

Friday Focus



Issue 185 | December 2025

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



Photo of the week
#weareblythe



ATHLETICS & CROSS COUNTRY UPDATES

Huge congratulations to our Y7, Y8 and Y9/10 Athletics Teams, who have done themselves proud over the past three weeks against 12 schools across the city! We finished 4th overall, with an amazing 2nd place for our Y9/10 Girls Team. Special shoutout to Remi C for winning Gold in the standing triple jump! Following strong performances in school cross country races, 11 pupils have qualified to represent the City of Stoke Schools Cross Country Team in January 2026. Well done to: Isaac C (Y7), Isla B (Y7), Flynn E (Y8), Remi C (Y8), Finlay D (Y8), Elias K (Y8), Poppy W (Y8), Corey E (Y10), Tilly H (Y10) and Holly T (Y11). We're incredibly proud of you all - your hard work and sportsmanship shine every time you compete!

A Massive Thank You!



CHRISTMAS FAYRE BOTTLE TOMBOLA

The PRK Committee is incredibly grateful for all the bottle donations we received in exchange for wearing a hoodie. Your support means so much, and we're super excited to start selling tickets for the Christmas Fayre soon. Stay tuned for more details...



12

DAYS TO GO

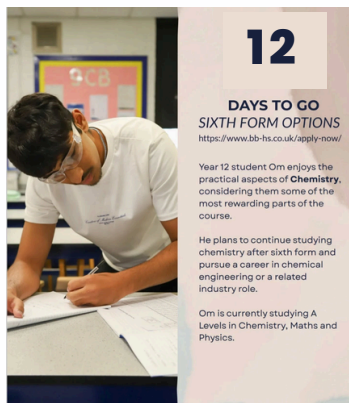
SIXTH FORM OPTIONS

<https://www.bb-hs.co.uk/apply-now/>

Poppy in Year 13, is passionate about art, particularly working with paint, collage, and mixed media. She enjoys exploring the theme of 'Travel' in her artwork, experimenting with different techniques and processes.

Poppy is considering an **art apprenticeship** next year to develop her skills and apply her creative talents in a practical setting.

Poppy is studying art, photography & criminology in sixth form.



12

DAYS TO GO

SIXTH FORM OPTIONS

<https://www.bb-hs.co.uk/apply-now/>

Year 12 student Om enjoys the practical aspects of **Chemistry**, considering them some of the most rewarding parts of the course.

He plans to continue studying chemistry after sixth form and pursue a career in chemical engineering or a related industry role.

Om is currently studying A Levels in Chemistry, Maths and Physics.

SIXTH FORM OPTIONS

Don't miss your chance to apply to our sixth form - by the 17th December. Your future starts today:

<https://www.bb-hs.co.uk/apply-now/>



CHRISTMAS CAKE CLUB

Even washing up is fun at Christmas Cake Club! Team Reindeer and Team Elf were all brilliant and have now put marzipan on their cakes. Hot chocolate and biscuits will be on offer this week as students start to decorate their cakes.

WELCOME

We are thrilled with the generosity and support for the festive fundraising that is currently taking place. Our Twelve (school) Days of Christmas Raffle has started its countdown and we already have our first winner. Mrs Kadri, Mrs Avons and their team of helpers are busy making preparations for this year's Christmas Fayre and after seeing all the bottles and chocolate that have been donated - it is going to be a great event.

Mrs Johnson
Headteacher

Pride, Respect & Kindness

A LEVEL CRIMINOLOGY

Criminology students enjoy hands-on Forensic Science Day at the University of Staffordshire!

Last week, our Year 12 and 13 Criminology students had an exciting opportunity to apply their classroom learning to real-life forensic techniques.

From analysing mock crime scenes to blood stain testing and drug-related evidence analysis, the day gave students invaluable experience in the field of forensic science.

Many of our students shared that the event confirmed their passion for pursuing careers in this area.

A huge thank you to the University of Staffordshire for such a fantastic, immersive experience!



RAFFLE

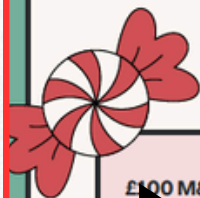
STEP INTO CHRISTMAS WITH OUR FESTIVE RAFFLE!



Twelve (school) Days of Christmas Raffle

Twelve amazing prizes to be won!

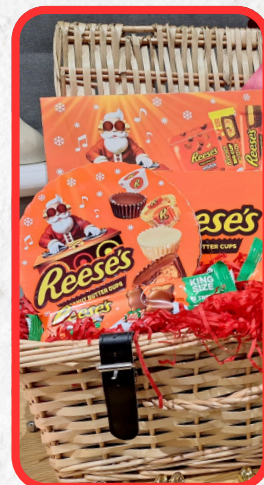
Tickets available on ParentPay
or via reception.

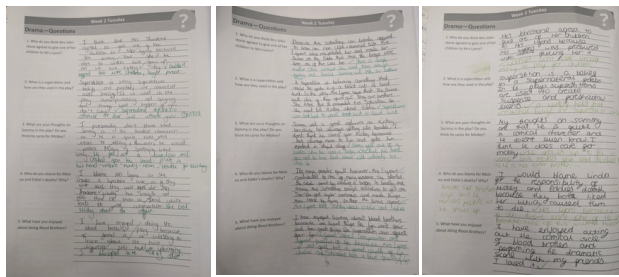


£100 M&S voucher Thursday 4th December	Movie Night Hamper Friday 5th December	Pamper Hamper Monday 8th December
Made in Stoke Hamper Tuesday 9th December	Chocolate Tub Tower Wednesday 10th December	Christmas Hamper Thursday 11th December
Swim Theme Hamper Friday 12th December	Sweet Treat Hamper Monday 15th December	Jellycat and Afternoon Tea Treats Tuesday 16th December
Reese's Treat Hamper Wednesday 17th December	Ferrero Rocher Bouquet Thursday 18th December	Wheelbarrow of Booze Friday 19th December



Help us to raise money for new goalposts





AN IMPORTANT TALK

Sixth form students were visited this week by a representative of Oddballs, the clothing company and testicular cancer awareness organisation.

Ciaran from Nottingham Trent University ran assemblies for the sixth form students to raise awareness of the symptoms of testicular cancer as it is the most prominent cancer for men between 15-49 years of age.

YEAR 8 EXCEL AT DRAMA

Year 8 students are currently studying *Blood Brothers* by Willy Russell, acting out different scenes each week and increasing their knowledge and understanding of the characters and plot. This week's scene has seen Mr and Mrs Lyons at home with Edward in a calm and peaceful environment until Mr Lyons leaves to go to work and Mickey arrives and breaks the quiet. Mrs Lyons then realises who Mickey is and throws him out, much to the embarrassment of Edward. Pictured are Missi as Edward, and Mia as Mrs Lyons who all did an excellent job of characterisation in their acting.

FABULOUS HOMEWORK

Mrs Baines has been really impressed by some of the recent drama homework completed by Year 8 students. The year group has been performing scenes from *Blood Brothers* by Willy Russell and the homework this week asked them to reflect on what they have learned through their work. Previously they have also had to design costumes and sets suitable for key characters and scenes in the play.



CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

The annual Year 7 Christmas Carol Service at St Peter's Church in Blythe Bridge took place on Monday 1st December, marking a wonderful and festive occasion for both students and staff. It was an immense privilege for us to hold this special event once again at the beautiful St Peter's Church, and we are deeply grateful to the church for their continued support. We would especially like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Reverend Jonathan and Sophie, Archie, and Joan whose warm hospitality and generosity made this event even more memorable. This year, students had the opportunity to explore the true meaning of Christmas, reflecting on its significance not only from a Christian perspective but also incorporating the views and beliefs of their Year 7 form tutors. It was a thoughtful and enriching experience, as students considered the deeper messages of the season. The choir performed exceptionally well, singing with remarkable harmony and passion. Their voices filled the church, creating a truly magical atmosphere. The orchestra also delivered a fantastic performance, showcasing the extraordinary musical talents of our students. It was clear that all the hard work and dedication put in behind the scenes, especially by Miss Balewski, had paid off in spades. Equally impressive was the behaviour of our students throughout the service. Their conduct was exemplary, demonstrating respect, attentiveness, and a genuine appreciation for the occasion. Whether they were engaged in the songs or listening intently to the readers, they showed great enthusiasm and maturity.

PROPS CLUB

Props club meets on Wednesdays after school in N5 and they are currently working on a range of things for the school musical *Annie*. Isobel here is wrapping all the Christmas presents for underneath the tree at Warbucks' house and Callum is measuring out string to make a lead for Sandy. The students are being helpful with ideas, design work and creation of different items.



HOUSE DODGEBALL (STAFF, YEAR 11 & SIXTH FORM)

Represent your house next Tuesday (9th December) in a Dodgeball House Competition in the gym 15:10-16:10pm.

Want to take part? Speak to your house captain and ask Mr Sturmey if you have any questions.

See you on the court!



CHESS SUCCESS

Well done to our two chess teams who competed at a local schools' chess championship at Clayton Hall Academy.

We secured 2nd and 5th with everyone performing well and winning at least one game.

Congratulations to Martin G who won all five of his games. Thanks to Mr Goodwin for driving the minibus.



STEM CLUB

STEM club had an exciting session creating parachutes to protect eggs from smashing. Students learnt about forces acting on falling objects and how a parachute reduces the terminal velocity of a falling object.

Congratulations to Dante W and Solomon B who were the winning team of the competition. Their egg did not smash and their design had the best parachute which helped their egg to fall gracefully.

Well done to all teams who showed excellent creativity and teamwork skills.



LOOKING FORWARD



AUTUMN TERM

MONDAY P4 CITIZENSHIP



- Year 7: What is conflict management?
- Year 8: What are county lines?
- Year 9: Consent and contraception
- Year 10: What is consent?
- Year 11: Revision skills

KEY DATES

- Tuesday 9th December
 - House Dodgeball (15:10-16:10)
- Thursday 11th December
 - Christmas Concert
- Monday 15th December
 - Year 11 Progress Evening
- Wednesday 17th- 19th December
 - Year 8 Lille Christmas Market
- Wednesday 17th December
 - Closing date for Sixth Form Options
- Friday 19th December
 - Christmas Fayre



CAREERS SPOTLIGHT - BENCHMARK 6

Year 9 Skills Champions have been working alongside Miss Blissett to create this year's school Christmas video. Well done to the team for creating the photo booth prop and encouraging the school to get involved.



ASSEMBLIES

Year 7-11 Celebration Assemblies

Year 12 - Year 13:
Ruby G; Cervical Cancer



Group	HOUSE	Block 3 (5) 24 th Nov-9 th Jan
Year 7 Girls AC	Netball	OAA
Year 7 Girls DV		Dance
Year 7 Boys AC	Rugby	Handball
Year 7 Boys DV		Swimming
Year 8 Girls AC	Netball	Dance
Year 8 Girls DV		HRE
Year 8 Boys AC	Swim	Football
Year 8 Boys DV	Gala	Basketball
Year 9 Girls AC	Netball	Dance
Year 9 Girls DV		Volleyball
Year 9 Boys AC	Rugby	Swimming
Year 9 Boys DV		Handball



RE M I N D E R

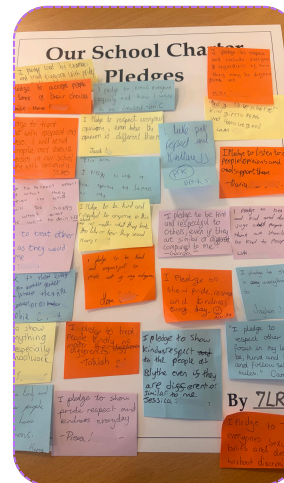
A reminder for students to check their timetables and bring in the correct kit for their PE lessons with appropriate footwear. Please also remember to bring in ingredients for food technology lessons.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Over the next two weeks, members of the school's EDI group will be sampling the different pledges made by students and seeking out evidence of all these wonderful actions. See below for information about the meetings.

- EDI Meeting Monday 8th December - Student Leadership Area - Lunch 1.
- EDI Meeting Monday 15th December Student Leadership Area Lunch 2.

For more information, please see Mrs Avons.



M E N U C H O I C E

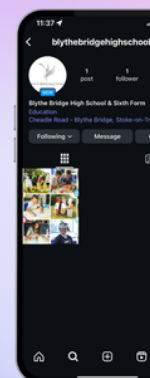
STREETRIES	LUNCH MENU: TRADITIONAL	AMERICAN Diner	Italian	More
MON Minced Beef & Potato Topped with Root Veg & Potatoes Lentil, Onion & Root Veg Merguez Savory Cabbage & Peas Tasty Chicken Noodles Mexican Hot Pizza Slice Beef Mince & Onion Roasted Tomato & Pepper Pasta Salad Old School Jam Cornflake Crunch	TUE BBQ Chicken & Cheese Melt Cajun Spinach Bean Burger Cajun Rice & Roasted Mediterranean Veg Protein Lean Chicken Bolognese BBQ Cornflake Crunch Wings Smoky Spanish Beans & Pot Roasted Tomato & Spinach Baked Cheddar Cheese Fresh Cut Fruit & Yogurt Pots Available Daily	WED Maple Glazed Gammon with Crispy Smashed New Potatoes Honey Carrot & Apple Wellington Carrot & Sausage Green Beans Classic Meatball Pasta Macula Mays Chili Dog Macula Mays, Cheese & Crispy Onion California Caprese Citrus Chicken, Spinach & Mozzarella Maple Apple Pie & Whipped Cream Banana Chocolate Chip Lick	THU Pork Ribs Linguine of Fennel Spinach, Cream Cheese & Roasted Veg Linguine Crispy House Baked Bread, Roast Carrots or Garden Salad Pulled Ham Carbonara Chinese Style Chicken Wrap Carbone's Sauce Special Salad Apricot Beetroot Chocolate Brownies	FRI Choose from: Battered Fish Sausage or Veg Sausage Pizza Slice Chicken Nuggets Chips Garden Fries or Baked Beans Irish Curry Sauce Chip Shop Curry Classic Chicken Chow Mein Cheesy Chips All The Classics Special Salad Apricot Beetroot Chocolate Brownies
Daily Meal Deals Regular Chef's Specials	Freshly Made From Scratch DAILY!	CHICKEN, BEEF & PORK ONLY LOADED SPUDS - CHICKEN, BEEF & PORK ONLY	CHICKEN, BEEF & PORK ONLY DELICIOUS	DELICIOUS

Follow us on



Instagram

@blythebridgehighschool

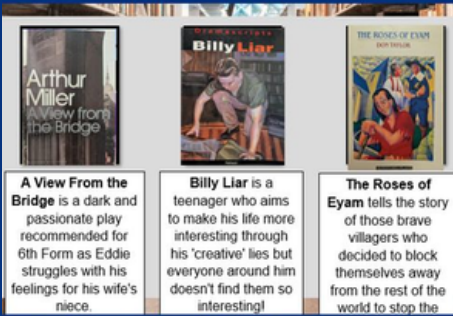


Drama Reading

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



12 DAYS OF Christmas Reading Challenge

Read. Complete. Win!

Take part between 1-12 December

Complete as many daily challenges as you can

TWO GRAND PRIZES UP FOR GRABS!

- £20 STOKE SKI CENTRE VOUCHER
- CLIP AND CLIMB VOUCHER FOR 2

Collect your task card from Mrs Jones 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

- Lowens Concentration**
Having your phone out while doing homework or revision has been shown to reduce performance by 20%.
- Increases FOMO**
Fear of Missing Out (FOMO), or the compulsive need to know what others are doing leads to worse moods and increased anxiety.
- Increases Stress and Anxiety**
Over use of mobile phones leads to increased anxiety, feelings of loneliness and low self-esteem. Reliance on mobile phones can cause irritation, frustration and impatience.
- Worps Your View of Reality**
Nobody is as happy as they seem on Facebook or as wise as they appear on Twitter.
- Reduces Memory**
Instant messages are distracting, which often leads to forgetfulness.
- Makes You Sleep Worse**
Prolonged use of a mobile phone leads to poor sleep quality and duration. The backlight on your phone delays the release of Melatonin, which is a hormone important for sleep.

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

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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**