.

On Wednesday, the group visited the PortAventura theme park on a very hot summer's day and students had the opportunity to explore the different sections of the park such as Polynesia, Mexico, the Far West and China.

We spent two days in Barcelona this year, visiting first on Thursday. For the second year in a row we visited the Stagefront stadium, home of the recently promoted Reial Club Deportivo Espanyol and students had a guided tour of the dressing room, the very famous tunnel and the team benches. In the afternoon, we completed a new visit to the Cosmo Caixa science museum, where students were able to visit a rainforest, see a giant Foucault pendulum, a wave simulator and explore rock formations, amongst other exhibits.



The following day we visited Girona Cathedral followed by a walk round the historic centre, and students had the opportunity to purchase an ice cream from the iconic Rocambolesc and do some souvenir shopping before exploring the beautiful town of Tossa de Mar and returning to the hotel for another afternoon by the pool.

On Saturday, after checking out, the group departed early to Barcelona for a second day of fun in the city. We met our two tour guides for a morning exploring the city both on foot and coach. We walked around the Gothic Quarter and Born districts of the city before seeing the main sites on the coach. Afterwards, students visited the Barça Immersive Tour, where they were able to see the history of FC Barcelona and its trophies. In the evening, we flew back to the UK and returned to school.

Students must, as always, be commended for their excellent behaviour during the visit. A huge thank you to the staff for their hard work in accompanying the visit, and well done to all students for their outstanding conduct during the week.



# Modern Foreign Languages



## The European Day of Languages

Once again, we celebrated the European Day of Languages with great enthusiasm and a variety of activities aimed at promoting the importance of language learning. The European Day of Languages, held annually on 26th September, highlights the richness of linguistic diversity in Europe and encourages the lifelong learning of languages.

Year 7 and Year 8 students took part in engaging activities that emphasised the value of learning a second language. During their lessons, they discussed the many benefits that speaking another language can offer, from enhancing career opportunities to gaining a deeper understanding of different cultures.

Additionally, all year groups from Year 7 to Year 13 participated in a form quiz designed to test their knowledge of different world languages. It was a competitive event, with each form group vying for the top spot. A big congratulations to 9NC, who secured the top score, while 10JBL followed closely as the runners-up.

Alongside the quiz, our Year 7 students participated in a cultural poster competition to celebrate the diversity of languages and cultures across the globe. We are delighted to share some impressive work that truly captured the spirit of the European Day of Languages.

Mr L McConvey



## Raffle Winner

Last year, we celebrated the achievements of our students in their MFL lessons by handing out over 700 prize certificates. Each time a student achieved the next level, their name was entered into a prize draw to win a gift hamper at the end of the year. Libby H, now in Year 11, was the lucky winner. Well done, Libby!

Mr M Ratchford

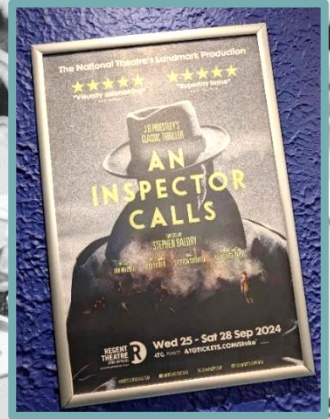


## Vocabulary builder

English	French	Spanish
Autumn	L'automne	El otoño
Bookshop	La librairie	La librería
Ghost	Un fantôme	Un fantasma
Blanket	La couverture	La manta
Halloween	L'Halloween	El Día de Todos Los Santos
It's cold.	Il fait froid.	Hace frío.
Lamp	La lampe	La lámpara
Umbrella	La parapluie	El paraguas
A mug	Une tasse	Una taza
Fireworks	Les feux d'artifice	Los fuegos artificiales



# English Trip



On Wednesday, 25th September, we took 84 Year 11 students to the Regent Theatre to see 'An Inspector Calls'. This was a great opportunity for students to consolidate their study of Priestley's play, and to explore the stagecraft employed by Stephen Daldry in his take on this classic post-war play. Our students' behaviour was impeccable throughout, demonstrating respect and kindness to other theatre goers, including members of the public.

We look forward to offering the same opportunity to watch 'Macbeth' in the new year, the play Year 11 are currently studying.

Miss J Marsden - Core Subject Leader for English

## History Superstars



Year 9 historians have made an excellent start to their learning this year! They have enjoyed analysing the causes of World War One, researching trench conditions and learning how soldiers were recruited to join up at home, and from across the British Empire. Part of a homework task was to create their own recruitment poster and the department have been particularly impressed with students' efforts.

A special mention to Lilly, Frankie, Charlotte and Bella who produced such brilliant work.

# Trip to Chester Zoo

On the 26th of September, our Year 10 GCSE geographers, along with A Level geographers and biologists, visited Chester Zoo.

Geographers spent the day observing the adaptations of the animals to survive in the desert and rainforest, having studied these in the classroom. Meanwhile, our sixth-formers studied the conservation efforts of Chester Zoo to protect rainforests and coral reefs around the world.

After a rainy start to the day, students were lucky enough to spot the elusive jaguars despite their camouflage skills and observe the tree kangaroos being fed. One orangutan was particularly curious about Miss Bloore's group, coming to the window to investigate the students and giving us a fantastic, up-close view of his adaptations.



Students also spent the day searching for rainforest plants in the monsoon rainforest to see for themselves the lianas and epiphytes studied in the lesson.

"I enjoyed looking at the different species and how they interact with each other and with people. It was a good day to see some real geography out of the classroom." - Harrison K, Year 12



Our Year 10 geography students appreciated their trip to the zoo. Pip F commented that she "loved learning about camouflaging sloths and how camels adapt to their environment by storing food in their humps and having big feet to stop them from sinking in the sand."

Jessica H shared, "It was a great visit and I really enjoyed myself. I loved seeing the elephant and got myself an elephant toy from the gift shop!"

Zac C was very excited to see the capybaras and luckily his group visited them just before an interesting visit to the pitch black fruit bat forest!



# Year 7

# Creative Corner



Get to know a selection of our fantastic Year 7 students by discovering some of their creative hobbies and projects. Plus, they share their favourite memories so far of their first half-term.

## Georgina B, 7JJ



I love performing and this includes dancing, singing and acting. I attend classes for ballet, tap, commercial, musical theatre and singing. I have been in lots of productions such as *Shrek*, *Matilda* and *Bugsy Malone* and have performed in the musical *Oliver!* at the Regent Theatre. I just LOVE to perform on stage and for an audience. It gives me confidence, enjoyment, excitement and motivation to keep improving. It helps me to stay fit, make new friends and make my family proud. I loved auditioning for and then getting a role in the school production of *We Will Rock You*.

## Melody B, 7LGI

I love to sew and I have created a Disney themed apron for my little cousin. It is relaxing and fun! I've really enjoyed English with Mrs Robinson, she is really nice.

## Alexa C, 7NAZ

I like to dance outside of school. I go every Monday and Thursday and I love it. I do three types, freestyle (or jazz), theatre-craft and contemporary. We do shows every eighteen months and lots of people come and watch. We also have to do exams every once in a while to move up to the next grade. Some parts are super fun (like the show) but others can be really stressful. At school, I have loved making some new friends! They are really sweet. I also loved seeing my old friends who are now in Year 8.

## Hope M, 7SMY



My project was to create a small bag with a shoulder strap. I decided to knit the bag using chunky coral wool. I then embellished the bag with a variety of buttons and beads. I find that knitting is a relaxing and fun way to create projects. As I get better at it, it becomes more mindful and enjoyable. I also like sewing and crocheting. I have loved making new friends at school and seeing kindness every day.

## Ella M, 7ESH

I like doing art, I have been painting and drawing for 9-10 years and I have grown interest in it. It helps me to focus and learn more about the art world. At school, I have loved participating in the after school art club.

## Gurleen K, 7ESH



I have a passion for art. Here, I've made a Halloween themed painting! I love art because it's relaxing and I can draw or paint anything that I want on a piece of paper. I have enjoyed going to Art Club.





### Dexter B 7LC

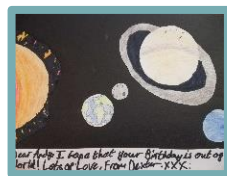
I like making cards for my family for my mum's birthday or Mothers' Day or my stepdad's birthday or for my nana and Big Al. Everyone likes my cards because they know that I've spent more time on them and not just been to the shops for a card and they are personal to my family. At school, I love the pizza bagels at break time!



'Have an  
ACE  
birthday!'



'I hope  
that  
your  
birthday  
is out of  
this  
world!'



### Elizabeth R 7NAZ

I love to do art and make stories. I love to draw because it helps me relax when I'm sad or bored. I love to write stories and one hope of mine is to become an author. I really enjoy English with Mrs Robinson.

### Lennon F 7RJJ



I play drums. I like this activity because I like to listen to and play new music on. I like playing and performing upbeat pieces of music. I really like rock music and my favourite bands are Foo Fighters and Fontaines D.C. I have quite liked using the microscopes in Science, learning how to play the piano in Music and discovering the Vikings in History.

### Millie H, 7JJ

I like to do boxing, football, running, dirt biking and listening to music. I like painting and drawing because it is relaxing. My favourite memory is when I met my new best friend,

### Kira N 7JL

I enjoy dancing because I get to express myself and try out different moves and put them together and see what works and what doesn't work. I have liked making new friends and adapting to the new school environment.

### Andisyn T 7JJ

I play the piano, do martial arts, I love drawing and I love Lego. I enjoy playing the piano and learning new skills, I have been learning the piano since 4 years old. I enjoy martial arts, I am on blue belt - I'm about to get purple! I like martial arts because it helps with defence and respect. I love drawing things that I am interested in. Every Christmas, I have extra difficult Lego sets as I enjoy building them and following instructions. I came to high school as the only person from my primary school and I have made some great friends.



# Duke of Edinburgh



Well done to the Year 10 and 11 students who completed their Bronze and Silver awards and attended their rescheduled expedition in September. A huge thank you to Miss Townshend for all of her hard work as DofE Manager. Mrs Hayes looks forward to taking over and supporting our students as they take on the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

From Tuesday, 15th October, there is a weekly drop-in session at lunchtime for all students participating in the Duke of Edinburgh 2024/25 Bronze & Silver Awards. Mrs Hayes will be in the Library from 1.15-1.45 pm to help with any logging of activities, help with the choosing of activities and any other queries. Please get in touch with Mrs S Hayes if you have any questions; email [dofe@bb-hs.co.uk](mailto:dofe@bb-hs.co.uk)

Further information on DofE can be found at: [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org)



## Getting started

**Are you ready to start an adventure you'll never forget?**

To get started with your DofE, speak to Mrs S Hayes.



**Mrs S Hayes**  
Duke of Edinburgh Manager

"I am absolutely thrilled to have the responsibility of being the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Manager here at Blythe Bridge High School and Sixth Form. It's a really good opportunity for me to get to know the young people and having conversations with them that are positive about what they're doing and how rewarding the opportunities and skills that they're doing are affecting them positively in their lives."

**The DofE is a charity. Visit [DofE.org](http://DofE.org) for more information.**



**YOUTH  
WITHOUT  
LIMITS**

# Colour Run



Towards the end of the summer term, we had our fantastic charity colour run.

Students from all year groups got involved with the colourful afternoon, raising a massive £728 for Midlands Air Ambulance and UHNM Charity. Both charities received a cheque for £364.

Logan B presented the cheque to Pip from Midlands Air Ambulance after receiving support in school from the charity earlier in the year; an incredible full circle moment and an opportunity to thank a fantastic organisation for helping such a lovely student in time of need.





# House Updates

## House Charity Bake-Off

In late September, our staff competed in the first staff house competition of the academic year. Staff baked their best cakes, cheesecakes and biscuits to battle it out for the first house points. Some lucky members of our Year 11 prefect team judged the competition. We are delighted to say Mrs N Johnson took first place for Pegasus house, with a trio of delicious cakes. Mrs H Willott took second place for Sphinx, leaving Centaur in 3rd and Serpent in 4th.



**Coming soon...** As our Year 7 students have discovered whether they are in Centaur, Pegasus, Sphinx or Serpent, our year of house events can get started... Stay tuned as our students will have numerous opportunities to win house points and show off their best work to collect tokens for their houses too. In PE, there will be competitions in netball, rugby, dance, swimming, football - plus another sports day for students to work together and win the trophy. Check out the totals so far!

## Serpent



## Centaur



## Pegasus



## Sphinx



# Our Students





# Our Students





# Amazing Achievements



During the school holidays Archie G in Year 11, participated in a pool tournament streamed live on Ultimate Pool TV which sought to find out which was the best county team from the country. Archie was part of the under 23 team representing Staffordshire who came out as winners from the 8 teams who had qualified for the live finals.

The winning streak continued this week when Archie, along with his team mates from team LSP Juniors, won the Longton Snooker and Pool Club Summer Cup League, which has been ongoing over the last few months.

Only dropping two games from the group stages, storming the semi-finals, the team (who were the youngest of all teams who had entered) won the final 7-5. Well done Archie!



In early October, our very own Zach M, 9BRO delivered an impressive performance on the track, clinching the 2024 championship title for the

second consecutive year! Despite not feeling his best, Zach showed incredible determination and maturity, pushing through the challenges and securing a thrilling victory by mere seconds. He took the lead on the final corner, showcasing his skill and tenacity.

Zach's journey in the world of enduro racing has been remarkable. He started riding just three years ago in 2021, quickly making a name for himself by finishing second in the championship that year. Since then, he has dominated the field, achieving two first-place finishes in the following seasons. What makes his accomplishments even more impressive is that many of his competitors began their racing careers at a much younger age.

Throughout the season, the race promoter has consistently praised Zach, highlighting him as the rider that others in the field should look up to and emulate. As a community, we couldn't be prouder of his achievements and the sportsmanship he embodies.

In addition to his championship win, Zach has received an exciting invitation to participate in the prestigious Weston Beach Race. We wish him the best of luck as he continues to chase his dreams and inspire others in the racing community!

Aviaana, Ava, Frankie, Isobel, Eva, Ellie and Aaron represented Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form at the prestigious UHNM Awards Evening. They were treated to a 3-course meal after being nominated for the Volunteer of the Year Award for all their excellent work volunteering in the elderly care ward at Royal Stoke Hospital.

They narrowly missed out on the overall award, but we are incredibly proud of them and the rest of the school community who have supported the UHNM charity. It was lovely for our staff and students to see Mrs Pheasey again at the event, and we thank her for all she did with our students and UHNM charity during her time in school.



# Student Leadership Awards



On Monday, 8th July, we hosted our first Student Leadership Gala to celebrate the many ways our students demonstrate their capacity to motivate, lead and influence their peers. The evening began with a review of the many achievements the teams experienced last year. For example, we heard about the amazing work of the Charity Ambassadors volunteering in the Elderly Care Ward at Royal Stoke Hospital, the excellent work of the Communication Champions creating a PRK podcast, and the work of the EDI (Equality, Diversity & Inclusion) team creating and sharing our very own school charter. One of the highlights of the evening was the guest speaker, Mr C Rogers, who shared his leadership knowledge and experience with students and their parents. Year 7 Skills Champions showcased their skills, delivering a speech about the JTMAT Leadership Extravaganza they had attended. Josh S talked about the incredible work of the PRK committee in promoting our core values of Pride, Respect and Kindness. The hardest part of the event was choosing just one student and/or team to come away as the overall winner. I am already looking forward to the successes we will share this academic year. Will the Year 11 Literacy Leaders be crowned Student Leadership Team of the Year 2025? Or will the PRK committee conquer all?

## 2024 Winners:

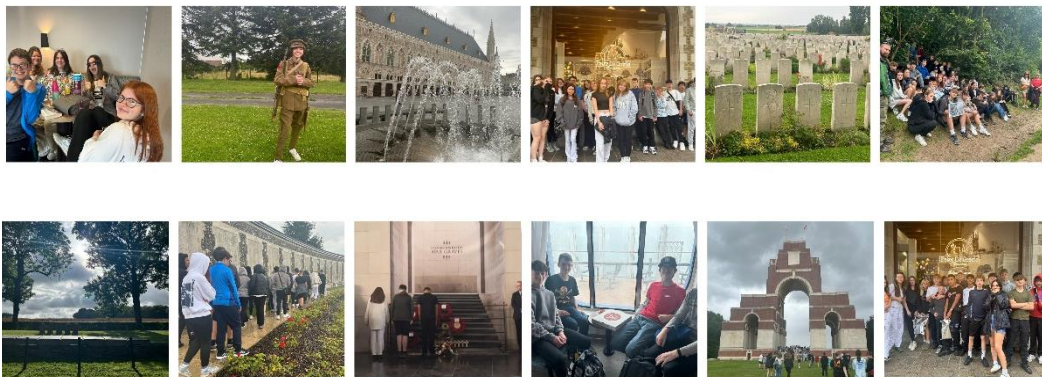
- Student Leadership Team of the Year:  
EDI Team
- Student Leader of the Year:  
Ava B: Charity Ambassador
- Best Student Communicator:  
Toby B: Communication Champion
- Best Student Influencer:  
Dexter H: Chess Champion
- Best Newcomer Leader:  
Michael O: Skills Champion
- Best PRK Champion:  
Frankie A: PRK Committee
- Sixth Form Leader of the Year: Lucy I



# Year 9 History Trip

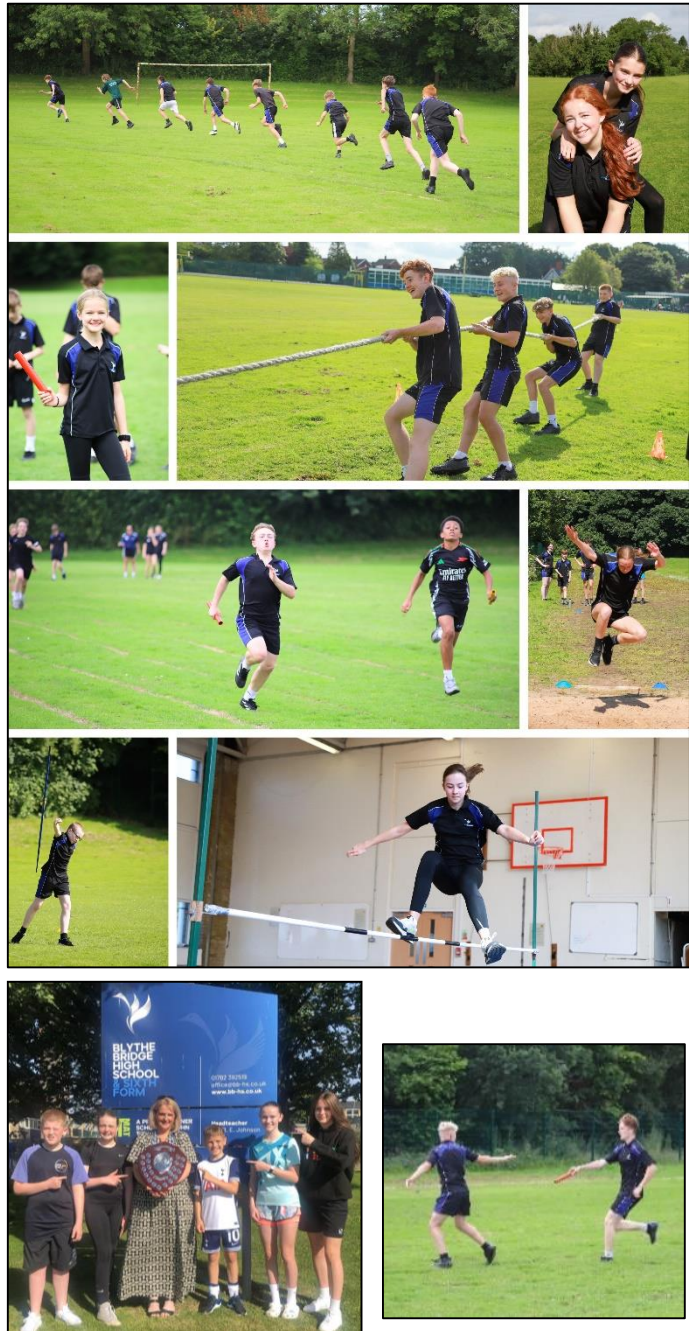
In July, Mr Roberts, Mrs Davies, Mrs Hanvey and I took 41 Year 9 students to Belgium and France on a history visit. Our visit aimed to learn about World War One trench conditions, visit different cemeteries and participate in the Menin Gate remembrance service in Ypres. We left school incredibly early on day one and travelled to Belgium via coach and ferry. We visited Ypres and learnt about the many battles that happened on the Ypres Salient. The rainy weather made it easier to reflect on the difficult, muddy conditions the soldiers who lived & fought in trenches here faced. We visited Tyne Cot cemetery, the largest British & Commonwealth cemetery, and our students were blown away by the sheer scale of the site. We finished day one by taking part in the Menin Gate ceremony. Here, The Last Post, the traditional final salute to the fallen, is played by the buglers of the Last Post Association in honour of the memory of the soldiers of the former British Empire and its allies, who died on the Ypres Salient during the First World War (1914-1918). The Last Post Association intends to maintain this daily act of homage in perpetuity. Our students paid our collective respects by laying a wreath beneath the gate, and we were incredibly proud of the way they showed their respect during the service. From Ypres, we travelled to France and spent the night near Albert, next to the Somme battlefields.

On the second day, we visited a German cemetery to compare the different ways countries remember their fallen soldiers. From there, we travelled to Beaumont-Hamel and Newfoundland Park. Students walked around the park using the preserved trench system and learnt about how the small Newfoundland regiment helped prevent German progress on the Somme. We listened to accounts from British soldiers regarding the bravery of the regiment. For example, British General Aylmer Hunter-Weston said: "There were no waverers, no stragglers, not a man looked back {...} It was a magnificent display of trained and disciplined valour, and [their] assault only failed of success because dead men can advance no further." From Beaumont-Hamel we walked to Sunken Lane and considered the different ways soldiers were treated if they became injured or unwell whilst fighting and living in the trenches. Over lunch, Amelia D entertained us all dressed as a World War One Tommy before we packed up for the last time and headed to the village of Thiepval. Here, we spent time looking at the names on the Memorial to the Missing and many of the students bought books and souvenirs in the gift shop to help them remember this special experience. We arrived back at school just before midnight on day two, and as we handed back some very tired students, we reflected on the many ways they showcased pride, respect, and kindness during the residential visit.



# Sports Day

This July, our school buzzed with energy as we held our highly anticipated Sports Day. The afternoon track events were a thrilling showcase of talent, with students competing fiercely in the 100m, 200m, and relay races. The atmosphere was electric, and the level of competition was outstanding. From the very first race, it was clear that our students were ready to give their all. They demonstrated not just speed, but also remarkable sportsmanship, cheering for one another and celebrating every effort on the track. The enthusiasm continued into the next day, where more events unfolded, and our students showcased their unwavering spirit. We couldn't be prouder of our students for their determination, teamwork, and leadership. Their achievements not only reflect their athletic skills but also their commitment to supporting one another. Overall, Centaur House emerged as the champion, followed by Pegasus, Serpent, and Sphinx. Congratulations to all participants! Let's keep the momentum going as we look forward to next year's Sports Day!





# Running to Victory



Our students have been crushing it in cross country running this half term! Our girls' cross country team had a successful half-term, with the Year 7 team winning first place overall and individual athletes excelling, especially Annabel and Holly, for their silver medals. Well done to the Year 7 boys' team, who also secured first place, and to Year 8/9, who finished in 3rd place. Congratulations to Noah and Euan, Year 11, for their outstanding performances, with Euan winning an individual silver medal for the second time this season! Additionally, Euan O and the under-16 girls' netball team were recognised as the September PE performer and team of the month, respectively.





# Heads of Year

## Year 7

As the Head of Year, I am filled with pride as I reflect on the remarkable transition our Year 7 students have made from primary school to high school. It has been truly heart-warming to witness these young individuals embodying our school's core values of Pride, Respect, and Kindness.

From the very first day, our Year 7s have taken great pride in their work and uniform, showcasing their commitment to our school community. They are not only respecting their peers and all staff members but also fostering a positive environment that encourages collaboration and support. Simple gestures, like asking a teacher if they've had a nice day, reflect the kindness permeating our hallways, and this spirit makes our school so special.

I am also thrilled to see so many Year 7 students diving into our extracurricular activities. Whether it's through sports or craft clubs, they are eagerly taking every opportunity presented to them. This engagement is vital not just for their personal growth but also for building friendships and developing new skills.

Looking ahead, we have some exciting events lined up! Don't forget to mark your calendars for our Festival of Arts on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November and our Christmas Carol Service on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> December. These occasions promise to be wonderful celebrations, and I encourage all Year 7s to participate!

I am genuinely excited to continue watching our Year 7s flourish this year. Their enthusiasm and commitment are inspiring, and I am confident they will continue to shine as they embrace all the opportunities that come their way.

**Miss E James**  
Teacher of Health, Sport & Exercise,  
Head of Year 7



# Heads of Year

## Year 8

We welcomed Year 8 back into school in September with various upcoming opportunities for them to be excited by. Two groups of students will be travelling to France and Belgium for their French trip in December, where they will visit a bakery, take a trip to the Lille Christmas market, decorate chocolate at a Belgian chocolate factory and most importantly, practise 'un petit peu de Français' during the visit. I cannot wait to see our students enjoy their festive French trip.

Mrs Avons has launched the Charity Champions initiative, a platform for our students to make a real difference. Two students from each year group will be selected to be the face of kindness, spreading goodwill and making our school community a better place. This is a chance for our students to shine and we are proud to support them.

The big event for this half term is the return of the Halloween Disco. Hard work is going on behind the scenes to make this an unforgettable event for our students. Year 7 and Year 8 students are gearing up with their best costumes and face paint, ready to dance to some of DJ James' best tracks. The best part is that our students are having fun and contributing to a good cause. Money will be shared with our PRK committee and African Adventures. We will update you on the total amount in the following newsletter.

I look forward to seeing what Year 8 accomplish in the next half-term.

### Mrs P Hart-Cadman

Head of Year 8

Teacher of Business, Finance and Computing



## Year 9

Well done on a positive start to Year 9! I have been impressed by how the majority have returned from the summer and settled back into their routines.

This year is important for you all. This year, you will choose your options and need to consider which options will be best for you. It would help if you used the time in the curriculum to help guide you in getting ready for the options evening later in the year.

We have launched the Bronze DofE award this half term, and I look forward to seeing the number of students who will put their names forward and work towards achieving the bronze award this year. There have also been 26 students who have put their names forward and started to raise money for their African Adventures during Easter 2026. Mrs Adams and the team are already well on their way to raising the funds needed with an array of activities.

Mr Goodwin launched the out-to-work day with Year 9. Letters have been sent home, and we eagerly look forward to hearing about your experiences during the summer term. We have been fortunate enough that students have partaken in an engineering day. Each student attended one session on Thursday, 3rd October, where they learned about critical loads and built impressive towers to withstand 2kg weights. It was a joy to see the groups get involved with the task and work together to find the best solution. They demonstrated pride, respect and kindness throughout their sessions and I'm sure they've gained a wealth of knowledge from this experience.

### Miss K Fargher

Head of Year 9

Teacher of Science

# Heads of Year

## Year 10

Year 10 have really hit the ground running as they have started their journey towards their GCSE examinations. I have had some fantastic conversations with you about your options choices and how you are engaging with new content and concepts within your chosen subjects. The feedback from your teachers has been great to hear and has made me feel really proud!

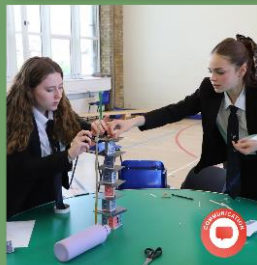
Reading continues to be a focus in Tutor Time as we really value the huge benefits that this brings. We have implemented group reads to two tutor times a week, and I have been fortunate to come and read to Year 10 forms on a Tuesday morning. It's been great to hear some of you talking about your 'group read' outside of Tutor Time, wondering what might happen next, and looking forward to continuing with the book the next day. Thank you for engaging so well with your 'reading for pleasure' slots; this has also been lovely to observe. We have enjoyed some great assemblies this half term, setting expectations, celebrating 60 years of Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form, looking at self-improvement and celebrating Black History Month.

Following last year's successful 'out to work day', we are delighted to offer Year 10 students the opportunity to attend a work experience placement from Monday, 14th July to Friday, 18th July 2025. This will allow the students to sample working life in an area they may be interested in moving forward. This experience is great to add to CVs when applying for future jobs and UCAS applications for university. The deadline for all forms to be completed and submitted back to school will be in February 2025. Stay tuned for further details.

I wanted to make special mention of your kindness as a year group since returning from the summer break. So many of you have been seen supporting our new Year 7 pupils, whether this has been helping them to locate their classroom, supporting with a shoe lace or helping them find their friends. This hasn't gone unnoticed, and I know, goes along way towards helping younger pupils feel safe, respected and supported. Well done!

Congratulations to you all on a successful half term, and I look forward to following your successes and achievements as we move throughout the term.

**Mrs S Davies**  
Head of Year 10  
Teacher of PE





# Heads of Year

## Year 11

Year 11 have returned to school with a sense of maturity and understanding that this is an incredibly important year for them. Students have already had conversations with members of the senior leadership team regarding post-16 education, and this has given them a sense of purpose for what they are striving towards. Students will also be receiving a careers interview, with excellent guidance and advice to hopefully steer them in the right direction—a big thank you to all students and parents/ carers who attended the year ahead evening. Crucial information regarding this academic year was relayed, as well as how to support students, particularly in core subjects. To supplement this, there will be a study skills workshop that will take place just before Blythe Bridge High School and Sixth Form's sixth form open evening on Thursday, 24th October. This is a fantastic opportunity to identify what barriers there are to examinations and revision, as well as guidance on how to overcome these.

The Year 11 prefect team has been selected after an application process, and I am delighted to announce the prefect team.

Their first official responsibility took place during the Year 6 open evening, and we could not be any prouder of the way they represented our school so well, certainly demonstrating our core values of pride, respect, and kindness. This is the first of many engagements and projects in which they will be involved, and I look forward to sharing their many successes with you all in the future.

### Mrs L Cartlidge

Head of Year 11  
Curriculum Leader  
of Philosophy and Ethics

#### PRK Team

Lily A  
Phoebe C  
Hannah D  
Georgia H  
Bluebell KC  
Ari R  
Joshua S  
Darcie W

#### EDI Team

Aimee B  
Ellie E  
Charlotte S  
Thinethma W  
Sydney W

#### Careers

Meadow AT  
Freya C  
Bethany C  
Archie G  
William H  
Jessica R  
Ben R  
Harshdeep S  
Ryan S  
Lexi-Mai SB  
Amber W

#### Literacy

Lucy B  
Scarlett B  
Grace B  
Olivia B  
Poppy E  
Emily E  
Isla H  
Isobel M  
Isabel M  
Ellie P  
Ella R  
Amber S  
Lily S



#### Head Prefects

Darcie W  
Harshdeep S  
Joshua S  
Lily F

#### Senior Prefects PRK

Tamsin C  
Ruby L

#### Senior Prefects EDI

Elijah C  
William S

#### Senior Prefects Careers

William E  
Jessica S

#### Senior Prefects Literacy Champions

Emma G  
Jorja H

# Extra Curricular Clubs

We offer a wide range of extracurricular clubs, including our popular breakfast club, where students can fuel up, get on top of homework, and socialise in the morning. We also have clubs for chess, PRK podcast, escape room, football, trampolining, orchestra, STEM, choir, sculpture, craft, and our eco-garden - the endless possibilities! These are just a glimpse of the vibrant opportunities waiting for you. We encourage our students to dive into these experiences, nurture their talents, and grow alongside their academic pursuits. Discover the full line up of extracurricular adventures on Frog.



## KICKSTART

**N1**

**8:10-8:40am**

MEET FRIENDS  
CHECK HOMEWORK  
READ OR PLAY GAMES  
PURCHASE STATIONERY

TOAST & DRINKS AVAILABLE

SUPPORTED BY  
YEAR 11 PREFECTS

BLYTHE BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM



## PRK

Podcast

### Communication Champions

Are you interested in joining the BBHS podcast?

Researchers

Presenters

Marketing

Editors

Writers

Every Wednesday After-school  
Room 6  
Mr K Knight

Open to  
all  
year groups





# Eco-Garden Club



Our well-being eco garden has always been an area where students and staff love to be at lunch, having a cuddle with the animals and sitting with friends on a nice day.

Many of our students have even taken on their own projects to fundraise for the garden so we can improve the facilities for all to enjoy and thrive.

We are currently in the process of putting up sheds to host gardening equipment donated by members of our school community and a bigger coop for our hens.

This half-term has seen an influx of volunteers, and we have been blown away by the number of students who keep on coming every Thursday after school. They are a great help, and their enthusiasm and energy are certainly contagious.

Winter beddings, vegetables and bulbs are now being planted along with new upcycling projects. Our hens will love their new perch made of branches from our woods, and these skylights will surely make wonderful cold frames!

We are also putting together a few sponsorship ideas to help us look after our animals and allow others to see them blossom. Just keep an eye out for the final product to be released soon.





# Swimming

## Swimming at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form

We have a fantastic facility at BBHS for our students to access. We offer a range of groups alongside our curriculum swimming. These will commence after October half term and include:

Tuesday Early Bird swim – open to all students – 7.45am-8.30am

Tuesday after school boys swimming – Boys Year 7-Year 9 – 3.10pm-4.00pm

Wednesday after school girls swimming – Girls Year 7-Year 9 3.10pm-4.00pm

These sessions all offer guidance on technique and a chance to socialise with friends in a fun environment. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Year 5

Our Five Inspires group has also started for our Year 5 swimmers. These swimmers will have been chosen from our local primary schools. These students will be learning more about swimming as a sport over fourteen weeks, this will include competitive diving and turns. We have also added in a water polo element to give more idea of what sports can be water based.

A promotional graphic for LM swim school. It features a circular logo with 'LM swim school' and a swimmer icon. The text 'BEGINNER SWIMMING LESSONS' is prominently displayed in orange. Below this, it says 'MONDAY-THURSDAY 4+years' and 'Availability starting after OCTOBER HALF TERM'. A 'BOOK NOW!' button is present. The background includes images of a swimming pool and a swimmer.

**BEGINNER SWIMMING LESSONS**

**LM**  
swim school

**MONDAY-THURSDAY**  
4+years  
Availability starting after  
OCTOBER HALF TERM

**BOOK NOW!**

lmswimschool.D@outlook.com

## Swim School

We have numerous beginner classes starting after October half term please enquire at [LMSwimschool.D@outlook.con](mailto:LMSwimschool.D@outlook.con) to book your place and take the plunge!



# Library



## What is available for you in the library

- ◆ Take out books for up to 2 weeks
- ◆ 25 computers for schoolwork
- ◆ Do your homework
- ◆ Use the printer
- ◆ Play Chess
- ◆ Read in your break and lunchtime
- ◆ All of the recommended reads
- ◆ Different clubs and activities at a lunchtime



Year 7 library inductions have been taking place this half term to show students what the library has to offer. After a presentation by Mrs Jones our English classes were then given the opportunity to use the facilities and find a book that would be perfect for them. It has been wonderful seeing so many new students using the library in their lunchtime!

## LITERARY LOWDOWN

**ALICE**

**IN WONDERLAND**



My recommended read is Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll. I think that it is a good book because of the fun characters and ideas. My favourite part is the unbrithday party and my favourite character is the Mad Hatter because he is fun and goofy.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, written by Lewis Carroll and first published in 1865, is a whimsical and fantastical tale that takes readers on a surreal journey through a magical world. The story follows Alice, a curious and imaginative young girl who falls down a rabbit hole and finds herself in Wonderland, a place filled with peculiar characters and nonsensical events. As Alice encounters the White Rabbit, the Cheshire Cat, the Mad Hatter, and the Queen of Hearts, she navigates a series of bizarre and unpredictable adventures.

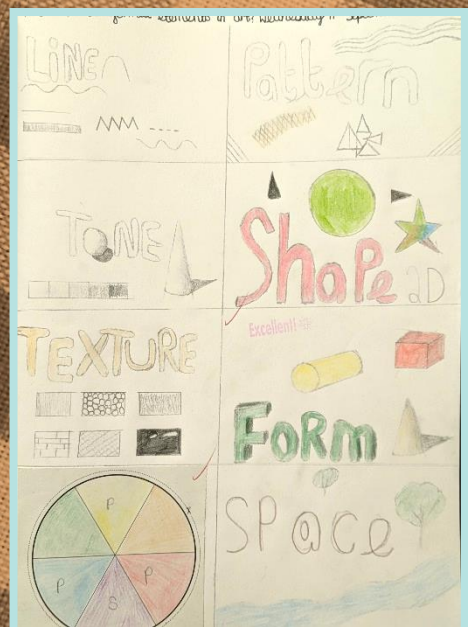
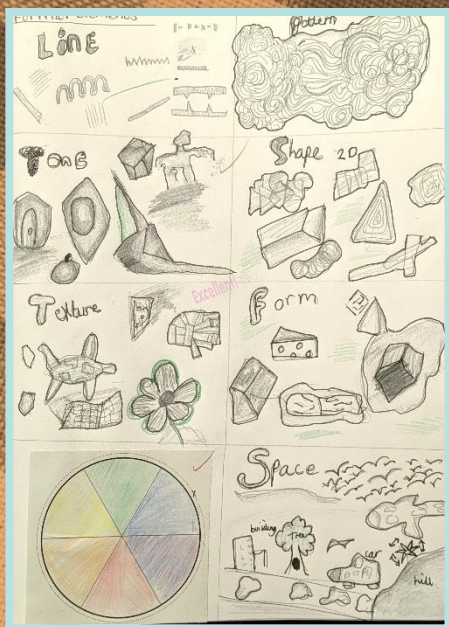
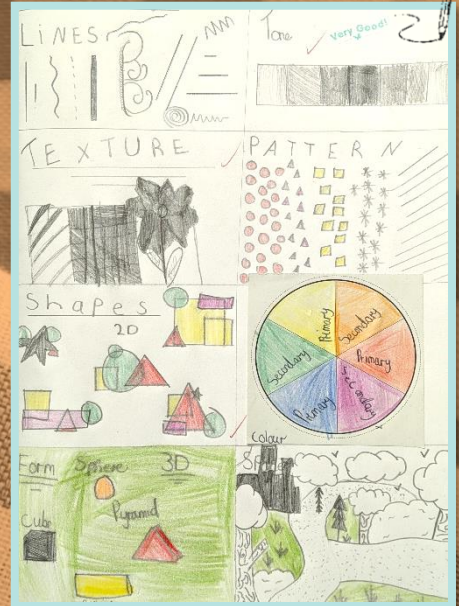
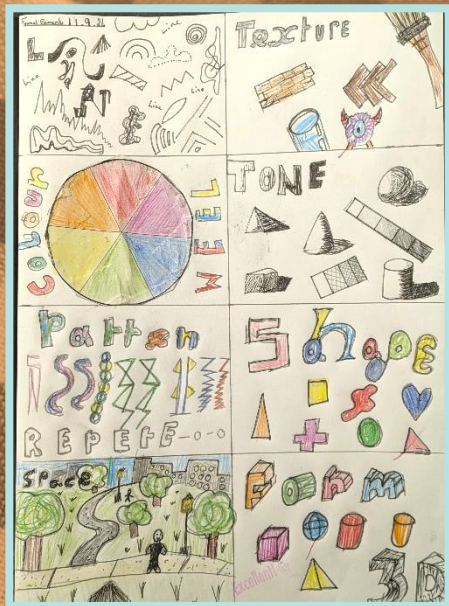
Freya Year 7

We were super impressed by this book review from Freya E, Year 7, who has achieved 20 achievement points for her super effort!



# Year 7 Art

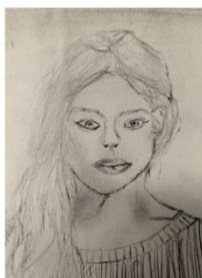
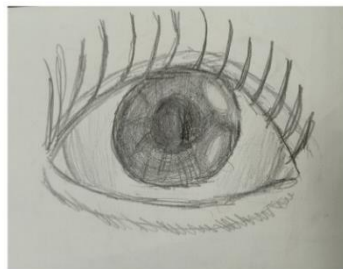
Our Year 7 students have explored the formal elements in Art and have created a detailed page in their sketchbooks exploring each formal element.





# Year 8 Art

Our Year 8 students are exploring portraiture, they have explored drawing the facial features and also looked at the formal elements in art.



# Year 9 Art

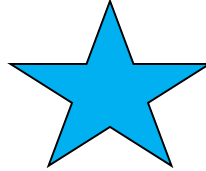
Our Year 9 students are exploring 'Pop Art'. Looking at the historical events that influenced the Pop Art movement, students have produced a timeline and mind map.





# Food Technology

We have been super impressed by our students and their work in Food Technology this half term, a reminder to Year 7 that our Christmas Cake Club launches after October half term. 8XD impressed Mrs Johnson and James A was awarded Star Baker for his hard work on his pizza! Check out how Year 10 have developed their skills in GCSE food, nutrition and preparation lessons to produce bread and fresh pasta.



Held across five consecutive Fridays after school, students will bake, marzipan and decorate their cakes ready to be taken home on Friday 13th December.

Places are limited and will cost £15 to cover the purchase of the ingredients and decorations. Students who are interested should complete the forms link which will be set as an assignment on FROG later this week.







# Welcome!

## ...to S4 Swim School

**A commitment to continuing swimming development**

**Book your place on one of our courses today!**

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

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

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

#### **Term Times**

Our swimming courses run parallel with the school terms.

#### **Holidays**

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

#### **Member Benefits**

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



m: 07903 857471  
finnenau@s4swimschool.co.uk

**s4swimschool.uk**

# Attendance

## Attendance Information

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

## What is excellent attendance?

97% and above	95% to 97%	Less than 95%	Less than 90%	Less than 50%
Excellent	Good	Concerning	Persistent Absence/Critical	Severely Absent/Critical
No more than 6 days/12 sessions absent in a year	No more than 10 days/20 sessions absent in a year	More than 10 days/20 sessions absent in a year	19 days/38 sessions or more absent from school in a year	95 days/190 sessions or more absent in a year

## Days off school add up to lost learning

### 175 NON SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR

175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments

## Lost Learning

*Surely 1 or 2 days absent a week doesn't seem much but this is how it is..*

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

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

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

# Attendance

## Attendance – Is 90% good?

### 90% attendance at the end of the academic year:

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

### 90% attendance for all 5 years:

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

### Important to note

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

### Punctuality

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

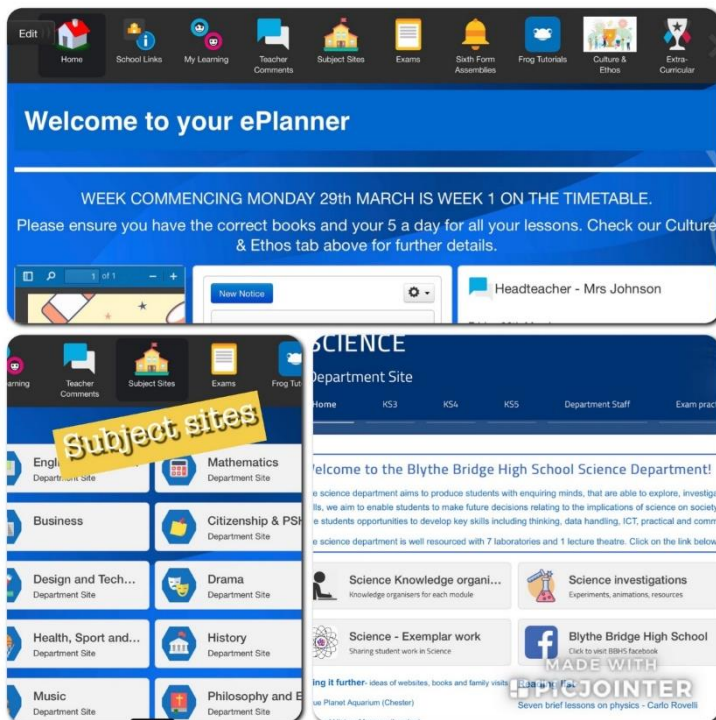


## Learning Platform

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

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

Please get in touch with [frogsupport@bb-hs.co.uk](mailto:frogsupport@bb-hs.co.uk) should you need help with your logins.



# Frog Parent Portal

Here at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form, we implement a service that helps us connect with parents more efficiently. We call this service the Parent Portal.

The best user experience is achieved through a laptop/desktop computer by visiting the website **frog.bb-hs.co.uk**. The Parent Portal is also available through MyFrog; an app designed specifically for smart phones.

The Parent Portal grants access to a pool of information, such as attendance data, behaviour data, homework, timetable, form tutor and teacher comments, letters home and revision materials.

## How to login to the Parent Portal



### Computer / Laptop

1. Go to [frog.bb-hs.co.uk](http://frog.bb-hs.co.uk)
2. Enter username/password



### Tablet / Smart Phone

1. Download the MyFrog app
2. Launch the app
3. Enter [frog.bb-hs.co.uk](http://frog.bb-hs.co.uk) as the school URL
4. Enter username/password

Please email [frogsupport@bb-hs.co.uk](mailto:frogsupport@bb-hs.co.uk) if you require a password reset or further information.

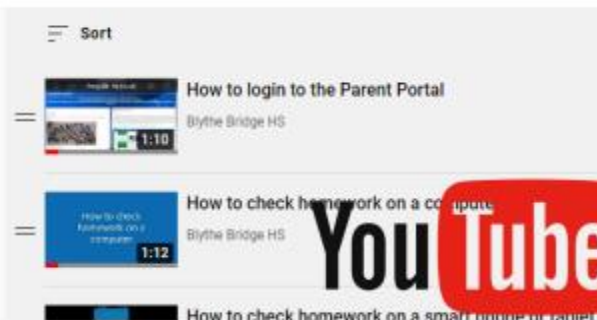
## Parent Portal Tutorials

We have a number of tutorials for navigating the Parent Portal, all of which are available on our YouTube channel.

Visit: [tinyurl.com/ymj8pkz5](http://tinyurl.com/ymj8pkz5) or go to [www.bb-hs.co.uk/parentportal](http://www.bb-hs.co.uk/parentportal)



Parent Portal Tutorial Series



# BLYTHE BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

# COMMUNITY LETTINGS



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 ● ICT SUITES ● ART  
FACILITIES ● HARD COURTS ● SWIMMING POOL



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