

Friday Focus

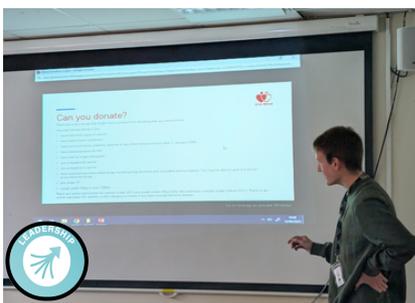


Issue 177 | September 2025



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

Photo of the week #weareblythe



SUPER SAM

This week, both sixth form assemblies have been led by Sam B in Year 13 about blood donation.

Sam explained the criteria to be a blood donor to the students, as well as taking them through some of the statistics about how much donated blood is needed each year for transfusions and emergency operations and how many new donors are needed each year.

He asked them to think about becoming a donor when they turn 17 as he has recently.

A huge thank you to Sam for such a great assembly.



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Our Sixth Form students did a fantastic job organising and running a cake sale for the Macmillan Coffee Morning. Working hard together as a team, they raised money for this vital charity while showing kindness and community spirit across the school. A huge thank you to all staff and students who supported the event and helped make it such a success!

WELCOME

I have had lots of nominations for 'In the Hotseat' this week which is where students are given the opportunity to share something that they are proud of with senior leaders. Sometimes this is a piece of work in school, or an interest outside of school, but it is always a joy to speak to students and a real highlight of our week.

The list of extra curricular clubs and activities will be shared on FROG next week. There are some exciting things available but if students can think of a club or activity that isn't on offer, please ask them to speak to their head of year.

Mrs Johnson
Headteacher

Pride, Respect & Kindness



YEAR 10 EXPLORE THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

Year 10 have recently been diving into the fascinating world of the nervous system in Biology! They've explored the different types of neurons and how these work together to create coordinated responses, such as catching a ball or riding a bike. Students also learned about reflexes — what they are, why they're important, and looked at real-life examples like the iris reflex, startle reflex, and withdrawal reflex. To put their learning into action, they tested their own reflexes using a ruler drop test — measuring how quickly they could catch a falling ruler. They also had a go at a digital reflex simulator, reacting to stop signs appearing on a screen. It was a fun and eye-opening experience — and let's just say, a few students were very surprised at how sharp (or not-so-sharp!) their reflexes were compared to others! 🤖👉



Year 7 Back to School competition winners

YEAR 7 COMPETITION WINNERS

Well done to Lottie and Ben who were chosen at random from all the correct entries in our Year 7 Back to School competition. To help our new Year 7 students get to know key members of staff they were challenged to use the clues to match the school bag to the correct teacher.

Achievement points to all participants and extra achievement points and chocolate treats for the two overall winners!



YEAR 10 NETBALL

Year 10 showed great teamwork in PE this week, working together to pass, move and score some brilliant goals on the netball court. Well done Year 10!



KS3 DT: FOOD INGREDIENTS SCHEME

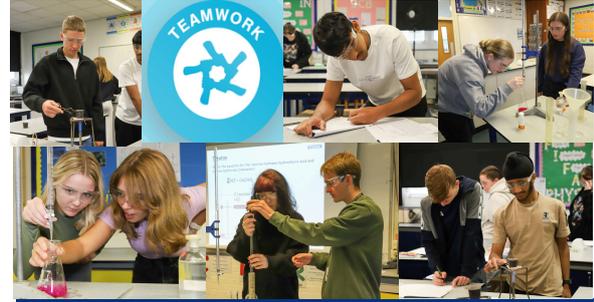
To help support families we offer to purchase base food ingredients in bulk. As well as taking advantage of economies of scale leading to cost savings, it takes the burden off parents needing to do last minute shopping. The price also includes containers to help students transport their finished dishes home.

One-off payments can still be made through ParentPay.



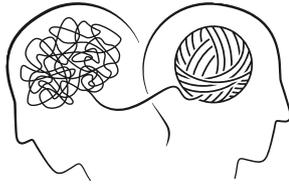
A LEVEL BIOLOGY

Year 13 biologists have investigated plant pigments using chromatography today. They worked hard to separate the plant pigments using the TLC method



A LEVEL CHEMISTRY

Great start to the year for our A level chemists. Students have already completed some challenging concepts such as: nomenclature for isomers, moles and masses, electron subshells and orbitals, mass spectroscopy, organic reactions and solubility products for sparingly soluble solids in equilibrium. Here they are showcasing their practical skills which enabled them to calculate reacting moles and masses (Year 12) and calculating concentrations to feed into equilibrium expressions (Year 13).



YEAR 12 PSYCHOLOGY

We're so proud of our Year 12 Psychology students on such a fantastic start to their sixth form journey! We've dived straight into Research Methods and Attachment, and it's been brilliant to see students bringing theory to life through hands-on experiments.

They've practised writing hypotheses, measuring independent and dependent variables, and identifying extraneous variables.

We began with a creative twist – making their own grassheads to test on.

This week, they've graduated to running experiments on each other, measuring cognitive inhibition – the ability to suppress automatic, overlearned responses in favour of less automatic ones.

It's been inspiring to see such enthusiasm, teamwork, and curiosity already shining through. Keep it up Year 12 – what a promising start to the year!

OUR FANTASTIC LIBRARY

Our school library is the perfect place to study, get ahead with homework, or simply enjoy a good book.

With computers available for research, shelves full of exciting reads and adventures waiting to be discovered, there is something for everyone.

Plus, our friendly librarian, Mrs Jones, is always on hand to offer advice and support whenever you need it.



YEAR 11 COMPETE IN CITY COMPETITION

On Thursday, we saw the Year 11 Boys and Girls play in the City 5-a-side competition. The girls came out as overall winners, comfortably winning all their games without conceding a single goal. An excellent performance, well done!

The boys came a close 2nd in their competition. They finished level on points with the winners but missed out on the head-to-head record. A good performance from the boys to come so close.

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- 1 Download the easyfundraising app
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EASY FUNDRAISING

Raise free donations for Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form - PRK Committee when shopping online with easyfundraising. It won't cost you a penny extra.

All you need to do is:

1. Go to: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/cause/s/blythebridgehscc/ and join for free.

2. Install the app and Donation Reminder extension.

3. Activate your donation before shopping online and the retailer will automatically donate to us for free!

Thank you for your support.



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

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

Check this out



Crochet Club

EVERY TUESDAY 1ST LUNCH

IN THE LIBRARY

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.



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 and we will let you know what we have in stock. Donations are always welcome.

6 Reasons to Put Your Phone Away

by @Inner_Drive
www.innerdrive.co.uk

- Lowers 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.
- Warp's 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.

Train to Teach

in Local Schools

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

The John Taylor SCITT
jtscitt.co.uk

- Funding for Selected Routes
- Full or Part-Time Routes
- Gain School Experience

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



To apply, visit the Staffordshire County Council website
www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/educational-awards-benefits/freeschoolmeals/apply-online.aspx