# Newsletter ....





PRIDE

# RESPECT

# **KINDNESS**



Well done to our Year 12 Subject **Ambassadors who** thriving their leadership roles.

Left to right: Ellie: Biology, Romeo:

Computing,

Bluebelle: Business, Chemistry. Oliver: Chemistry, Evie: Business, Lilly-Mai: Criminology, Holly: Dance.

Isobel: Harshdeep: Further Maths, Freya: Early Childhood Studies.

Joshua: Psychology,

Charlotte: English. William: DT, Archie: Further Maths. Grace: Maths, Daisy: Geography, Billy: **Studies** Sports Lilly-May: Media Studies, Lily: Health and Social Care, Oliver: History.

Georgia-Rose: Geography, Sidney:

Maths. Beatrice: Media Studies.

achievements, new journeys, and Celebrating unforgettable moments at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form



# Headteacher's Welcome

The first term of a new academic year is always a busy one, but as you can tell from this newsletter, there is an incredible amount to share with you. Whether it is updates and photographs from the trips in the summer term or the arrival of our new Year 7 students, sporting and academic successes and looking ahead to our exciting new partnership with swim!, there is plenty to celebrate. The front cover shows some of the photographs of our new Year 12 subject ambassadors. Nominated by teaching staff to take on the prestigious roles, they are already having a positive impact in their roles.

As I write this, staff are making preparations for the annual Halloween disco for Year 7 & 8 students and before you know it, we will be into a number of pre-Christmas events. Dates for the diary include the Year 7 Festival of Arts (25th November), the carol service (1st December) and the school Christmas concert (11th December). Prior to this, we have the first set of mocks for Year 11 students, and the Year 12/13 students have their first assessment week of this year. As well as a half term to rest and recharge the batteries, I know that for these students it will include revision and independent study. Good luck with the hard work - it will be worth it.

# **Mrs R Johnson**

### Headteacher



# **Year 12 Subject Ambassadors**



Our 2025-2026 group of Year 12 Subject Ambassadors is completed by [left to right]: Lucy: MFL, Callum: Sports Studies, Millie-Rose: Philosophy and Ethics, Noah: Physical Education, Tamsin, Philosophy and Ethics, Harry: Physical Education, Jo-Lisa: Psychology, Dylan: Physics, Seth: Physics, Ellie: Sociology, Jacob: History, Lucy: English, Hannah: Photography, Daniel: Politics, William: Sociology and Jack: Politics. We cannot wait to see how you embrace your leadership roles this year!













# **Geography Trip to Wales**

In July, our Year 12 geographers enjoyed a fantastic field trip to North Wales, blessed with glorious sunshine throughout. Day 1 took them to Betws-v-Coed. where thev investigated tourism and the impacts of globalisation before relaxing with games on the village green. On Day 2, the group travelled to Criccieth to study coastal management and processes - the baking hot weather made prolonged data collection tricky, but plenty of paddling helped keep spirits high! The final day was spent at Harlech, exploring beach landforms and sand dune succession, with more paddling to round off an unforgettable few days of geography in action.



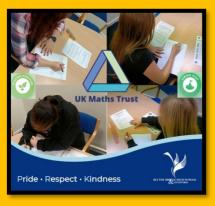




### A New Cohort

Our 2025-2026 cohort of Tomorrow's Teachers have been enrolled. They are very much looking forward to the course and all the external opportunities it brings. One of the students, Evie, is already doing work experience at a primary school during her free periods. A massive thank you to Mr Drew at Springcroft Primary who invited the Tomorrow's Teachers in for a tour of his school recently, and gave an insight into his very colourful career journey.





## **UKMT Competition**

Well done to our Year 12 and 13 girls who took part in this year's UKMT competition, a chance for them to compete against other students from across the country tackling challenging maths problems.



### **Year 12 Oxbridge Hub**

Many thanks to Kingsmead School for inviting a group of Year 12 & 13 students to their Oxbridge Hub evening. The feedback from staff and students was extremely positive and the information shared by the Oxford University outreach team has already been discussed in school.

We are delighted to be working with other schools within the JTMAT to ensure students to have high aspirations for their next steps beyond the sixth form.



### **Sweet Success for Macmillan**

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 have so far raised over £255 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!



**Year 12 Marvellous Mathematicians** 

Introducing our Year 12 subject ambassadors for maths and further maths. Students have already made a great start in their roles helping out at the Year 6 Open Evening. Staff are looking forward to them getting start on the projects they have planned which includes supporting and tutoring younger students with maths.



### Year 13 Cook on a Budget

During a citizenship lesson, students from 13LR worked together to plan and cook a meal using a budget of just £3.50. They discussed different ideas, compared prices, and decided on ingredients that were both affordable and filling.

Everyone had a role - some focused on preparing the food, others managed the shopping list, and a few handled the cooking.

Despite the tight budget, they showed great teamwork and creativity, proving that with good planning and cooperation, it is possible to make a tasty meal without spending much. Star bakers were Louie S and Joseph B for their home-made pizza and their hygiene/cleaning approach.

# **Super Sam's Assembly**

This half term, Sam B, 13EG, led assemblies to Year 12 and 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.

# **University and Apprenticeship Fair**

Year 12 and 13 students travelled to Birmingham on Friday, 17th October, to take part in the UCAS and Apprenticeship fair at Edgbaston Cricket Stadium. This gave them the chance to interact with a wide range of professionals, asking questions about university courses and routes into apprenticeships. There were some great conversations between our students and the representatives, which will help future planning and preparation.

Josh S, 12RH - "I found the careers fair useful as it provided me with a wealth of knowledge about where to continue my post Sixth Form education and provided me with a lot of different routes on how to become a paramedic."









# **Year 12 Psychology**

We are so proud of our Year 12 Psychology students on such a fantastic start to their sixth form journey! We have dived straight into Research Methods and Attachment, and it has been brilliant to see students bringing theory to life through hands-on experiments. They practised writing hypotheses, measuring independent and dependent variables, and identifying extraneous variables. We began with a creative twist - making their own grass heads to test on. They have graduated to running experiments on each other, measuring cognitive inhibition - the ability to suppress automatic. overlearned responses in favour of less automatic ones. It has been inspiring to see such enthusiasm, teamwork, and curiosity already shining through. Keep it up Year 12 - what a promising start to the year!

# **Year 12 Science Ambassadors**

Our Year 12 Science Ambassadors have been busy preparing an exciting house competition for Year 7 and 8 students.

After meeting with Mr Flavell to receive their first challenge, they each read a chapter from Why Don't Things Fall Up?—a book exploring fascinating questions such as "Why is the sky blue?" and "What is the smallest thing?"

The ambassadors have written chapter summaries and created quizzes for younger students to complete, earning achievement points and contributing to their house totals. Well done to Jess and Ellie (Biology), Om and Oliver (Chemistry), and Seth and Dylan (Physics) for leading this fantastic initiative!

# **Sixth Form DT: Creativity and Leadership in Action**









It's been a busy and exciting half term in DT for our Sixth Form students. Our Year 12 DT Subject Ambassadors showed fantastic leadership and communication skills as they supported Year 6 pupils during their transition lesson, helping every student successfully complete their maze project.

In lessons, our Sixth Form students have been busy developing and prototyping their NEA projects, using a wide range of processes — from traditional hand tools and machinery to advanced 3D printing and laser cutting. There was great excitement with the arrival of our brand-new laser cutter this half term, which has already been put to good use. Joe B was the first to try it out while developing the mechanism for his innovative mechanical dog treatment station.

# A Strong Start for Sixth Form Science



This half term, we were delighted to welcome our new Year 12 students into the Sixth Form. Their positivity and enthusiasm have been wonderful to see, with many staff commenting on the excellent start they've made.

In Physics, students have been busy analysing experimental data from oscillations to verify relationships between variables, using their graphs to determine the acceleration due to gravity — with a prize for the team that got closest to 9.81 m/s<sup>2</sup>!

Year 13 Biologists have been investigating plant pigments using thin-layer chromatography (TLC) to separate and identify different pigments.

Our A Level Chemists have also made an impressive start to the year, tackling challenging topics such as isomer nomenclature, electron subshells, organic reactions, and solubility products. They have been showcasing their practical skills too, calculating reacting moles and masses in Year 12, and using concentration data to explore equilibrium expressions in Year 13.

# **A-Level PE Visit Fuse Active**









A group of A-Level PE students visited Fuse Active in Stafford on 3rd October, where they met with Nathan Wharton, co-owner of the a practicing and physiotherapist based at the facility. visit gave students the opportunity to ask questions related their A-Level PE studies. including topics on anatomy, injury recovery, and rehabilitation. They also explored potential career pathways in sport and gained valuable insights into the world of professional athletics and the range of roles available.

Nathan's background in professional football—both as a player at a high level and as a physiotherapist at West Bromwich Albion FC—made him exceptionally well placed to share practical advice and real-world experiences with the students.

# **Transition**





# **Year 6 Summer School**

Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form hosted its annual Year 6 summer school in late July and August for students starting high school in September. 119 students attended the three-day event, completing lessons including DT, cooking, business, French, art, science, PE and room hunt, allowing students to familiarise themselves with their new learning environment.

Year 7 student Lexi said, "I really enjoyed the summer school. I've 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 Nova commented, "I really enjoyed costing and designing the theme park. I found some of the lessons hard, including French, but I really enjoyed all the activities. The science lessons were fab, and I got to use equipment I had never seen before. I would definitely recommend the summer school to other Year 6 students."





# **Year 6 Transition Mornings**

Students attending Partnership schools have had the opportunity to attend their annual Year 6 Transition mornings in preparation for September 2026.

Year 6 student Daisy 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."

Fellow Year 6 student Marnie from Forsbrook commented, "The DT was ace. I loved designing my maze, cutting the materials and glueing it 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 29th and Tuesday 30th June for the annual Year 6 Intake days."





# **Our Students Say It Best**

Attending homework club several times a week has been really helpful for me. It is a quiet place to work through my book of knowledge, and I appreciate the chance to complete homework before heading home.

Esha H, Year 7

I enjoyed seeing the different animals that I hadn't seen before at the zoo on the Geography trip. I like learning about the different landmarks across the world in lesson. **Joshua E, Year 10** 

English has been fun this half term; we've been learning about Shakespeare with Mrs Moorcroft and Mrs Bennett. I like reading the different characters and my favourite part is Leonato from 'Much Ado About Nothing.' Jakob K. Year 8 I was honoured to become a prefect as I've got responsibility. I feel more respected around school. I support Year 7 students if they need help and ensure people are showing respect around school. I feel like I've got an important role.

Precious M, Year 11

I'm looking forward to the French trip and the Duke of Edinburgh expedition which we've been informed of this year. Seeing my friends every day makes me really happy. Lacey C, Year 9 I'm really enjoying the freedom that sixth form has given me. We get to study our subjects in more depth, which has helped me gain a clearer idea of what I'd like to do in the future. Staying here for sixth form has also been beneficial because many of my friends stayed too, and it's nice to have them around. Tyler H, Year 12







**Year 6 Open Evening** 

Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form held its annual Year 6 Intake Evenina on Thursday, September. In excess of 400 people took the opportunity to engage in departmental activities offered within the Year curriculum. Families also had the opportunity to listen to a short presentation from Headteacher Mrs Johnson and senior prefects, whilst watching extracts from our highly successful school production 'We Will Rock You' and our dance academy.

Parental feedback included "We loved the school, including its warm, calm and welcoming environment."

"Your guides were outstanding. They were proud to represent the school and spoke highly of the opportunities on offer."

"Staff were incredibly professional and welcomed us into their classrooms. They were interested in my child's achievements at their current school."

"This tour made my son very excited and can't wait to join you all very soon."

"Having to choose a high school for my child seemed very daunting but we now feel confident that he will enjoy and progress at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form with help and support from the teachers and older students."

Parents are reminded that all applications must be submitted to the city council/authority where you live, no later than Friday, 31st October 2025. Parents will be informed of the outcome of the application on Sunday, 1st March 2026.



# **From Primary to Secondary**



Our new Year 7 students have made a fantastic start, quickly finding their place and enjoying all that Blythe Bridge has to offer. We caught up with a few students to see how they've settled into secondary school life.

Piera L (7LRO) says she's enjoying the variety of subjects and teachers, with science already a favourite thanks to the experiments and learning about cells. She's also taken to the stage, joining the school production of Annie! Her advice to others? "Always arrive to lessons on time and follow the rules!"

Freddie P (7LLM) agrees that Year 7 is even better than primary school, with plenty of new friends and teachers to meet. He enjoys History most of all and is already looking forward to learning about World War Two in the future. With his sister in Year 11, he also enjoys seeing a familiar face around school. His advice is reassuring, "Don't think it's scary, because it's really not!" Freddie is also getting involved beyond lessons by joining the Food Tech Club.

For Riley B (7SFR), art is the standout subject, as he loves to draw and enjoys the chance to be creative without too much writing. He's also keen to take on extra responsibility and is looking at becoming a Library Ambassador. Riley reassures, "Anyone in primary school should look forward to high school as I think it's even better than primary!"

Like so many of our new Year 7s, Riley, Piera, and Freddie are embracing new opportunities and making the most of life at Blythe Bridge. Make sure to check out the Year 7 Creative Corner where some students share their fantastic hobbies and interests.

# **One Year On**

One Year On by Hope M, Year 8
My first year at Blythe Bridge High School
& Sixth Form has gone by in a flash, I have
loved being part of the school community.



I have always felt at home at Blythe,

from the open evening and the transition days, they gave me such a great insight into the school and the wonderful school team, however it was the summer school that really helped me and the other people in my year who attended. It helped us to adjust to our new surroundings, and I was able to make some new friends. It also helped me start Year 7 full of confidence, with a smile, and an idea of what to expect. I was excited for the start of my next five years.

There is always something to do here, from opportunities to support the school in competitions and sport, to supporting open days and celebration events, like the 60-year celebration Diamond Evening (one of my many highlights). Or you can get involved by participating in any of the wide range of clubs. My favourites include STEM, gardening club and orchestra. A friend and I have even set up our own club to help promote crochet; the school is so supportive. You may love many of the other opportunities like craft, drama or sports clubs. You can even perform in school shows if you want to.

The end of the year involved a celebration event; it was great to see so many students celebrating their 100% attendance and winning subject or behaviour awards. I was fortunate to be awarded the Leadership award for Year 7, a fantastic end to my first year.

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











# **JTMAT Christmas Card Competition**

€ould you design a Christmas card to be printed and used by the Trust?

# ENTER JTMAT'S CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

# WHAT YOU COULD WIN!

Win a printed copy of your Christmas card, a certificate and a voucher to spend on art supplies. One winner from a JTMAT primary school, and one winner from a JTMAT secondary school.

# **COMPETITION RULES**

- 1. This competition is open to all children attending any JTMAT school.
- 2. The design should be based on your own imagination/idea.
- 3. Your design should be completed on one side of a white piece of A4 paper or card.
- 4. Please ensure the design is flat and text free. ie. with no writing, no cotton wool or 3D objects as this can cause issues with scanning designs for printing.
- 5. Posters must be submitted to your Headteacher by Monday 10th November. Late entries unfortunately cannot be accepted.

"We believe in the power of education to improve lives - and the world."



# **Swim@ Comes to Blythe Bridge**



# Our new 'Olympian' swimming provider

We're excited to share that our school pool is becoming the home of a swimming school founded by four-time medallist Olympic Adlington. Swim@ will be taking over use of the pool from January 2026 as our private learn to swim lesson provider. As part of the new arrangement, Swim@ investing substantial financial sum into essential

repairs into the pool and a changing room refurbishment. These repairs will improve the learning environment for pupils and families.

Swim@ are running an offer where you can get your first month of lessons for just £10 if you register on their website <a href="www.swim.co.uk/centre/stoke-blythe-bridge">www.swim.co.uk/centre/stoke-blythe-bridge</a>.

If you have young children (aged 3+) this is a great opportunity for them to build water confidence and essential life skills with a trusted provider.

# What you can expect from Swim@:

- · Small class sizes and calm, supportive groups
- Teachers in the water for hands-on guidance
- Full trackable progress, to monitor your child's development
- Planned times (subject to final timetable): Mon-Fri 4-7pm + weekend mornings.



Register your interest at <a href="https://www.swim.co.uk/centre/stoke-blythe-bridge">www.swim.co.uk/centre/stoke-blythe-bridge</a> or scan the QR code to be the first to hear when spaces go live.

# Over 16? Learn to be a swimming instructor and teach here at Blythe Bridge!

Swim@ are recruiting locally for part-time roles suitable for members of the community aged 16+. No prior qualifications are required; all training is provided and is nationally recognised. All certifications are fully funded. The hours are flexible hours fit around studies or childcare and the roles offer valuable experience working with children and the community. Students and other members of the community aged over 16 can apply here: <a href="mailto:swim.co.uk/swim-careers/">swim.co.uk/swim-careers/</a>

# **Mindful Mondays**



On this year's World Mental Health Day, we were delighted to welcome visitors from The Inspirational Learning Group and The Oli Leigh Trust to celebrate our amazing group of Year 10 students, who created "Mindful Mondays" as part of the Oli Leigh Trust Mental Health Challenge. We were joined by parents and special guests to celebrate their success and hear powerful, moving stories about mental health and resilience.

Earlier this year, the group travelled to London to present their idea - and won the challenge! Their incredible project has been published and shared with schools across the country to help young people practise mindfulness and improve their mental health. Plus, they have a brand-new logo, combining The Oli Leigh Trust's existing logo with the group's design.

We couldn't be prouder of what the students have achieved - their work will change lives and make a real difference to young people across the UK.

# **Junior Sports Journalists**







writen by Michael O Adam Q and

photos by Mason M

Today we got the opportunity to speak to the PVFC Blythe Bridge Sixth Form team and here is what some of them had to say.

When the coach was asked about his latest Year 12 players, he said they settled in quite well, they're enjoying their football, working hard, and getting their practise in. The training as of now consists of the basics mostly possession drills.

They look forward to their first match on Wednesday, and the coach thinks he has a good group with lots of quality that could do very well throughout the season.

We also spoke to one of the Year 13 players. He thinks they are looking more promising this season and hopes he can encourage them to do well. The team has improved on their ability and their team morale. He stated, 'it is a good feeling representing our school and PVFC in matches across the country' and has recognised the opportunities and knowledge he has gained. A team goal has not been established just yet but it's clear they want the title! As a personal goal this year Nikoli wants to be a leader on and off the pitch, contribute more to matches, get at least 15 goals/assist and hopefully win a personal award





# In the Hotseat





Our first In the Hotseat of the new year returned with a bang, as we celebrated an inspiring group of students with a wide range of achievements. Mrs Johnson was delighted to hear about successes including becoming British Champion in the International Supreme Sheepdog Trials, taking first place in a national extreme fitness competition, and reaching the national quarter finals in boxing for age and weight. Adding to the celebrations, a remarkable Year 7 student shared his story of raising an incredible amount of money for UHNM Charity — a brilliant example of determination and kindness in action.

For the second In the Hotseat, Mrs Kadri joined Mrs Johnson to meet another group of exceptional students. Their achievements ranged from a Year 13 student applying to university to study nursing while also dedicating time to voluntary work, to a Year 11 student excelling in RAF Cadets. The spotlight also shone on two more students whose dedication and talent have led to great success in golf and taekwondo. Together, these celebrations highlighted the wide variety of passions, talents, and hard work within our school community — a fantastic start to the year, and a reminder of just how much there is to be proud of here at Blythe Bridge.

# **Duke of Edinburgh**

We were so proud of the progress our students made towards their Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards last year. Year 10 student Fred M is about to embark on his Silver DofE journey, whilst Year 11 student Lily B, has just wrapped hers up.

We sat down with them to ask about last year's adventure and how they worked towards their sections.

Fred M, 10GM "For the physical section, I swim at the school swimming pool, which I really enjoy. For my skill, I chose Warhammer, which has always been interesting to me and for my volunteering, I love to help in the school eco-garden. I like working with other people and helping to care for the garden and animals. I found DofE really fun last year – minus the cows in the fields!"

Lily B, 11CFL "I enjoyed engaging with new people that I wouldn't normally talk to throughout my time on DofE. For my skills, I used my love of baking to bake and decorate cakes. I volunteered as a babysitter with my siblings and for my mum's friends. For physical, I did water sports and focused on paddleboarding, which was exciting. My advice to anyone doing DofE this year? Hmm, for the expedition: don't overpack and bring baby wipes!"

# **Going for Gold**

A group of sixth form students from 13EG are continuing their Duke of Edinburgh journey by working towards their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. Good luck to Poppy-Mae R, Owen L and Iona M.















Are you ready to start an adventure you'll never forget? To get started with your DofE, speak to Mrs S Hayes.





Min's 3 Hayes

Date of Edinburgh Manager

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# **Student Excellence**



# **Year 10 Explore the Nervous System**

Year 10 have recently been diving into the fascinating world of the nervous system in Biology! They have explored the different types of neurones 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 are 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!



# **World Mental Health Day**

We brought the sunshine to school to mark Hello Yellow. It was fantastic to see the school sprinkled with bright yellow clothing and accessories. Our amazing school community has so far raised over £199 to support YoungMinds and raise awareness of young people's mental health. Thank you to everyone who took part!

A reminder of the resources which YoungMinds offer to support parents and carers if you ever need help and advice to support your children.

### This includes:

- online resources:
   www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/
- a phone line, open 9.30am-4pm: 0808
   802 5544
- an online chat for parents and carers to speak to trained professionals if you are concerned about your children's mental health:www.youngminds.org.uk/parents -helpline/

Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Owen, Designated Safeguarding Lead and Mental Health Lead, on s.owen@bbhs.co.uk or via the school office.

# **Student Excellence**



# **Visit to our Escape Room**

MScape visited our school escape room to check how the students have met the brief which was given to them last year. The feedback was excellent, "We were super impressed by the latest escape room designed by the Blythe Bridge students. A lot of time has been taken to design the room, as the Mscape team we thoroughly enjoyed testing it out."

The room is going to be managed by the team over the coming weeks for students to earn house points! The team are now going to work on their next creative room theme given to them by Mr Goodwin, watch this space!







# **Hitting the Slopes!**

Year 7 student William F is carving out success on the ski circuit! A dedicated member of Stoke Scorpions at Festival Park, William also trains with the Alpine Academy and competes across the UK as part of Snowsports England.

He recently took part in the National Schools Snowsport Association (NSSA) competitions — a fantastic pathway for young athletes looking to develop their skills and gain experience in competitive skiing. Last year, William placed an impressive 5th at the UK Dry Slope Championships, and he's now preparing to race on snow at the upcoming Chill Factore competition.

With the NSSA having helped launch the careers of athletes like Olympic skier Dave Ryding, William's future on the slopes looks bright. He will proudly represent Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form as an individual competitor — and who knows, maybe he'll inspire a school team in the years to come!



# **Year 9 Spotlight**



**Year 9 Engineering Workshop** 

Year 9 all took part in an engineering workshop delivered by Liam from 'The Inspirational Learning Group'. They developed new understanding on engineering and were set a team task design around 'critical load'. They all performed excellently, one student stated: "I've enjoyed it because it was hands on, and I learnt some key skills about engineering."





# **African Adventures 2027**

Our 2027 volunteers met at Port Vale FC to discuss the fantastic progress they are making in the fundraising of their mission to go to Kenya in 2027.

We were impressed with how much progress they have made and the variety of ideas that have been taking place in the community.

It was also a good chance for the volunteers to meet students from other schools who will also be taking part in the experience. Keep up the great work!



# **Student Excellence**



City 5-a-side competition

On 25th September, 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.

### **Key Stage 3 Homework Success**

Year 7 and 8 students have in total completed a combined 6,820 homework in the Book of Knowledge so far, this ½ term. Of those only 17 students have not completed the expected homework at some point this term - they have been supported in doing so in sessions afterschool with the help of staff.

This means that 99.75% of all homework set this term to Year 7 and 8 have been completed! Congratulations to all students who are building their knowledge and understanding through engaging with the homework.

A big thank you to all parents and carers who are supporting this.



**Year 7 Science** 

Mr Knight's Year 7 science group used microscopes to accurately draw cells in their workbooks.

The students displayed teamwork well and worked enthusiastically to draw their onion cells. Well done Year 7!



**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!

# **Sport Superstars**





### **Fantastic Footballer Felix**

Our very own Felix in Year 7 has been selected to take part in the regional training camps for football for Wales. The first training camp will be a 2-day camp in the October half term followed by another 2-day camp in the December half term.

Felix will be part of this for the next year, where hopefully all of his word work, grit and determination will pay off! Felix has been in the academy system for many years and is an extremely successful footballer who plays for Manchester United's academy.

Felix has blown us away with his exemplary attitude and resilience that he has demonstrated on and off the pitch and it is wonderful to see Felix getting the recognition that he truly deserves. We look forward to seeing Felix's football journey as he continues to shine.



### **Cross Country**

Our girls' cross-country team have now completed their school series at Trentham Academy and St Joseph's. They have represented the school with pride, and we have 3 athletes who will now progress to represent the city. This is a fantastic achievement, well done to all of you!



### **Netball Competition**

Our U16 Netball Team took part in the Stoke-on-Trent City Netball Competition, with 12 schools and a total of 14 teams competing — and what an incredible day it was!

In our group stage, we faced Horizon, Biddulph, Haywood, Trentham, Meridian, and St Peter's. The team played brilliantly, winning all but one of our group matches — including some fantastic scorelines, with our highest win being 7-1!

This outstanding performance placed us 2nd in our group, earning us a spot in the 3rd/4th place play-offs. We then came up against Excel in a great, hard-fought game — and although they took the win, our players gave it everything right until the final whistle.

We finished 4th overall out of 14 teams

— a fantastic achievement and something to be incredibly proud of!

Every single player showed tremendous pride, teamwork, and determination when representing Blythe, and we couldn't be prouder of them. Well done, team — a great result!

# **Year 11 & Careers**



### **Year 11 Head Prefects**

Congratulations to Louis, Holly, Liam, and Scarlett for becoming Head Prefects!

We cannot wait to see how they embrace their leadership roles this year and embody our school values every day.



### **Careers Area**

There were a number of changes around school over the summer including an updated area for careers. In addition to the careers HUB, we now have a dedicated space where Year 11, 12 and 13 careers interviews will take place with Clare Atkinson, our independent careers advisor.

There is also a new display with a focus on applications to Oxford and Cambridge. If any student from Year 7 to 13 would like a chat about future aspirations with Mr Goodwin, whether it's looking at local apprenticeships or applying to university, it will make a comfortable space to explore those opportunities.

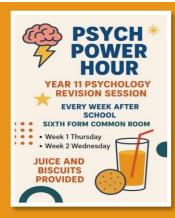


## **Year 11 Aspirations**

Year II took part in 'Aspiration Discussions' this half term with senior and middle leaders. It was an opportunity to discuss their preparation for upcoming mock examinations and find out what support they need moving forward in Year 11. Staff were impressed with the engagement and enthusiasm displayed by our students.

Good luck in your mock examinations after half term.

# **Outside of the Classroom**



# **Year 11 Psychology Revision**

A huge well done to all the fantastic Year 11 Psychology students who have been attending our revision sessions.

It has been brilliant to see so many of you kick-starting your revision programme with enthusiasm and focus!

Let's keep the momentum going - little and often is the key. Keep building those strong habits now for GCSE success in the summer!





# **Year 11 Geography Trip**

Mr Knight and the geography team had a lovely day with Year 11 students at Carding Mill Valley despite the rain! Mr Knight was so proud of the group as members of the public commented how polite all students were.

# **Key Stage 3 Inspiration**

### **8SMY Get Fundraising**

Well done to 8SMY for embracing the challenge of raising money for charity with creativity and enthusiasm! In July, their fantastic Craft and Cake Sale raised an impressive £121.36 – a brilliant effort for a great cause. We're so proud of their teamwork and generosity! Thanks to our community for showing their support during the sale.









# **Literacy Leaders Read With Year 7**

Our newest group of literacy leaders returned to reading for pleasure with Year 7 students this term!

Students had the opportunity to discuss their current form time read, before reading together.





# **Trip to Chester Zoo**

In September, our Year 10 and 12 Geographers visited Chester Zoo to continue their 'Living World' topic and to study the species found in the rainforest and desert biomes. We had great weather, and students were lucky enough to spot the jaguar and tiger, although the sloths and snow leopards eluded us! Students were not impressed by the cockroaches, but loved the opportunity to view inside the meerkat enclosure! Year 12 students also took the opportunity to complete some fieldwork to investigate the impacts of visitors within the zoo.

















# Visit to Tossa de Mar, Spain

June 2025 saw our thirteenth group of Year 10 students visit Tossa de Mar in Spain. This year, we flew from London Luton Airport to Barcelona Airport, before travelling to Tossa de Mar. The students were accompanied Mr by James, Mrs Jones, Mrs Goodwin. Mrs Kadri and Mr Sutton. The weather was lovely when we arrived. and after checking in, students spent the first day by the hotel pool. We were very lucky that the day we arrived was La Noche de San Juan (La Nit de Sant Joan in Catalan). annual festival of fire celebrated on 23rd to 24th June with music. dancing, fireworks and bonfires. We were lucky to be able to walk up to a viewing point near Tossa de Mar's lighthouse in time to see the bonfire on the beach being lit and a firework display.

On Tuesday, the group visited the PortAventura theme park, and on Wednesday, we spent the first of two davs Barcelona. Students visited the Stagefront stadium, where Reial Club Deportiu Espanyol play, and students visited the first team's dressing room. trophy room, press room and visited the pitch. In the afternoon, students visited El Poble Espanyol. an open-air museum with shops, cultural exhibitions and architecture in the style of the different regions of Spain.











On Thursday, we visited the city of Girona and toured Girona Cathedral, before spending the afternoon souvenir shopping in Tossa de Mar and sunbathing by the hotel pool.

On Friday, after checking out, the group made an departure early Barcelona for a second day in the city. We met two tour guides who took us around key places of interest in the city, both on foot and by coach. We visited the Gothic Quarter, the Born district, Barceloneta and Montjuïc.

Afterwards, students visited the Cosmo Caixa science museum, where everyone wanted to see the capybara living in the rainforest, and then we visited the Barça store before flying home.

Thank you to all staff for their hard work during the week, and to the students for their excellent behaviour during the visit.





# **School Musical**



### **Annie Comes to Life**

Annie rehearsals are going really well, with the sounds of 'It's The Hard Knock Life', 'Tomorrow' and 'Little Girls' ringing out from the hall every week. We have even been in on a Saturday where we all got to meet our Sandy - cue lots of cuddles and licks!

The students are all working hard and we look forward to showing you the fruits of our efforts in February. Tickets will go on sale after Christmas so keep an eye out!





"I'm Lilly Mai, I'm in Year 12 and I'm playing Rooster, Miss Hannigan's cunning and crafty brother. Rehearsals have been going well, and I've loved exploring Rooster's cheeky, over-the-top personality! I feel honoured to play such an iconic character. I've always loved the performing arts, so getting to perform in my first musical has been such an exciting experience. I've been working on the 'NYC' dance scene, which has been great fun, but I'm especially looking forward to 'Easy Street'. The hardest part is keeping his fast-talking charm natural, but it's getting easier, and I can't wait to see the whole show come together!"



# **Performing Arts**



### **Costume Design**

Year 10 Performing Arts students have produced some great pieces of work looking into costume design ideas for the characters Mrs Johnstone and Mrs Lyons from Blood Brothers.

They have shown great understanding of the status and class of the two characters and how that would be shown through what they wear.



# Year 10 Classwork

During their first lesson, students worked in pairs or groups of three on a piece of script work. The students had to make key decisions about the characters and movements to make sense of their performance. Mrs Baines was really pleased with the confidence and teamwork they all displayed.

Working in pairs, they rehearsed and developed their understanding of the characters and then performed in front of the class. Their classmates gave positive and useful feedback to each group to enable them to improve their acting skills further.

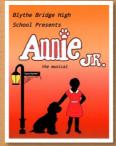


# **Theatre Trip**

Over the last few weeks, the drama department has run evening theatre trips to The Regent Theatre in Hanley to see 'Blood Brothers' and 'The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical'. These were open to all Year 8-10 students, and it has been wonderful to take students who have not been on a school theatre trip before. There were tears at Mickey and Eddie's deaths in 'Blood Brothers' and there were thrills and spills with Percy, Annabeth and Grover. A huge thanks to Miss Townshend and Miss Balewski for joining us on the trips and to all of the wonderful students who attended both trips.







# **Annie Poster House Competition**

Mrs Baines has loved seeing the entries into the drama house competition and knows she has a tough job working out the winners.

# **Our Students**















# 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.

### Katy-Hope B, 7HBE



I enjoy making clay bead bracelets and selling them. At the moment - 1 am working on fundraising for my international Girlquiding trip to Croatia 2027. I like how you can be creative with the designs, and you can wear them and match them with vour outfits. Αt school. I am enjoying making new friends everyday.

### Georgia S, 7LRO

My favourite hobby is cheerleading. I eniov tumbling and doing stunts. It is super fun being lifted up into the air!



### Ava H. 7LM

My hobby is horse-riding. I have been doing it for years now, I really enjoy it, and it gives me joy. I have grown attached to horses. For me. it's peaceful. I love horses so much and really want my own!

### Millie P. 7LM

I do taekwondo. Taekwondo gives me strength and enjoyment. I meet new people when I attend the championships, which are normally in Bristol. attended summer school which I enjoyed. My favourite lesson was D.T.

### Theo H. 7LLM

I like playing football and poetry. My favourite memory was getting into academy team in PE.

### Joel O. 7HBE

Sword spinning is something that can be very enjoyable for spinners and audiences, as I have nearly mastered it, I can take others as my apprentices. It's fun. easy. and there's lots of aspects of it such as duelling, spinning and so much more.



### Pippa N, 7LLM



# Elsa T, 7EMF



### Sienna N. 7LLM

I love to read and go on my bike. I have enjoyed getting to know the school and finding my way to lessons.

### Lottie R, 7LLM

I love doing gymnastics because it is really fun and entertaining. Plus. it makes me feel relaxed and happy. Mv favourite memory of school so far was playing bench ball in PE!



### Olivia L. 7SFR

I am a member of a competitive (level 2.1) cheerleading team. We meet twice a week to train and we put together routines to showcase at 4 or 5 competitions throughout the season at different locations. I enjoy cheer because it is about working together as a team and making new friends along the way. It is good to keep you fit and healthy. My favourite memory at school so far is meeting all of the teachers that I have and making new friends.

### Grace H. 7EMF

I love drawing and doing drama. I enjoy drawing because you can just get lost in your imagination. I enjoy drama because you can be whoever you want to be even if that's not possible, it is. My favourite memory is in PE, and we were on the trampolines, and everyone was singing the banana song, and we couldn't stop laughing!

### Sammy-Joe N, 7LM

I like cleaning and organising as it helps to calm me. My favourite memory so far is when I got a certificate from history two weeks in a row!

### Daisy F, 7HBL

A hobby I do in my free time is work on art projects, I sometimes use my lightboard, for tracing pictures from books or magazines, and sometimes do freehand art. I enjoy creating 3D models and 2D pictures, for 3D, I use my 3D pen or cardboard. My favourite form of 2D art is sketching. I enjoy art because there is such a widespread range of activities to do, and you can express yourself in how you create each piece to show your personality. You get to choose how you make it, and it is fun to create. One of my favourite memories from the first half term at high school was when I made my first new friends.

### Duszan E, 7LM

I like football and carpentry a lot. My favourite lesson at school has been PE as I get to play football in the lesson, which is a lot of fun.

### Tabitha L. 7HBE

I do Acro once a week, which is a mixture of acrobatics and dance. I enjoy Acro because it combines my two favourite things, which is dance and acrobatics. It is enjoyable because I learn new skills every Monday! I am really enjoying my PE lessons right now as they are very exciting!

### Isabela D. 7HBE

I do ice skating. I enjoy ice skating because when you get on the ice, the coolness and the breeze calms you down and you can just flow on the ice, creating a relaxing atmosphere for me. A special memory was when it had recently been my birthday and all the friends I had made at school showed how much they cared. I got my favourite chocolate, Skittles and some more sweets I am so grateful that they are my friends.

### Cara P. 7LRO

I love to act. Outside of school, I do a drama class called Rooftops. It helps me to express myself in other ways and I often just let myself get swept into the moment. A favourite memory of mine was the first time that I saw my smiley form tutor, Mrs Robinson.

### Grace H. 7EMF

I absolutely love to dance; I go to Vivienne Shelly dance studio. I also dance with my friend, Teresa S. I am really good at street and disco/jazz dance. I enjoy this hobby because I can express myself through dance and I just love it. One of my favourite school memories is when we were all singing along to the funny language videos Mr McConvey let us watch.

## **Student Leadership Gala**





Student Leadership Team of the Year: PRK Committee

Former Head Prefect Ellie

On Monday, 7th July 2025, we hosted our annual 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 academic year. For example, we heard about the amazing work of the Charity Champions who cooked meals for our local shelter, the excellent work of the PRK Committee who organised the Christmas Fayre and subsequently raised £2,000, and the work of our Literacy Leaders championing reading across the school.

One of the highlights of the evening was the guest speaker, former Head Prefect Ellie Rogers, who shared her experiences of leadership at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form and the many ways she has since built on these skills studying at the University of Bath. Another highlight was the excellent dance routine performed by our Key Stage 3 dance leaders. We could not be prouder of their hard work, dedication and resilience. We also added additional special recognition awards this year for students who had gone above and beyond to lead others, both at school and in the wider community. It was wonderful to hear so many examples of the ways our students lead others here at Blythe, and further afield, including as far as Kenya.

Yet again, 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 PRK committee retain their title as Best Student Leadership Team? Or will the Year 11 Careers Prefects take the crown this year with their work supporting younger students with advice about their futures?

#### 2025 Winners:

- Student Leadership Team of the Year: PRK Committee
- •Student Leader of the Year: Ava W PRK Champion
- •Best Student Communicator: Tyler-Jay C KS3 Sports Leader
- Best Student Influencer: Fred M Skills Champion
- •Best Newcomer Leader: Hope M EDI Champion
- •Best PRK Champion: Nazli K Year 7 Inspires leader & Dance leader

## Student Leadership Gala













#### **Student Leadership** Opportunities...Join today! • To empower students to work in partnership with the school towards shared goals • To enable creativity to flourish as the school community benefits from the wealth of experiences, ideas, skills and sense of fun that students bring To provide opportunities for students to develop leadership skills through a variety of inspiring and challenging school improvement projects. To prepare students for their futures, and for achieving personal and professional excellence after formal education.





Mrs Avons or email e.avons@bb-hs.co.uk

## **History Trip**

In July, 55 students took part in our annual visit to the World War One Battlefields of Belgium and France. This year, we added an additional night to the trip to allow us to spend an extra day in Belgium and what an excellent decision this was. On the first day, after an early morning start and a brief Eurotunnel ride onto the continent, we visited Langemark Cemetery and learnt about the first gas attacks



of the war in 1915. We carried on to Tyne Cot cemetery, the biggest British & Commonwealth cemetery, before learning all about trench design and trench life at the Passchendaele Museum.

On day two, we left the hotel early and headed into France and on to the Somme. This jampacked day started at the Somme 1916 museum in Albert before we learnt about the use of underground mines at Lochnagar Crater. We went on to learn about the terrible experiences of the soldiers who went into battle at 7.30 am on the 1st July 1916, at Sunken Lane and Beaumont-Hamel. Lastly, we moved on to the Thiepval Memorial of the Missing, which certainly was a poignant way to end our time in France. However, our learning and reflection did not stop here; on our return to Belgium and after a quick dinner at our hotel, we took part in the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate.

On our third day, we learnt about the experiences of John McCrae, who famously wrote 'In Flanders Fields' and heard about the heartbreaking stories of those soldiers who were shot at dawn in Poperinge. The day, and our visit ended with a visit to Sanctuary Wood, where students thoroughly enjoyed exploring the excellent trench system, which extends deep into the forest.

Sixth Form Student, Aleeza B, wrote the following about her experience. "I'm really grateful that I had the chance to go on the Belgium & France trip last year. I've always thought of myself as more of a STEM student, so I didn't expect to enjoy the history side of things as much as I did, but I was honestly surprised by how interested I became. Seeing the sites we used to talk about in history lessons gave me a new perspective in terms of history and World War One. My group leader was Mr Caldwell whom



I spent a lot of time with. He was so informative and had loads of backstories about the places we visited, which made it all come alive. One of the biggest moments for me was when he helped me find my family name on the Menin Gate memorial. I was honestly shocked to see it there, and it made the trip feel a lot more personal. It wasn't all serious, though we had fun too, like chocolate shopping, which was definitely a highlight."

























## **Dance Academy**



Meet the 2025/2026 Dance Academy Students

We are so excited that our dance academy students will be performing at the Regent Theatre in Hanley in February 2026. The students are a mix of Year 8 - Year 12 students and they are an incredibly talented group! Please come and support us if you can, tickets will be available on the Regent Theatre's website soon.

## **House Updates**



Big congratulations to Centaur as the house champions for the 2024/25 academic year.

Centaur: 2334 (1st) Pegasus: 2235 (2nd) Serpent: 2190 (3rd) Sphinx: 2043 (4th)

Keep an eye out for future house events this year from the chess league, fantasy football, modern foreign languages, sixth form, sport, pool, Annie poster and Art – all results will be shared in due course.

## Centaur



## **Pegasus**



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. 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, Serpent House emerged as the champion, followed by Centaur, Pegasus, and Sphinx. Congratulations to all participants! Let's keep the momentum going as we look forward to next year's Sports Day! Enjoy a selection of photos on the next page on what was a glorious day to celebrate our school community.

Serpent



Sphinx



## **Sports Day**



























# Vear 7









#### Year 7

We are delighted to extend a heartfelt welcome to all our new Year 7 students and their families as they begin their journey with us here at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form. Starting secondary school is a significant milestone, and we are incredibly proud of how confidently and enthusiastically our Year 7s have embraced this new chapter in their lives.

From their very first day, our newest students have made a fantastic impression. Their transition into high school life has been smooth, positive, and full of energy. It has been particularly pleasing to see how quickly they have adapted to the routines and expectations of school life. Their maturity, resilience, and commitment to learning have stood out - setting the tone for what we know will be a successful and rewarding year ahead.

We have been especially impressed with students' behaviour for learning, which has been exemplary. Staff have consistently commented on the focus and determination being shown in lessons. Many students have already received high achievement points for demonstrating our school values, contributing to lessons, and working hard in class. These points are an important recognition of student effort and attitude, and it's fantastic to see so many Year 7s already achieving personal success.

Another area where students are excelling is homework. The quality and consistency of homework submissions have been excellent, reflecting the strong learning habits that are being developed so early on. It's clear that our Year 7s are taking pride in their work and striving to do their best.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all the parents and carers who attended our Year 7 Year Ahead Evening. It was lovely to meet so many of you in person, and we truly value the strong partnerships that exist between home and school. Your support plays a vital role in your child's success, and we look forward to continuing to work together throughout the year.

One of the most encouraging developments so far has been the enthusiasm for reading during morning form time. Students have engaged positively with our reading programme and are already developing strong reading habits. This daily routine not only strengthens literacy skills but also fosters a calm and focused start to each day. It's a joy to walk through the Year 7 form rooms and see students immersed in a great book.

We're also delighted with how well-used and appreciated Egerton 7 has become – our dedicated social space designed just for Year 7 students. This area offers a safe and friendly environment where students can eat their lunch, play games, read, and relax with friends. It's quickly become a highlight of the school day for many, and a great way for students to build friendships and feel part of the Blythe Bridge community.

As we look ahead to the next half term, there is already much to look forward to. Preparations are underway for our Christmas Carol Service, which will take place at St Peter's Church on Monday 1st December. This is always a magical event in the school calendar, bringing students and staff together to celebrate the festive season. In addition, our Festival of Arts is on the horizon – a celebration of creativity, talent, and expression across music, drama, dance, and other areas of the curriculum.

Once again, we would like to say how proud we are of our Year 7 students for the fantastic start they have made. Their energy, enthusiasm, and commitment have made a real impact, and we are excited to support and watch them grow throughout the year.

Welcome to Blythe Bridge - we are so glad to have you with us.

Mrs L Cartlidge Head of Year 7 Curriculum Leader of Philosophy and Ethics





#### Year 8

We have started the year really well, with our Year 8 students settling straight back into the rhythm of Blythe life. It's been fantastic to see so many of you setting personal goals for the year ahead and reflecting thoughtfully on your first year with us. Remember, having a growth mindset takes you far in all areas of life.

As we move forward, I want to stress the importance of punctuality and attendance. Being on time and present every day is absolutely key to your success, not just in your lessons but across the whole school experience. This will be a major focus for us throughout the year, so please do your best to arrive promptly and attend every day.

In Citizenship lessons this term, we have been focusing on health and wellbeing. This important topic helps us understand how to take care of ourselves and each other, something that is especially important as we grow and learn.

We continue to promote a love of reading during form time, and it's been wonderful to see all the form groups so engaged with their group reads. I've loved hearing your plot predictions. Keep those coming.

We've already had some fantastic successes this year including a big shout-out to our Year 8 cross country team for their great efforts. I would love to see even more of you throw yourselves into the many extracurricular clubs on offer this year. There really is something for everyone and it's a brilliant way to expand your horizons and meet new friends.

So, as we continue through the year, keep doing your best in lessons, be punctual at all times, and try something new by joining an extracurricular club. Here's to a fantastic year ahead.

Miss E James Head of Year 8 Teacher of Health, Sport & Exercise

#### **Hope Hits the Mark**

We're incredibly proud of Year 8 student, Hope M, 8SMY, who has achieved fantastic success in her novice first ever archerv competition. Competing in the Angela Swain New Century Bowman Novice Competition in this September, Macclesfield Hope took first place in her division (Under 14, Ladies, Recurve Bow, National 30) with an impressive score of 528 - a new personal best and a remarkable 60 points ahead of second place!

**Following** outstanding her performance, Hope has been invited to the Olympic Archery Centre in Lilleshall to be assessed National the Development Programme, part of the Olympic Talent Pathway. The assessment involves a full day of training in technique, strength exercise. leadership. teamwork, and advanced technical skills. If successful, Hope ioin the six-month programme, working with an Olympic coach and attending regular sessions at Lilleshall - an incredible opportunity that could lead to selection for the National Group Academy ultimately, representing Archery GB.

We wish Hope the very best of luck — a true rising star in the making!





#### 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 a number of students who have put their names forward and started to raise money for African Adventures during Easter 2027. The team is already well on their way to raising the funds needed.

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.

Year 9 students had a fantastic time at a recent engineering workshop, where they put their creativity and collaboration skills to the test. The session focused on designing and constructing towers using limited materials, challenging students to think critically, communicate effectively, and work as a team.

It was inspiring to see their enthusiasm and problem-solving abilities in action. The workshop not only strengthened their understanding of engineering principles but also highlighted the importance of teamwork in achieving shared goals. Well done to all involved!

Mrs P Hart-Cadman Head of Year 9 Teacher of Business, Finance and Computing

#### Year 10

Year 10 have made an excellent start to the academic year, demonstrating real focus and maturity as they begin their GCSE courses. Their attitude in lessons has been outstanding, and it's clear they've embraced the challenges ahead with determination and purpose.

Beyond the classroom, our Year 10 students have also stepped up as ambassadors for the school. A number of them proudly represented the year group at the recent Year 6 Open Evening, where they impressed prospective parents with their confidence. politeness, and enthusiasm. The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive, with many visitors commenting on how articulate and welcoming our students were.

There has been a strong focus on student leadership this term. Through form time discussions and assemblies. we've explored what it means to be a leader-not just in formal roles, but in everyday actions and attitude. It's been fantastic to see that the vast majority of the year group are already demonstrating leadership skills their conduct, their commitment to learning, and the way they support one another. We're very much looking forward to seeing them grow into more formal leadership roles as the year progresses.

In our recent assemblies, we've encouraged students to keep their eyes on both the small and big picture. We've spoken about the importance of daily habits - how consistently doing the small things well leads to success in the bigger challenges.

Another assembly focused on recognising and valuing the support networks around them, encouraging students to reflect on those who help and guide them, and to make the most of that support as they strive for success.

It's been a fantastic start to the year, and we're excited to see all that Year 10 will accomplish in the months ahead.

Miss K Fargher Head of Year 10 Teacher of Science



We are thrilled to celebrate three of our amazing Year 10 students.

Congratulations to Jaimee-Leigh W. who has been selected for the Staffordshire County Girls U16s Squad for the 2025/26 season. Out of the whole county, only 22 girls were chosen (with 6 standby). making this remarkable accomplishment that reflects her dedication. skill, and love for the game. by Alessia Russo, Inspired Jaimee-Leigh is determined to give her all in every match and hopes to earn her shirt at county level each game. Her advice to younger students is simple but powerful, "Don't stop what you're doing because of what other people think about you." We couldn't prouder to see representing Blythe Bridge on this stage, and we will be cheering her on every step of the way!



We also extend our warmest congratulations to Chelsea E. who has been crowned Champion International Young Handler 2025 – a prestigious title in the world of sheepdog handling. Competing against handlers as old as 20, Chelsea showed immense determination and describing the experience of her doa running completing the competition as both "challenging and deeply rewarding." Not only does she hold the title, but her name will also be engraved on the trophy - a lasting mark of her success. Chelsea's achievement on the international stage is a shining example of where passion, resilience, and hard work can lead, and we are so proud that she has brought accolade home England.



Meet Holly N. who has joined from Hastings. enioving being closer to her family and says her brother, now in Year 7, is also settling in well. Holly has made lots of friends and found it easy to talk to people, and she particularly enjoys RE, history and English, with plenty of teacher support as she adjusts to new topics. She feels welcome thanks to the friendliness of everyone here, and her advice to new students is simple: "Talk to everybody and be nice!" Holly has already joined the school production of 'Annie' and is looking forward to getting involved in more clubs soon.

#### Year 11

Year 11 have returned to school with a fantastic sense of purpose and maturity, and it hasn't aone unnoticed. Staff across multiple departments have praised their attitude. engagement, and commitment to learning - setting a strong tone for vear Conversations around post-16 pathways are already underway, with careers appointments now in full swing. Students are beginning to explore their options and aspirations, supported bv our dedicated careers team.

We had the pleasure of joining the Sixth Form for the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning, a meaningful event that brought students and staff together in support of a great cause.

A huge thank you to all students, parents, and carers who attended our Year Ahead Evening, Your support is invaluable. To further support our students, we're pleased to offer a Study Skills Workshop on Thursday 23rd October, ahead of the Sixth Form Open Evening. This session will provide practical strategies help to students manage their workload and prepare effectively for exams.

We're also proud to announce the selection of our Year 11 Prefect Team. Their first official duties included supporting both the Year Ahead Evenings and the Year 6 Open Evening, Feedback from staff and visitors was overwhelmingly positive. and we couldn't be prouder of how they represented the school.

Following their induction, the prefects have now chosen their leadership pathways, and we're delighted to announce the following appointments:

#### PRK

Sophia A, Kiera B, Jessica C, Phillipa F, Mischa H, Thomas J, Precious M, Lillie-Mai M, Keira P, Maisie P, Lola S, Sydney T, Scarlett W-H, Beau N

#### **EDI**

Francesca A, Honey-Rose C-K, Jessica C, Layla D, Grace D, Samuel H, Camelia P, Lydia S & Holly T

#### Careers

Amir B, Lily D, Michael F, Dexter H, Lucy H, Connor H, Darcie P, Layla-Fae R, Isabella W & Thomas K

#### **Kickstart**

Olivia N, Maicee-Leigh S, Liam O, Louis C, Kaylee M & Freya A

Year 11 are off to a brilliant start, and we look forward to seeing them continue to grow, lead, and succeed throughout the year.

#### **Mrs S Davies**

Head of Year 11 Teacher of PE



Head Prefects
Liam O
Louis C
Scarlett W-H
Holly T

#### **Senior Prefects**

Freya A
Dexter H
Connor H
Mischa H
Kaylee M
Lana R
Lola S

## **Extracurricular Clubs**

We offer a wide range of extracurricular clubs. includina our popular breakfast club, where students can fuel up, get on top of homework, and socialise in the morning. Plus, homework club runs Monday - Thursday, providing a quiet place for students to work. We also have clubs for chess, PRK podcast, escape room, football, trampolining, orchestra, STEM, choir, sculpture, craft, and our ecogarden - the endless possibilities! These alimpse of the vibrant iust a opportunities waiting for you. 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.











## **Extracurricular Clubs**

## MAKÉ A SPLASH-BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL







## **AVAILABLE TIMES**

- TUESDAY EARLY BIRD SWIM: OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS: 7.45AM-8.30AM
- TUESDAY AFTER SCHOOL: YEAR 7-YEAR 9 BOYS: 3.10PM-4.00PM
- WEDNESDAY AFTER SCHOOL: YEAR 7-YEAR 9 GIRLS: 3.10PM-4.00PM

## ALL SWIMMING IS FREE

**ANY ABILITY IS WELCOME** 



CONTACT:
A.JACKSON@BB-HS.CO.UK

## Library







Our creative Year 8 students have launched a student-led Crochet Club. meeting every Tuesday lunchtime! Open to all year groups, the club is a welcoming space for anyone interested in learning or improving their crochet skills. From beginners to buddina experts. students share patterns, ideas, and plenty of laughter as they create evervthing from friendship bracelets to cosy blankets. It's wonderful to see our young leaders fostering creativity, patience, and community - one stitch at a time!

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 sensational 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.



Mrs. Jones recently welcomed all Year 7 students for their library introductions. Fach began with a short session presentation highlighting what the library has to offer - from a wide range of books and online resources to spaces for study relaxation. After the and presentation, students had the opportunity to explore library and borrow their first book of the year. It was a great start to help our new students discover the joy of reading and feel at home in the library.

## **Eco-Garden Club**

Nurture Garden News - A Blooming Start to the Year!

The new academic year has kicked off with a bang in our beloved nurture garden! Every Thursday after school, we have welcomed a wonderful group of eager current and new recruits who have thrown themselves into garden life with enthusiasm and care.

From planting winter seeds to tending to our friendly animals, sorting out the woodland area, and exploring the incredible nature that surrounds us - it has been a hive of activity and discovery. The garden is already buzzing with energy, curiosity, and a real sense of community.

None of this would be possible without the incredible generosity of our staff and wider school community. Your donations - from pots and seeds to plants, tools, and more - have made a huge difference.

Every contribution helps us grow, quite literally, and we are so grateful for your continued support.

Here is to a season of growth, learning, and connection in our nurture garden. Watch this space for more updates as our young gardeners continue to dig deep and blossom!



## **Craft Club**

#### **Craft Club Creations - Wednesdays After School**

Our Craft Club is back in full swing this term, bringing colour, creativity, and a whole lot of imagination to Wednesday afternoons! Students have been diving into a variety of fun projects - from painting and paper crafts to textiles and upcycling - all while building confidence and enjoying time together.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has kindly donated craft materials. Your generosity - whether it is paper, fabric, paints, glue, or tools - has helped make our club a vibrant and inspiring space for students to express themselves and explore their artistic talents.

Craft Club is more than just making things - it is about community, creativity, and joy. We can't wait to see what our young artists come up with next!



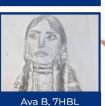


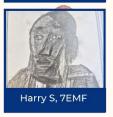


## KS3 Art

Year 7, 8 and 9 students have been exploring the visual elements in Art through various Art cultures and movements.























Dottie-Mae M, 7HBL



Zara R, 7LLM



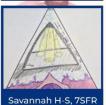
Ava B, 7HBL



Nova C, 7SFR



Sophie G, 7LM



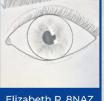
## KS3 Art

#### Year 7, 8 and 9 students have been exploring the visual elements in Art through various Art cultures and movements.



Elias K, 8JJ





Elizabeth R, 8NAZ



Tayla-Mae L, 8DH



Izabelle C, 8ESH



Isabella B, 8LG



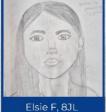
Jacob E, 8NAZ



Olivia M, 8RJJ









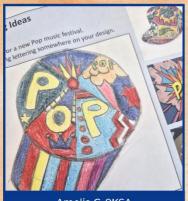


Esmai H, 8DH

Archie W, 8JL

## KS3 Art

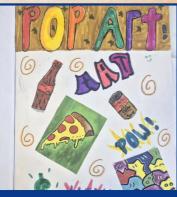
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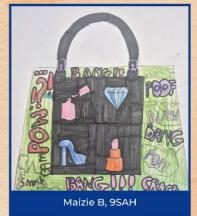
Amelia C, 9KSA



Maddison A, 9JJT

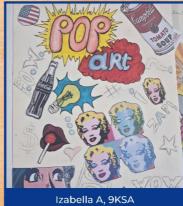


George R, 9KSA





Eleanor J, 9KH



## **Year 10 Art**

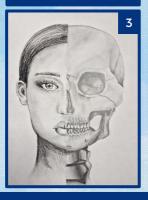


Georgia H, 10NC

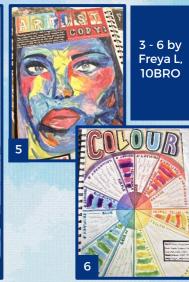




1 & 2: Gracie F, 10AK











7 & 8: Ava S, 10KMP



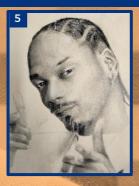
## **Year 11 Art**



Bradley S, 11AIT





















## **A Level Photography**

An excellent start to the A Level Photography course! Students have engaged enthusiastically with the content and are already demonstrating a strong grasp of key photographic techniques. Here are some examples of our students' work.

Beatrice C, 12JBU



Bluebelle K-C, 12LSH





Hannah D, 12LSH



Lilly-May W, 12JBU



## **A Level Art and Photography**

Year 13 student Poppy R has been working on her projects in both Art and Photography, producing some fantastic project work so far this half term.

















## **Modern Foreign Languages**

European Day of Languages - Whole School Quiz

On 26th September, the MFL Department organised a whole school quiz during form time to celebrate the European



Day of Languages. This special day, created by the Council of Europe, reminds us how important languages are in our lives.

The European Day of Languages is a chance to celebrate diversity – with more than 200 languages spoken across Europe – and to recognise how learning a new language opens doors to exciting opportunities. It also encourages us to keep learning, no matter our age, and shows how speaking another language can bring people together by helping us understand different cultures and make new friends.

Congratulations to form 9JJT, who were the winners of the quiz scoring an impressive 10/10!

Mrs S Yates

#### Le Zèbre by Alexandre Jardin

I first encountered Le Zèbre while studying at university, and it quickly became one of my favourite books. What stood out to me the most was its original and unconventional plot - it was unlike anything I had read before.

The novel tells the story of Gaspard Sauvage, a man determined to rekindle the passion in his marriage through grand, often eccentric gestures. What makes Le Zèbre so compelling is its playful yet deeply emotional exploration of love - Jardin presents romance in a way that feels both idealistic and refreshingly unpredictable. Unlike many conventional love stories, this one challenges the idea of routine in relationships, making the reader question how love evolves over time.

Jardin's writing style is also a highlight. His witty, fast-paced prose and clever storytelling make the novel an engaging read. The mixture of humour and heartfelt moments kept me hooked throughout. Rather than a straightforward romance, Le Zèbre offers a philosophical and almost whimsical take on love, making it feel fresh and unique.

Studying this novel at university allowed me to appreciate its deeper themes and narrative techniques, but even outside an academic setting, Le Zèbre remains a book I would recommend to anyone looking for a romantic story that dares to be different. It's a novel that stays with you long after you've finished reading, and for me, that's the mark of a truly great book.



#### MFL competition winner

In MFL lessons, students collect stamps for their work. For every half page of stamps earned, they receive a certificate and a raffle entry into the Modern Foreign Languages Crand Prize draw. We handed out well over 1000 prize certificates this year. This competition includes the whole school, and we are delighted to announce that Lucas M in Year 10 is this year's raffle winner! A very well-deserved congratulations and thank you to all students for their continued enthusiasm and hard work in languages.

Mr L McConvey

#### Vocabulary builder

The following key verbs and phrases are really useful for describing a photo in the GCSE exams - make sure you learn them!

	Vocabulary builder					
	Spanish	French	English			
1	Нау	II y a	There is			
2	Tiene	II/elle a	He/she has			
3	Lleva	II/elle porte	He/she is wearing			
4	Veo	Je vois	I see			
5	Quizás es	Peut-être c'est	Perhaps it is			
6	Está contento/a.	II/elle est content(e).	He/she is happy.			
7	Está triste.	II/elle est triste.	He/she is happy.			
8	A la izquierda	À gauche	On the left			
9	A la derecha	À droite	On the right			
10	En el fondo	À l'arrière-plan	In the background			

## PE Updates

#### Tuesday 16th September: Year 11 boys football vs OMERA

Our Year 11 boys' team completed their first match with a 2-1 victory at home against OMERA. Blythe started well and went one goal up early and maintained this until half time. OMERA came back into the game in the second half and levelled the game at 1-1. Blythe scored the final goal of the game and secured victory with about 10 minutes remaining. A solid performance saw Blythe Year 11 boys start well this season.

## Thursday 25th September: Year 11 5-A-Side tournament at Excel Academy

Our Year 11 boys' 5-a-side football team competed in a round robin format against 8 other city schools. With some excellent play and outstanding individual performances, Blythe managed to finish joint top. Unfortunately, they finished 2nd overall on goal difference.

## Thursday 9th October: U14 girls football vs Thistley Hough Academy

The U14 girls' team were involved in a 9-goal thriller against Thistley Hough Academy at home and ran out 5-4 victors. Excellent performances came from Amelia D and Poppy H to ensure Blythe achieved all 3 points. Well done to all the girls involved!

#### Monday 13th October: Year 9 boys football vs JCB Academy

Goals from Ethan W and Louis W ensured Blythe ran out 4-0 victors in the Year 9 boys football team's first game of the county cup this academic year. A close game in the first half ended with a top midfield performance from Blythe to ensure a comfortable victory.

## **Aspens Catering**







## **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	Severely
			Absence/Critical	Absent/Critical
No more than 6	No more than 10	More than 10	19 days/38 sessions	95 days/190
days/12 sessions	days/20 sessions	days/20 sessions	or more absent from	sessions or more
absent in a year	absent in a year	absent in a year	school in a year	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	1hour 40minutes per week	Over 2 1/2 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
  - ⅓ day every week missed
  - · Almost 4 weeks of school
- 19 days x 4 lessons = 76 hours of learning
  - 57 lessons missed
  - DfE: Persistent absentee

#### 90% attendance for all 5 years:

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

#### Important to note

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

#### Punctuality

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

## Frog

#### **Learning Platform**

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



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

Please get in touch with frogsupport@bb-hs.co.uk should you need help with your logins.



#### **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





Scan the QR code for our price list and a copy of our hire request form 01782 392519 office@bb-hs.co.uk STI1 9PW

