

# Friday Focus



Issue 176 | September 2025

Highlights of this week's news at school and forthcoming events

Photo of the week  
#weareblythe



## HUGE TURNOUT FOR ANNIE AUDITIONS

A huge thank you to everyone who auditioned on Tuesday this week to be part of Annie, our musical this year. With over 90 students attending, it was very difficult to make all decisions on the day. We were delighted to offer all students a role within the musical and we look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday 16th September for the first rehearsal - this will finish at 4.30pm and all cast will be needed for all rehearsals. Six students were asked to come back again on Thursday where they were given a different scene (Miss Hannigan, Rooster and Lily - Easy Street) to really see what they could do. From these six we have been able to cast some of the larger roles and all students who have gained a named part have now been emailed directly. We look forward to sharing the cast with you all over the next few weeks.



## BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE

Year 7 were issued with their Book of Knowledge on Monday. This contains the homework we expect students to complete each evening. It clearly indicates what homework to do each evening. We expect it to take around 30 minutes. Please support your child in completing this. Form tutors will check completion each day in form time. For the first week there will be no sanctions. After the first week, students get one chance to catch up on missed homework each half term. After this first chance, students not completing homework with a valid reason will be required to attend a support session in N4 that evening to complete. If this is the case you will receive a text message informing you. We appreciate your support in allowing your child to attend these sessions. Last year 99% of students completed their homework. Students found it very helpful in embedding the core knowledge for each of their subjects. It is recommended that you establish a routine where your child completes their homework at the same time each evening. Where your child has sports or other commitments in an evening they may complete homework in advance. For the first week, there will be no maths homework until student accounts on Sparx have been set up.

## WELCOME

Last night we held our Year 6 Open Evening and I want to thank all of the students who had any involvement in the preparations, our student guides and the helpers in lessons, not to mention the dance and drama performers and those who gave speeches. I was immensely proud of our whole school community and the comments we received from visiting parents and their children were so positive, a real moment to reflect on how wonderful our school is.

Mrs Johnson  
Headteacher

Pride, Respect & Kindness

## Year 12 visit - Oxbridge Hub Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September



## OXBRIDGE HUB

Year 12 students interested in applying to Oxford or Cambridge are invited to the Oxbridge Hub event being held at Kingsmead School later this month. The event is perfect for any Year 12 student who is considering applying to Oxbridge to learn more about the universities and how to make successful applications. The event starts at 5:45pm and transport will be provided from BBHS.

Many thanks to the team at Kingsmead for inviting our students, we know they will find it hugely beneficial.  
@kingsmeadonline

To register your interest, please see Mr Goodwin or Miss Alford.

## In the Hotseat



Pride • Respect • Kindness

## IN THE HOTSEAT

Our first 'In the Hotseat' of the new year started with a wonderful group of students who had much to celebrate. Mrs Johnson enjoyed hearing about a range of accomplishments, from becoming British champion in the International Supreme Sheep Dog Trials to first place in a national extreme fitness competition. Another student shared his successes in the ring getting through to the national quarter finals for his age and weight in boxing. And the amount on money raised by an amazing Year 7 student for UHNM charity was incredible. A fabulous afternoon. Well done to you all!



## BBHS CHESS LEAGUE

2025-26



LUNCHTIMES ROOM 10, bring your own lunch

WEEK 1 MONDAY Years 7,8,11

WEEK 1 WEDNESDAY Years 9,10,12,13

HAVE YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE THE GRANDMASTER OF YOUR YEAR GROUP?

See Mr Pugh(room 10) for more information



## HOUSE CAPTAINS

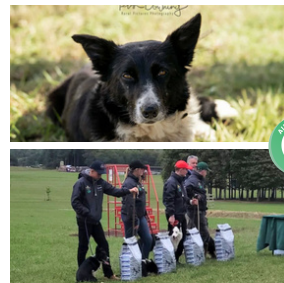
Could you be the next House Captain?

As a House Captain, your key responsibilities will include:

- Setting a positive example for your peers through your actions and attitude.
- Encouraging participation in house events and fostering a strong team spirit.
- Having an input in house events and schedules at house meetings (once a half term).
- Representing your house with pride, respect, and kindness in all school activities.
- Helping to organise and lead house competitions, assemblies, and other events.

The role is an opportunity to make a real difference. By showing **pride** in your house, **respect** for others, and **kindness** in your leadership, you will help create a supportive and inclusive environment for everyone.

Please inform your form tutor by Monday 22nd September if you wish to be considered as a house captain. You can do the role as someone new to it or as an existing captain.



## CHELSEA THE CHAMPION

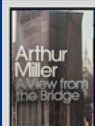
A huge congratulations to Chelsea E (Year 10), who has recently been awarded Champion International Young Handler 2025 — a truly prestigious accolade in the world of sheepdog handling! We are incredibly proud of Chelsea's dedication and achievement on the international stage. She is a fantastic example of how passion, hard work and resilience can lead to remarkable success. Take a look at some of the photos capturing her achievement!

## Drama Reading

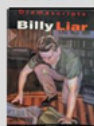
Fancy reading a playscript instead of a novel?

Every half term, the drama department will recommend **three** playscripts that you can **borrow to read**.

This half term's recommendations are:



**A View From the Bridge** is a dark and passionate play recommended for 6th Form as Eddie struggles with his feelings for his wife's niece.



**Billy Liar** is a teenager who aims to make his life more interesting through his 'creative' lies but everyone around him doesn't find them so interesting!



**The Roses of Eyam** tells the story of those brave villagers who decided to block themselves away from the rest of the world to stop the world to stop the world.

You are very welcome to borrow these or other plays through Mrs Baines.



## COUNTY SQUAD SUCCESS!

Congratulations to one of our many talented students who has been selected for the Staffordshire County Girls U16s Squad for the 2025/26 season! Jaimee-Leigh W (Year 10)

She is one of only 22 girls chosen (plus 6 on standby) from across the county — a fantastic achievement that reflects her hard work and dedication.

We are so proud to see her representing Blythe Bridge at this level!

Let the hard work begin — we will be cheering you on all the way!

## Calling all Year 7!



Pride • Respect • Kindness

## Meet the littles of litter pickers as schools join the big clean-up

By Rachel Halliwell for the Daily Mail

Students at Blythe Bridge High School in Staffordshire are used to litter picking — teams of children already take it in turns to patrol the school grounds. Next week around 50 pupils will head out into their village armed with litter pickers and bin bags, having asked the local community to flag up areas that need sprucing up.



## YEAR 7 LITTER PICKERS

Back in 2020, an amazing team of Year 7 students started a community litter picking group spending time improving the environment in and around the school site. Their efforts were even recognised in an article by a national newspaper. This summer, those students collected their GCSE results, so it is now time for some new recruits!

If anyone in Year 7 would like to get involved and help out a couple of times a month they should register their interest through the assignment set on FROG.

### EXTRA-CURRICULAR

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Before School		Open Swim (All Years) 7:45-8:30			
After School		Boys Swim Netball (All Years)	Girls Swim Football (All Years)	Cross Country (All Years) Trampolining (GCSE Students)	

### CLUBS







## AUTUMN TERM MONDAY P4 CITIZENSHIP

Year 7: What are healthy habits?  
Year 8: What are the effects of alcohol?  
Year 9: What is grief?  
Year 10: What is happiness?  
Year 11: Revision skills



## KEY DATES

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September  
• Blood Brothers theatre trip

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September  
• European Day of Languages

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October  
• Year 10 Chester Zoo trip

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October  
• Primary Cluster Concert

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October  
• Percy Jackson Theatre Trip



## CAREERS SPOTLIGHT - BENCHMARK 8

Year 11 careers interviews have started this week. Clare Atkinson, our independent advisor, will spend the next two terms in the new careers corner located in Mr Goodwin's office interviewing all Year 11 and supporting them with their future choices.



## STUDENT LEADERSHIP



Year 12 subject ambassadors for science met with Mr Flavell today to receive their first challenge. Presented with their own copies of the book 'Why don't things fall up?' (which answers fundamental science questions like 'Why is the sky blue?' and 'What is the smallest thing?') the ambassadors will each read a chapter ready for the science House Competition they will launch later this term with Year 7.

Well done to Jess and Ellie (Biology), Om and Oliver (Chemistry) and Seth and Dylan (Physics) for being nominated for these roles. We know you will be fabulous!

## MENU CHOICE

STREETARIES		LUNCH MENU		TRADITIONAL	
WEEK 2		MEXICANA		HOME STYLE	
MON		TUE		WED	
MAINS		MAINS		MAINS	
Smoky Beef Enchilada with Sour Cream		Classic Chicken Pie		Glazed Gummy Boats with Gravy	
Smoky Bean Fajitas with Sour Cream		Honey & Thyme Glazed Veggie Bangers		Open Cheese & Potato Pie with Crispy Garlic & Onion Gravy	
Corn Salads Served Sweet Potato Fries		Mashed Potato Seasonal Vegetables		Skin on Garlic Roasted Roasted Root Vegetables	
SIDES		SIDES		SIDES	
ITALIAN TOMATO PASTA DAILY		PASTA & NOODLE POTS		ITALIAN TOMATO PASTA DAILY	
BROCCOLI SPINACH PUL & PESTO (PASTA)		CHINESE CHICKEN CHOP (NOODLES)		CLASSIC CARBONARA (PASTA)	
DELICIOUS HOT GRAB & GO		FRENCH CROQUE PIZZA SLICE		TIRKA BUTTERFLIE CRUNCHY WINGS	
BIG BOWL SALAD		CAJUN PASTA & ROASTED SUMMER VEGETABLE		JERK CHICKEN & PINEAPPLE	
DESSERTS		Aspen Cookies		Bran (Brownie Cookie Mix)	
Daily Meal Deals		JACKET POTATOES - BEANS - CHEESE - TUNA MAYO OR BAKED PLUM		Freshly Made from Scratch DAILY!	
Chef's Specials		Fresh Cut Fruit & Yogurt Pots Available Daily		HANDCRAFTED DELI SANDWICHES, BRUSCHETTA, WRAPS, SALADS & MORE!	

## ASSEMBLIES

Year 7-10  
Student Leadership with Mrs Avons

Year 12 & 13  
British Values

Year 11  
Teaching and learning with Mrs Adams



## REMINDER

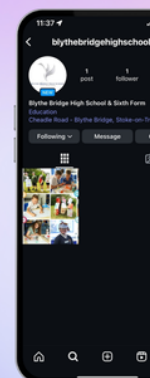
A reminder for students to check their timetables and bring in the correct kit for their PE lessons with appropriate footwear. Please also remember to bring in ingredients for food technology lessons.

Follow us on



Instagram

@blythebridgehighschool



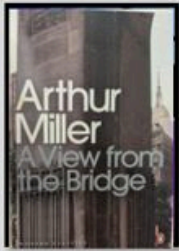


# Drama Reading

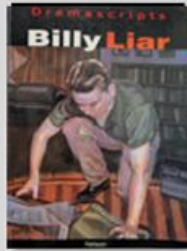
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**plus**  
BLYTHE BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL  
& SIXTH FORM  
PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SHOP

If you are interested in purchasing items please email [t.matthias@bb-hs.co.uk](mailto:t.matthias@bb-hs.co.uk) and we will let you know what we have in stock. Donations are always welcome.

Did you know you can raise free donations for Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form every time you shop online? With over 7,500 retailers including Tesco, Amazon, John Lewis and more, a percentage of what you spend is donated to our school at no extra cost to you. Signing up takes just a moment and is completely free – simply scan the QR code below to get started and help support our students.



## 6 Reasons to Put Your Phone Away

by @Inner\_Drive  
[www.innerdrive.co.uk](http://www.innerdrive.co.uk)



### Lowens Concentration

Having your phone out while doing homework or revision has been shown to reduce performance by 20%.



### Increases FOMO

Fear of Missing Out (FOMO), or the compulsive need to know what others are doing leads to worse moods and increased anxiety.



### Increases Stress and Anxiety

Over use of mobile phones leads to increased anxiety, feelings of loneliness and low self-esteem. Reliance on mobile phones can cause irritation, frustration and impatience.



### Worps Your View of Reality

Nobody is as happy as they seem on Facebook or as wise as they appear on Twitter.



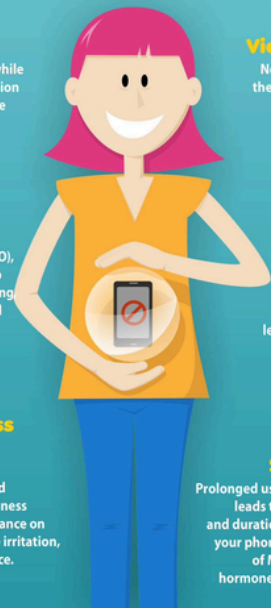
### Reduces Memory

Instant messages are distracting, which often leads to forgetfulness



### Makes You Sleep Worse

Prolonged use of a mobile phone leads to poor sleep quality and duration. The backlight on your phone delays the release of Melatonin, which is a hormone important for sleep.



Funding for Selected Routes

Full or Part-Time Routes

Gain School Experience

## Train to Teach in Local Schools

Primary (3-7) • Primary (5-11) • Secondary (11-16)



The John Taylor SCITT

[jtscitt.co.uk](http://jtscitt.co.uk)



# BLYTHE BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COMMUNITY LETTINGS



BLYTHE BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL  
& SIXTH FORM

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



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





# Free School Meals



**HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET?**

**See if you are entitled...  
It costs nothing to try, so why not give it a go!**

You may be eligible for support via benefits related Free School Meals if you meet any of the following low income entitlement criteria:

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance. Please note the 'new style' job seekers allowance is not a qualifying benefit.
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance. Please note the 'new style' employment and support allowance is not a qualifying benefit.
- Eligible for Child Tax Credit but not Working Tax Credit and the household income (as used by HMRC to assess tax credits) is not more than £16,190.
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- In receipt of the 4 week run on of working tax credit
- Universal credit (provided you have an annual net earned household income of no more than £7,400 as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods). Your net earned income is your household income after taxes and deductions and does not include income from Universal Credit or any other benefits you may receive.

**Even if your child prefers packed lunch, it is worth registering to receive benefits such as:**

- A discounted place on some school trips
- Year 6 Headstart pack on transition including one school tie and headphones
- 20% voucher for National Schoolwear, Hanley
- Access to free food and activities during the school holidays

**Help the school by registering for Free School Meals!**

By registering for Free School Meals, you will also allow school to receive PUPIL PREMIUM, which is extra money from the government to support children from families on lower incomes. The funding that school receives can be used for a range of interventions including help with costs of school trips, music fees, teaching assistant staff, after school programmes and equipment.

The Pupil Premium strategy can be found on the school website.

## Holiday Activities and Food



[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/Holiday-activities-and-food/Holiday-Activities-and-Food.aspx](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/Holiday-activities-and-food/Holiday-Activities-and-Food.aspx)



**To apply, visit the Staffordshire County Council website  
[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/educational-awards-benefits/freeschoolmeals/apply-online.aspx](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/educational-awards-benefits/freeschoolmeals/apply-online.aspx)**