

Newsletter

PRIDE

RESPECT

KINDNESS



Get ready to unwrap the latest happenings, achievements, and upcoming events within our vibrant school community.

Join us on this fantastic journey of learning, growth, and countless memorable moments.

Find out how well our wonderful Year 7 students showcased their diverse collection of talents at the Festival of Arts, see how many students dressed up for Children in Need, and catch up with our Year 10 geography trip. Plus, find out how our school is embracing our house competitions.

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





MERRY CHRISTMAS



Congratulations to Devin H, 7LLM, for winning our Year 7 Christmas card competition. We love the snowy scene and feel it perfectly captures the festive season. Well done, Devin!



Headteacher's Welcome

It has become a tradition that our school Christmas tree is up and decorated for the Year 7 Festival of Arts which was held on the 25th of November this year, and once the 'unofficial' launch of the festive season begins, the momentum continues right up to our very last day, ending with the Christmas Fayre on 19th December where Mrs Kadri and Mrs Avons, along with a team of elves, ensure that students and staff start the holidays with joy and festivities.

We have already attended the Christmas service at St Peter's Church, and later this week there are reward events planned, celebration assemblies and, the Year 8 MFL visit to the Christmas markets in Lille. There is also still time to join our Twelve (school) Days of Christmas Raffle by either purchasing tickets on ParentPay or through reception.

As we approach the end of term, we would like to wish Mrs Jones, one of our longstanding colleagues who has most recently been a lunchtime supervisor, the very best for her retirement. We will miss her and hope to still see her around the village from time to time.

On behalf of all of the governors and staff, we wish our school community a peaceful Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mrs R E Johnson

Headteacher



Our Students Say It Best

I have loved PE lessons, particularly with Mrs Davies. She's really nice and passionate about PE! They don't stop if it rains, no matter the weather, we are exercising together!

Archie C, Year 7

I have particularly enjoyed learning about Weimar and Nazi Germany with Mrs Avons this term. It's more in depth now I am in Year 10 and is very interesting. I also liked helping out at the Year 6 Open Evening, we gave families tours and interacted with everyone; giving us the chance to show how brilliant our school is. **Olivia T, Year 10**

I like that if you ever feel unsure, there is always someone who will help you at school. I also really like spending time with my friends. My group of friends has grown since primary school and I am happy here. **Olivia D, Year 8**

Speaking to our careers advisor has definitely helped me narrow down where I want to go and what my options are to study sport in the future after completing GCSE PE.

Joseph C, Year 11

I enjoyed taking part in the Internet Citizens workshop this term. I have new skills to understand the Internet and know that not everything is always true online.

Aaron C, Year 9

I chose to give an assembly on cervical cancer because I felt it was important to represent women's cancers and raise awareness about testing and early diagnosis. The assembly went really well and helped open people's minds. I felt confident leading it, and it was rewarding to challenge the stigma and highlight the importance of awareness around the disease. **Ruby G, Year 13**



Year 7 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 once again hold this special event 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.

Transition

2025 Intake

Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form has received the fantastic news from School Admissions that 175 applications have been made as first preference for September 2026. A further 58 were made as second preference meaning we anticipate another large year group. Families will receive confirmation from School admissions on Sunday 1st March, and we will be sending correspondence out in early March.

Year 5 Transition Mornings

Dates for your diary:

Fulford: Tuesday 24th February.

St Peters: Tuesday 3rd March.

Springcroft: Tuesday 10th March.

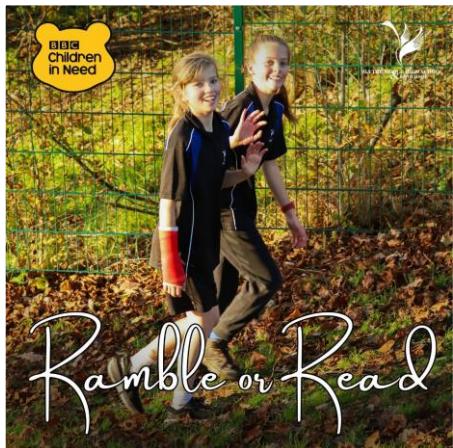
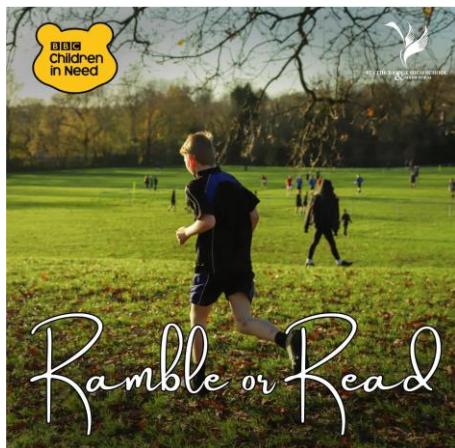
Meir Heath: Tuesday 17th & 24th March

Forsbrook: Tuesday 14th April.

William Amory: Tuesday 21st April.

Ramble or Read

Year 7 students completed their 'Ramble or Read' for Children in Need on Monday, 11th November raising money for the charity. This collective annual event gives students the opportunity to spend time rambling around the school perimeter or exploring a favourite book.



Year 7 Festival of Arts



Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form held its annual Year 7 Festival of Arts on Tuesday, 25th November.

Year 7 students celebrated their achievements across the curriculum at our annual Festival of Arts on Tuesday evening in front of 161 people. Various group and individual live performances, displays, and presentations celebrated our students' successes. We saw street dance, cheerleading, and drama performances, a snippet from our upcoming school production, 'Annie', wonderful music played by our talented students, and a finale of 'Eye of the Tiger' by Survivor, which was a fantastic way to end an evening of excellent performances. Well done to all students and staff for your hard work!

Parents and carers commented:

"It was fantastic to see all the hard work throughout the term. The students clearly enjoyed performing and it was lovely to see their confidence and talent."

"Very good show from start to finish. All children were excellent and teachers were superb. The whole school excels, Merry Christmas to all."



Children in Need

What a fabulous range of costumes from Year 11-13 students for this year's Children in Need event.

Thank you to the staff who took part and to everyone who made donations. We're so proud our community raised **£263** for a wonderful charity.

Year 11 and sixth form students can view the photos on Frog by searching for 'Children in Need 2025'.



Sixth Form



Year 12 & Year 13 Science

On the 17th of October, Mr Flavell was delighted to see the new Sixth Form Science Hub being used by a mix of Year 12 and 13 science students all working together. The room was re-branded as 'Owen's classroom' for a biology session and later on in the day Oliver delivered 'Chemistry 101' to another group of students.



Sixth Form Support Charity

Our generous sixth form students have shown wonderful community spirit recently, raising over £60 for Breast Cancer Now by wearing pink earlier this term, and donating food items for the harvest collection. These contributions, alongside those from lower school students, will support a local food bank. Thank you to everyone who took part and gave so kindly.



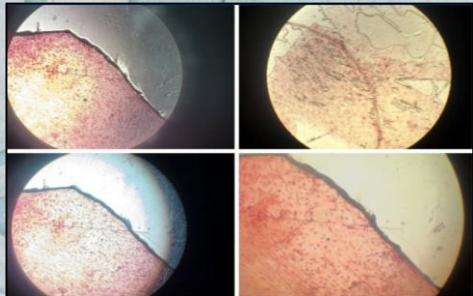
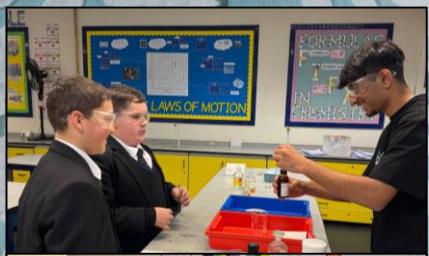
Year 12 Science Student Ambassadors

A big thank you to our A level biology, chemistry and physics subject ambassadors for organising our autumn house competition.

Well done to Centaur students for guiding their house to victory with an average quiz score of 88%. Following closely in 2nd place were Sphinx.

Congratulations to our top 3 students in the individual competition: 1st place for Daisy, 2nd place for Gurleen and 3rd place for Melody B.

Sixth Form



Year 12 Biology

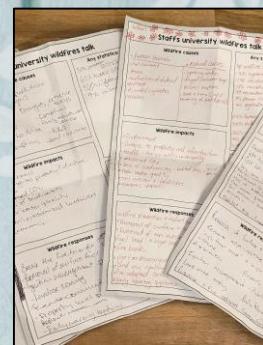
In November, our A-Level biologists were carefully preparing and staining plant stem cells, using microscopes to spot active, dividing cells and practising real-world lab skills used by scientists and medical researchers every day. From handling delicate samples to focusing microscopes at just the right level, they explored life at the cellular level and saw for themselves how living tissues grow and change. We are incredibly proud of the focus, precision, and curiosity they showed throughout this practical - future scientists in the making!

Student Ambassadors at STEM Club

STEM club had a fantastic session in November. Our students had their session delivered by our A Level Chemists and Biologists Oliver and Om.

Oliver and Om delivered a superb STEM session where they led the students through making their own esters.

Esters are an example of a formulation which is where chemicals need to be added in exact amounts to get the correct solution. Our sixth form students were also chatting to our students about what future careers require the skill of making formulations such as pharmacists, doctors and cosmetic chemists. Thank you to our students and sixth formers.



Year 13 Geography go to Staffordshire University

On the 12th of November, our Year 13 geographers had the opportunity to attend a lecture at Staffordshire University. The lecture focused on the causes, impacts and management of wildfires, so students were keen to learn about the examples of LA, Australia and Portugal as part of their hazards topic.



Sixth Form



Tomorrow's Teachers

In November, our teachers attended a Teaching and Learning “speed dating” session where they shared their implementation of research areas of CPD focuses, including the use of formative assessment to inform adaptive teaching. Our fantastic group of Year 12 Tomorrow's Teachers then used the same technique after conducting staff interviews about their journeys into teaching - discovering what inspired them, what they love about the job, and even what they did before becoming teachers. Students shared their thoughts with one another and were given time to ask any questions. The group then discussed their insights as a whole class about what they found most interesting. They were amazed by the variety of paths staff took before arriving at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form and the passion they bring to helping students every day. A massive thank you to the staff who were interviewed.

Tomorrow's Teachers visited St Thomas Catholic Primary School in Tean. They were given a tour of the school by the headteacher Mrs S Baxter, who showed the students around the school, discussed routes into teaching and how that can differ in a Catholic setting. It was a beautiful school, and the students particularly enjoyed the break time as they had the opportunity to talk with the reception children. A special thank you to Mr Goodwin for taking the students.

Studio 22: A Space for Sixth Form Creativity

Our amazing site team have completed our brand-new Studio 22. This space will exclusively be used by our A level art and photography students and will include additional computers and printers to support their work. We can't thank the team enough for their hard work to get this space ready for our sixth formers!

A level Chemistry Practicals

Our A level chemists have started a series of practical lessons with the aim of identifying a range of ions using flame tests and precipitation reactions, sequencing tests correctly, testing the solubility rules for ionic compounds and planning methods to identify unknown compounds.

Forensic Science Day at Staffordshire University

A Hands-On Experience for Year 12 and 13 Criminology Students

On Friday 21st November, our Year 12 and 13 Criminology students had the exciting opportunity to take their theoretical learning out of the classroom and into the field with a fantastic Forensic Science Day at Staffordshire University. The day provided a unique chance for students to engage in real-life forensic techniques, bridging the gap between their studies and the practical application of criminological skills.

The students spent the day immersed in both the Criminology and Forensic Science departments, beginning with an in-depth exploration of how to analyse a mock crime scene. They were introduced to the importance of protective clothing, including hazmat suits, before being tasked with photographing crime scenes and collecting evidence. In true forensic fashion, students then entered a series of simulated crime scenes, where they had to carefully examine and collect vital clues to help solve the mystery.

Next, students headed to the state-of-the-art forensic science labs, where they were introduced to a variety of investigative techniques. They worked on bloodstain analysis, using swabs and chemicals to determine whether stains found on a garment were indeed blood. They also used UV torches to help confirm their findings, showcasing the tools forensic experts rely on in their day-to-day work.

The day culminated in a fascinating clandestine laboratory outreach session, where students analysed a range of potential drug-related paraphernalia. They began by assessing the crime scene, identifying possible hazards, and recording descriptions of drug-related evidence before proceeding with further analysis. The students then carried out visual examinations of suspect powders, weighing and describing each sample to determine whether it could be an illicit substance. They used chemical tests—Marquis, Mandelin, and Cobalt Thiocyanate reagents—to observe colour changes and chemical reactions, adding a scientific dimension to their learning. The final station allowed students to explore packaging evidence, applying both visual and chemical analysis techniques, including Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR).

to investigate potential links between packaging materials and drugs. Throughout the day, our students demonstrated exceptional engagement, diving into each activity with enthusiasm and a sharp analytical mindset. Many shared that the experience reaffirmed their desire to pursue further study in forensic science and criminology, making this an invaluable learning opportunity. We would like to extend our thanks to Staffordshire University for hosting such an immersive and insightful day. This event was an excellent way to bring our criminology curriculum to life, giving students a taste of the world of forensic investigation.



Year 7



Pride · Respect · Kindness



Year 7 students were busy bakers this term in food technology, making tasty blueberry muffins.

It was fantastic to see our students working together during each stage of the lesson, from preparation to washing up and cleaning the worktops to carefully putting their bakes in the oven.

Plus, Miss Asghar was impressed with our students' homework in their booklets – well done Year 7!

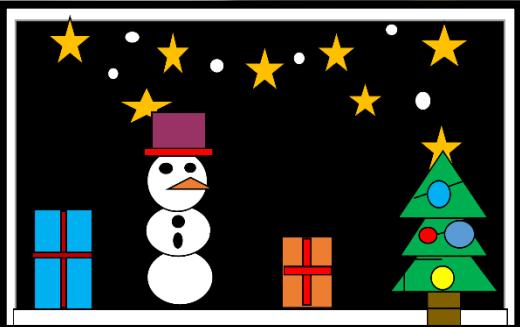
Christmas Raffle

Across twelve days of the term, we held a daily raffle and drew a winner for each of the incredible prizes. Mrs Hayes once again worked her magic, creating a wonderful selection of prizes from so many kind donations. Tickets were available through ParentPay or via reception, and all money raised went towards purchasing new goalposts. There were hampers of treats, swim-themed prizes, a Made in Stoke hamper, and even a £100 M&S voucher. On the final day of term, one lucky individual won a brand-new wheelbarrow filled with all its contents!

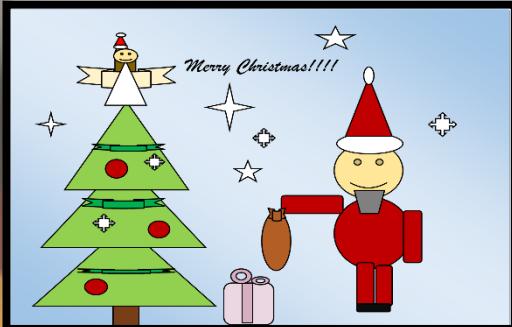


Year 7 Christmas Card Competition

All students in Year 7 have been putting their imagination and expertise in digital tools to good use for this year's Christmas card competition. The standard of entry was again exceptionally high. We hope you enjoy a selection of some of our students' work.



Felix F, 7C1



Molly A, 7C1



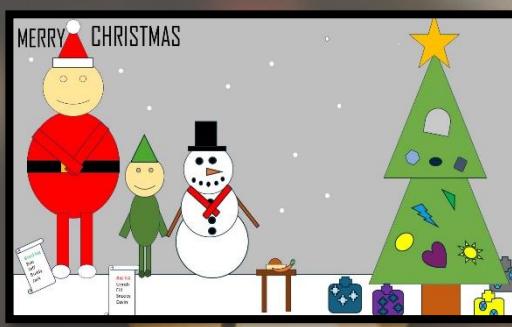
Lily L, 7C2



Tilly S, 7C2



Archie R, 7C3



Ellie-Mai O, 7C3

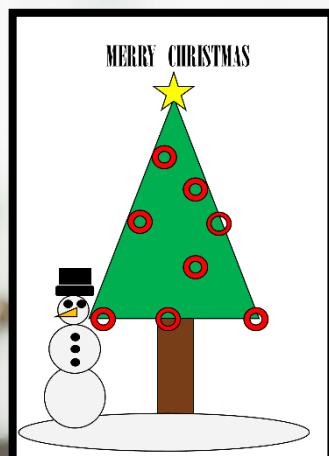
Year 7 Christmas Card Competition



Daria S, 7C4



Harry L, 7C4



Jack S, 7C4



William F, 7C4



Dante W, 7C4

"The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear."

Year 7 Christmas Card Competition



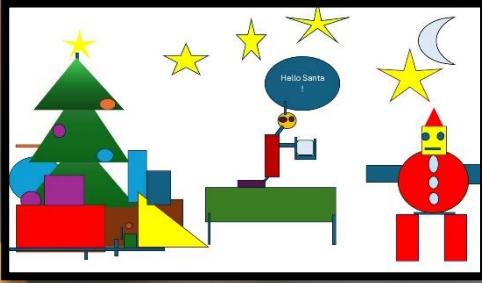
Katy-Hope B, 7C5



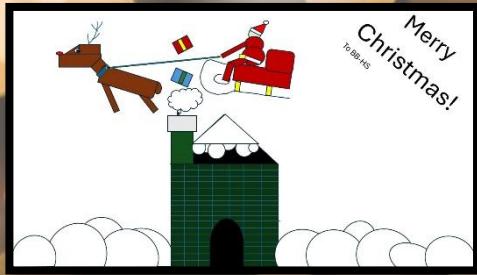
Sophie G, 7C5



Jacob A, 7C6



Jamie D, 7C6



Fergus G, 7C6



William C, 7C6



Alexa M, 7C6

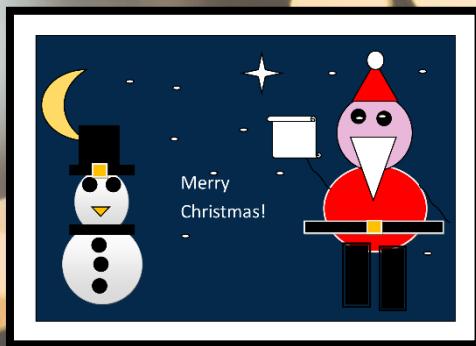
Year 7 Christmas Card Competition



Olivia L, 7C7



Phoebe M, 7YX1



William B, 7YX1



Piera L, 7C7



Abdullah K, 7YX1

House Dodgeball Competition



Our Year 11, Sixth Form and Staff Dodgeball Competition was a huge success, with fantastic turnout, great house spirit and plenty of high-energy matches. After some close battles in the round-robin tournament, Centaur took 1st place (100 points), followed by Sphinx (75), Pegasus (50) and Serpent (25). Well done to all teams for their brilliant effort and sportsmanship! We're now looking forward to the next house event - the Christmas Bake Off on Thursday 18th December. Please place bakes in the SLT area before school, clearly labelled with your name, form, house and ingredient list. Good luck!



Christmas Concert

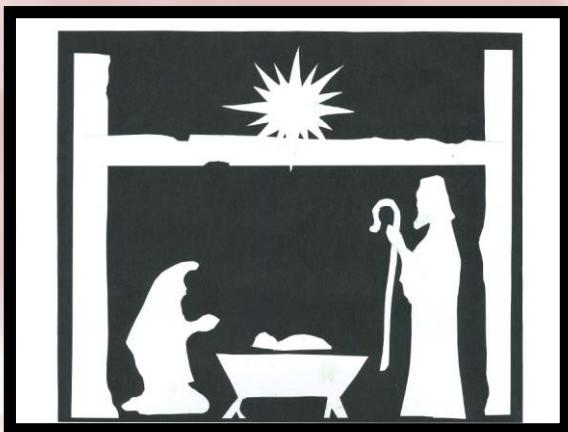


Well done to all the students who took part in this year's phenomenally festive Christmas concert. What a way to get into the Christmas spirit with some fabulous performances and joining in a carol or two! Thank you to Miss Balewski for her hard work.

JTMAT Christmas Card Competition



Well done to our finalists, Gracie F (10AK, top two), Poppy H (10GM, bottom left) and Daisy F (7HBL, bottom right) for their fantastic card designs.



Check out some of our favourite submissions on the next page. Well done to everyone who entered!

JMAT Christmas Card Competition



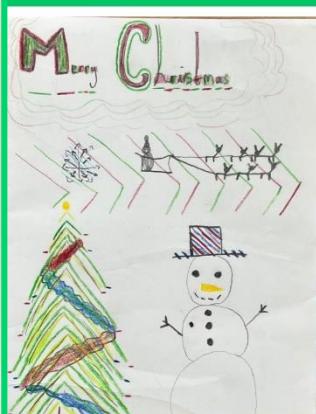
Heidi H, 10NC



Ava W, 9JJT



Sophie P, 10GM



Samuel N, 9TS



Ava S, 10KMP



Amelia C, 9KSA



Georgia H, 10NC



Pippa N, 7LLM



Grace H, 10AK

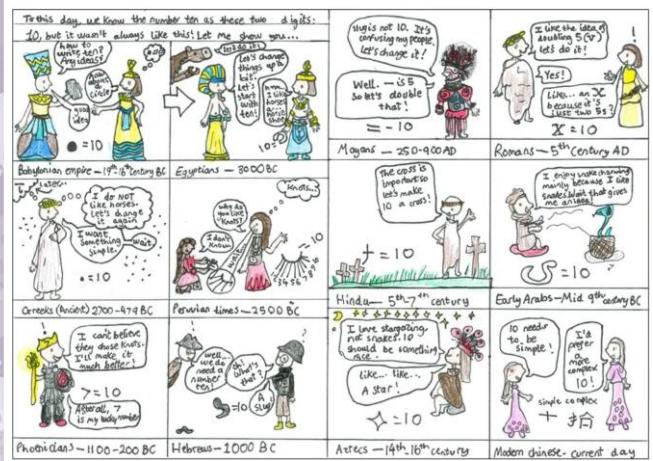
JTMAT Secondary Subject Excellence



The JTMAT secondary subject excellence project took place earlier this term.

Students were asked to get creative and summarise the history of a mathematical symbol, word or number. We received lots of amazing entries for the maths award and found it tough to select our top eight entries to represent our school. Entries from across seven schools were judged and we were delighted to find out that the winner and runner-up selected were both from our school.

The subject excellence winner is Hope M (Year 8) who produced a phenomenal video titled 'mathematical mysteries - episode 1: zero', which included a range of characters!



The runner-up award went to Daisy F (Year 7) who had written and illustrated a comic book through the ages detailing the history of the number 10. A massive well done!

Christmas Cake Club



Our Christmas Cake Club with Year 7 students has been very successful. Students baked, added marzipan and decorated their cakes ready to be taken home. Accompanied by hot chocolate, biscuits and festive music, it has been heart-warming to see our Year 7s working hard on their Christmas masterpieces.



Well done Team Reindeer!



Remembrance Day



To commemorate 80 years since the end of World War II, Mrs Robinson organised a collective act of remembrance as every student and member of staff signed a poppy, which was then displayed in an '80' as we honoured those who have died in all conflicts. Mrs Pheasey made a special video, documenting our remembrance activities, which can be seen on our social media. A special mention to our wonderful students who joined Miss Balewski to perform The Last Post and La Reveille before and after the two-minute silence.



Head Prefects, Liam O and Scarlett W-H laying a wreath on behalf of Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form at St Peter's Church.

Internet Citizens



This term, we welcomed visitors from Parentzone and YouTube as part of their Internet Citizens programme, who delivered an engaging talk and workshop for a group of Year 9 and Year 10 students on misinformation and disinformation online. They explored the importance of fact-checking what we see and recognising that not everything online is as it appears. Dr Allison Gardner, MP for Stoke-on-Trent South, joined us to speak about her personal experience on this topic and the importance of young people being informed whilst they are online and to remember to 'hit pause' if something doesn't seem right.

A big thank you to Mr Broomhall for organising the event, and to our students, who were confident speakers and showed fantastic teamwork throughout the morning's activities. Two groups performed powerful spoken-word pieces and raps about bringing people together and challenging divisive language. We also saw some wonderfully creative advert designs promoting the skills needed to spot and challenge misinformation.

To top it off, students even experienced how easily opinions can be swayed during a vote on the ultimate crisp flavour: salt and vinegar vs. cheese and onion!

Well done to everyone involved and thank you to our visitors for an inspiring morning!

BE INTERNET CITIZENS



STEM Club

In STEM club we have had an amazing first few sessions. We have made our own lava lamps, made our own formulations of sherbet and esters. All of these practicals have helped to improve the students' scientific understanding as well as their scientific skills. This is due to students being able to attempt practicals and be taught knowledge that they may not have completed until Year 10 or even sixth form. We have been extra lucky this year as our sixth form students have supported our STEM sessions by leading and delivering them to our Year 7 STEM students. This has been an incredible opportunity for our Year 7 students who take part in STEM club as they are being taught sixth form practicals by the sixth formers themselves. We are proud of how far our students have come already and we are excited to see how they continue to develop in science, maths, technology and computer science.





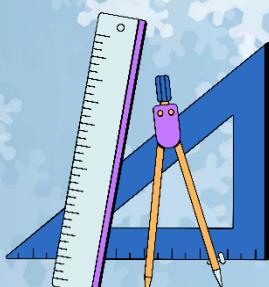
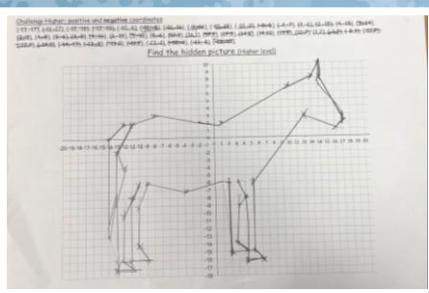
Superstar Student Leaders

The Year 11 Careers Prefects have stepped up to the challenge to start having career discussions with Year 8. Their mission is to speak to all Year 8 about their future aspirations this year and support their thinking about how the essential skills are important.



Marvellous Mathematicians

In late October, 8Y3 were plotting co-ordinates using four quadrants in Maths. They successfully created some brilliant images by correctly plotting and joining up the given points. Brilliant work by everyone!



School Musical



Rehearsals for the school musical 'Annie' have been progressing nicely this term. Students have been learning the key big dance numbers, practising the lyrics, and rehearsing the acting scenes.

Tickets for the show will go on sale in the new year, and we are currently looking for businesses who wish to advertise in the programme. This will be available to over 600 people over the run of the show. If you want further information, please get in touch with Miss Blissett at h.blissett@bb-hs.co.uk



School Musical



"I am very lucky to be able to be a part of Annie and have a proper role in this production. I have made lots of new friends and have grown in confidence and I hope that that continues throughout this show. I have already had so much fun doing this production and I cannot wait to continue practising this show ready for the actual show in February." **Freya B, Year 9**

"I am really enjoying Annie and have met loads of new friends which I would not have if I did not join the musical. I am really enjoying the role I have so far, and I have watched both films so to now act in the musical is a real pleasure. I am very excited to carry on with this play and to perform it in February." **Isla B, Year 8**



"Annie has been amazing so far! I've had time to make new friends and new connections from lots of different year groups. I've loved it sooo much so far and I recommend it to anyone who likes musical theatre, who dances or even just likes to watch it!" **Lucie W, Year 10**



An Important Visit



Oddballs Assembly

Sixth form students were visited 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.

OddBalls

Student Excellence



Careers Competitions

The winners of our Year 8 careers quiz were presented this term, alongside our champion of the Halloween careers competition.

The Year 8 Skills Leaders presented the prizes. All Year 8 entries were very impressive and made it very difficult for the leaders to judge but well done to the skills leaders for creating and running this event.

It was a good work experience activity to plan, deliver and review an event across a year group.



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A Role Model in French

Helping his fellow French classmates revise the partitive article, Year 10 student James S stepped up to summarise how to use it in different ways. His clear explanation and willingness to support others made him a real role model in the classroom.



Pride • Respect • Kindness



Future Designers at Work

Taking advantage of our new computer suite, Mr Li's Year 8 DT class explored 3D CAD software to create their own eco-friendly living space designs.

Supporting the Christmas Fayre

Preparations are already well under way for this year's Christmas Fayre, and we were overwhelmed by the generosity shown by our school community. Students and staff were invited to wear a hoodie to school in exchange for bringing in a sweet treat donation - and they did not disappoint!

Thanks to the kindness of our students and staff, we are well stocked and excited for a fantastic Christmas Fayre, as well as raffle prizes and Christmas hampers.

Thank you to everyone who contributed - your support truly made a difference!



Pride • Respect • Kindness





Amazing Archie in Year 7

Archie C (7EMF) took part in a charity cricket fun day at Meir Heath Cricket Club alongside friends from his year group and several other teams, all raising money for the Royal Stoke Children's Oncology Unit. Together, they raised an incredible £1,500, which Archie proudly presented as the final cheque!

Archie said he was "very happy" to support such a fantastic team of people. What an amazing achievement – well done!



Chess Updates

Well done to Ryan H, Year 9, who represented our school at the Staffordshire Chess Championship at Painsley Catholic College. Ryan performed exceptionally well and finished joint third in a very strong field against the best players in the area. Ryan won 4 out of his 6 games, demonstrating very high levels of resilience and skill.

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.

Mr K Pugh – Teacher of Mathematics

Student Excellence

The Book of Knowledge - 98% completion rate across Year 7 & Year 8!



Mr K Salt - Teacher of IT and Computer Science



Isla, our star gymnast

Year 7 Isla B recently competed against a large group of other gymnasts in a competition 'The Mill Merry Open'. She came 1st on vault, 2nd on bars, 1st on beams, 4th on floor and then 2nd overall! Isla has done gymnastics since she was three and it is clear that the hard work is paying off. Plus, we got to see some of Isla's moves in a recent dance lesson where she showed some of her skills when putting together a routine! Keep up the hard work Isla!

A Selection of Photos from the Year 7 Hobbies Exhibition



Year 10 Geography Trip

Our Year 10 geographers had an incredible three days at Blencathra in the Lake District!

From trekking along Kilnhow Beck to investigating river processes to exploring how quality of life varies across Carlisle, they showed real curiosity and determination.

Students planned thoughtful hypotheses, collected and presented data with real professionalism, and finished with confident conclusions and evaluations.

They were amazing geographers throughout - and once again, we were treated to fantastic weather. A brilliant trip all round!



Geography Trip to Iceland

Our fantastic geographers have had an unforgettable trip to Iceland, beginning with a detour through Copenhagen before driving through the ghost town of Gridavik, which was evacuated after the 2023 eruption that caused half the town to sink by two metres. Their journey continued with snowy views on the way to their cottages and a cosy curry on the first night. The adventure began at Kerið Crater, where students braved the cold to admire the unique lake and enjoy the snow, before warming up with a dip in the Secret Lagoon's hot springs and icy plunge pool. The group then toured the Golden Circle, witnessing the eruption of Geysir, the power of Gulfoss, and a breathtaking snowy sunset walk between two tectonic plates. On "Waterfall Day," they visited Eyjafjallajökull, site of the 2010 eruption, and Skógarfoss, where some climbed 527 steps to the top while others enjoyed the spray from below. Miss Bloore and a few lucky students even caught a glimpse of the northern lights. Despite a turn in the weather, the group explored Vik, Reynisfjara's black sand beach, Seljalandsfoss waterfall, and a hidden canyon before ending the trip with games and a final day in Reykjavik, visiting the Hellisheiði geothermal power plant and building snowmen in the city. It's been an incredible experience full of discovery, adventure, and plenty of snow!





Congratulations to our House MFL Art Competition winners!

- Sienna W took first place with her beautiful Monet-inspired painting.
- Fergus G earned second place with his striking Gaudí-inspired sculpture.
- Olivia F came third with her bold and creative Picasso-style artwork.

Well done to all three artists for their outstanding talent and for everyone who entered the competition!

The Art Department's 'House Competition' winner is....Elsa T (7EMF & Sphinx). Elsa hand made a beautiful, Native American inspired dreamcatcher, based around our school values of pride, respect and kindness.

Check out the overall points update: (up to 8th December)



Sphinx

714



Pegasus

593



Centaur

662



Serpent

591





Xin, our Year 12 drama subject ambassador, had a hard job when judging the entries into the **Annie poster house competition**. All students across the school had been invited to create a poster that showed something from the musical that could be put up in the drama department. The winner was Gurleen in Year 8, and second place went to Elsa in Year 7 who are both pictured with their winning posters and their prize. Thank you to all involved from Mrs Baines.

Congratulations to all the selected **House Captains** for this academic year! We look forward to working with all captains who will organise their teams and help lead events throughout the year.



House Table Tennis Competition

In late October, the table tennis house competitions for Year 7 + 8 and Year 9 + 10 brought plenty of excitement, with some fiercely contested and closely fought matches.

Every house was represented during the final week, showcasing great skill and sportsmanship.

Special congratulations go to Felix (Year 7, Pegasus), Tor (Year 10, Sphinx), and Tilly (Year 10, Centaur) for winning their respective competitions.

Please see the breakdown of results:

Year 7 and 8

1st: Pegasus (100 +8 participation points)

2nd: Centaur (75 + 6 participation points)

3rd: Serpent (50 + 2 participation points)

4th: Sphinx (25 + 6 participation points)

Year 9 and 10

1st: Centaur (100 +8 participation points)

2nd: Sphinx (75 + 6 participation points)

3rd: Serpent (50 + 2 participation points)

4th: Pegasus (25 + 6 participation points)



Sporting Success



We are delighted to share the latest updates from our PE department, celebrating the hard work, determination, and sporting excellence of our students over a very busy few months.

14 October - Year 11 Boys Football vs King Edwards, Lichfield (County Cup)

Our Year 11 boys travelled across the county for a challenging first-round County Cup tie against last year's overall winners. Despite the 0-3 scoreline, the team produced a spirited and committed performance from start to finish. Cory, in goal, was the standout performer, making several outstanding saves to keep Blythe competitive throughout.

16 October - Cross Country at St Joseph's

Our boys' cross-country team performed brilliantly in their opening race of the school series, displaying impressive pride and determination. **Highlights:** Year 7: Isaac C stormed to victory—an exceptional achievement. U14 (Year 8): Eleven pupils competed, with Flynn E, Remi C, Elias K, and Finlay D all finishing within the top 15. U16 Team: A superb team effort from Cory E, Oliver S, and Maddox C, all placing in the top 15, with Billy P completing the team in his first ever race.

17 October - U14 Girls Football vs Sir Graham Balfour (County Cup)

Our U14 girls delivered an excellent performance to secure a 3-0 win in the County Cup. The team played confidently out from the back and were clinical in attack. Standout performances: Isla, Amelia, Katie

20 October - Staffordshire Inter-Schools Cross Country

A hugely successful evening for our cross-country runners at the county competition. County Qualifiers for Inter Counties Championships (Dudley, November): Isaac C (Y7) Poppy W (Y8) Flynn E (Y8) **Special Mentions:** Isaac C secured 1st place yet again, in a very competitive field. Our Year 8/9 boys' team achieved 1st place overall, backing up last week's result confirming they also won their school race. Well done to Flynn E, George R, Remi C, Finlay D, and Elias K.

21 October - Year 7 Boys Football vs Christchurch (County Cup)

Our Year 7 boys opened their County Cup campaign with a hard-fought 4-2 win. After twice falling behind, the team showed impressive resilience. **Key contributions:** Felix scored a superb hat-trick. Theo added an excellent finish to secure the victory. A brilliant effort and good luck to the boys in the next round!

21 October - Year 10 Boys Football vs Wolgarston (County Cup)

The Year 10 boys produced a strong performance to claim a 4-1 win in their opening County Cup match. Goals came from: Reece B (1) Olly H (1) Matt W (1) – goal of the game Reece B (1). Player of the Match: Olly H.

23 October - Year 7 Boys Football vs Florence MacWilliams (City Cup)

A dominant display from the Year 7 boys saw them secure a remarkable 14-0 victory in the City Cup. The team showed superb attitude, played with creativity and confidence, and shared the goals across multiple players.

3 November - Sixth Form Boys Football vs Cheslyn Haye (County Cup)

Our Sixth Form team returned from half-term with a determined performance, earning a 3-1 win in a tight County Cup fixture. **Match Highlights:** Noah scored a brilliant hat-trick to secure the win. Outstanding contributions from the midfield trio of Jack, Billy, and Nik played a key role in the team's success.

Sporting Success

12th November - Year 9 Boys Football Team vs John Taylor High School (County Cup)

In what proved to be a classic cup tie, Blythe's Year 9 boys started slowly away against John Taylor High School and were quickly down 3-0 and then 4-1. Managing to enter the break at 4-2 gave them a glimmer of hope. Goals midway through the second half allowed them to hold on for a 4-4 draw at full time and take the game to extra time. Three quick-fire goals then saw Blythe complete a memorable 7-4 victory. Performances and goals from Billy, Ethan and Cayman ensured a great fightback and team performance.

19th November - U13 Girls Cricket - Indoor County 8-a-Side Competition

Many of the girls playing in this cricket competition are new to the game and performed very well given this fact. They managed to be competitive in all their fixtures and won a couple of their games, ensuring they finished 6th - about halfway up the overall table of schools. We are looking forward to more competition in the summer term.

19th November - Year 7 Boys Football Team vs Discovery Academy (City Cup)

Our Year 7 boys continued their strong run with another victory against Discovery Academy. Goals came from a variety of players in what was an excellent team performance.

24th November - Year 7 Boys Football Team vs Sir Graham Balfour School (County Cup)

The Year 7 boys' football team won a hard-fought second-round fixture in the County Cup against Sir Graham Balfour School. Goals from Felix and Tommy proved enough to see them through to the next round and provide a 100% record for the first term of their footballing time at Blythe Bridge.

2nd December - U14 Boys Basketball Team vs St Joseph's

Our U14 boys' basketball team produced an excellent performance in what was their first game. The match was level for the first three quarters, with only one score in it for either team. As Blythe tired, the opposing team used their substitutions well to power home a victory. In what was many of Blythe's players' first ever basketball game, they performed well and learned a lot to take into the next fixture. A top performance from James A ensured Blythe were led well and scored many baskets.

3rd December - Year 9 Boys Football Team vs Discovery Academy

Our Year 9 boys' football team had their last game of the term against Discovery Academy and ran out 4-1 victors. The damage was done within the first 15 minutes of the game when Blythe netted three times, making the remainder of the game more comfortable. Goals from Ethan and Cayman ensured a solid performance and another victory.

Sporting Success



U13 Netball

Our amazing U13 Girls proudly represented the school at the Stoke-on-Trent City Netball Festival in November - and what a fantastic performance it was! The girls showed incredible pride wearing our school colours, displaying brilliant teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship throughout the day. After every match, they led three cheers for their opponents - a true example of respect and spirit! They fought tooth and nail in every game, narrowly missing out on a semi-final spot by just one point! We finished 3rd in our group, winning three matches and only just losing two very close ones. A huge thank you also goes to our two sixth form students who volunteered their time to coach the team and help with scoring throughout the day - your support made such a difference! We couldn't be prouder of everyone involved. Well done girls - you did us all proud!



Port Vale FC & Girls' Football

A group of Year 11, 12 and 13 girls participated in a training session with coaches from PVFC in November. We are eager to develop a girls' football provision in our sixth form moving forward. Well done girls!



Ethan Signs for U14 Stoke Academy

Huge congratulations to Year 9 Ethan W-H, who has been signed to the U14 Stoke Academy team! We are so proud of his hard work, resilience, and respect - best of luck for the year ahead!

Sports Hall Athletics

A huge congratulations to our Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9/10 Athletics Teams, who have done themselves proud over the last three weeks while competing against 12 schools from across the city! We are thrilled to share that we finished 4th overall across all age groups, with a fantastic 2nd place for our Year 9/10 Girls Team. Special mention to Remi C for securing a Gold Medal in the standing triple jump!



Cross Country Success

Following an excellent series of school cross country races, we are delighted to announce that 11 pupils have qualified to represent the City of Stoke Schools Cross Country Team in January 2026.

A huge 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 are incredibly proud of you all – your hard work, determination and sportsmanship shine through every time you compete.



Student Leadership



During UK Parliament Week, we took the opportunity to launch our very own Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form School Parliament.

The first meeting was led by Mr Roberts and the Year 12 Politics Subject Ambassadors, Jack S and Dan C.

The students learnt about how democracy works in the UK and were grouped into committees, each considering a different area of school improvement. Their next job is to canvas the views of their peers.

Congratulations to our newly appointed Year Group Ambassadors. They will lead a team of Form Representatives.



Student Leadership

This term has been filled with student leadership opportunities for our school community. From applying to the PRK Committee and House Captains, we have seen phenomenal enthusiasm from Year 7 students. Our students' willingness to get involved for a good cause impressed us. Mr Goodwin has continued his work with our Skills Leaders and Careers Champions, helping Miss Blissett to create the Christmas video, promoting the Essential Skills whilst getting people involved. Our Year 11 prefects were responsible for spreading the message of our School Charter, speaking to Year 7 form groups and asking them to make a pledge for the year on how they will upkeep the charter and its message.

However, the most significant event this term has been our Christmas Fayre, which our student leaders have been supporting daily to prepare for. From selling ticket and token cards to collecting envelopes for the £100 prize draw and making games and decorations for the Fayre - we have to say a massive THANK YOU to our exceptional students for giving their time and effort into making the afternoon a festive success.



Christmas Fayre

Friday 19th December - Main Hall.

**Students can attend during period 1 & 2
(with a ticket).**

Buy your ticket before school or at breaktime!

Year 12 Auschwitz-Birkenau Visit

Year 12 historians, Charlotte and Oliver, visited Auschwitz-Birkenau in the autumn term as part of the Holocaust Educational Trust's education programme. Below are their accounts of their incredible experience at the most infamous of Nazi Death Camps. Auschwitz-Birkenau was opened as an extermination camp in 1942 as part of the Nazi's 'final solution' and 1.1 million Jewish people lost their lives there. The majority were killed on arrival.

Charlotte S, 12RH:



"When I first walked into Auschwitz it was nothing like what I expected, we walked through a long hallway to begin with which had a very sombre atmosphere, especially with a sound playing names of victims of the camp being read aloud. At the end of the hallway, it opened to the camp which shocked me, at first glance it almost looked like an old housing estate, with lots of brick buildings (not at all what I thought it would look like). Seeing the book of names was by far the thing that impacted me the most, I don't think most people can comprehend how many people lost their lives here but seeing their names written down helped me better understand the immense scale of the Holocaust. We saw the belongings of the people who entered the camp: prosthetics, luggage, shoes and hair. Seeing this was important to rehumanise the victims of the holocaust, and it was heartbreakingly to see the number of belongings left there, the shoes filled a room from floor to ceiling. Finally, we went to the gas chamber in Auschwitz I; they were much smaller and much more hidden than expected. We were only in there briefly, but it felt very ominous and cold. Altogether it was a very enlightening experience."

Oliver E, 12LSH:



"Visiting Auschwitz-Birkenau was a profoundly sombre experience. The silence was heavy, and every step I took felt like walking on sacred ground, weighed down by the suffering that had taken place there. The barracks were cramped and cold, a stark reminder of the brutal conditions prisoners endured. Personal belongings, like shoes and suitcases, were scattered throughout the museum, each item a painful reminder of lost lives. I couldn't help but imagine the hope and confusion of those who arrived, unaware of the horrors that awaited. The gas chambers and crematoria were chilling. Standing before the ruins, the scale of the suffering hit me - millions of innocent lives taken in a system of pure cruelty. The wind through the barbed wire fences added to the eerie stillness, as though the past was still lingering in the air. Leaving Auschwitz, the weight of it all stayed with me. It was a reminder of humanity's capacity for evil, but also a call to never forget or let such atrocities happen again. The experience was humbling and heartbreakingly, leaving a deep, lasting impact."



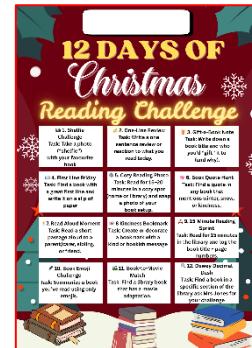
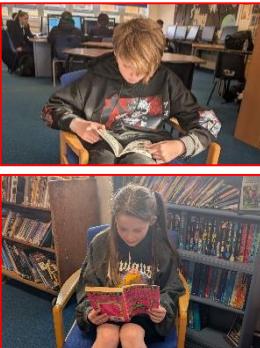


This year we have continued our tradition of giving the gift of reading at Christmas time. Students have been writing messages for younger children inside our children's books and wrapping them up for younger members of our wider community. It has been a real privilege to read the messages students have written about the books and witness our Pride, Respect and Kindness ethos in action. On Tuesday 16th December, students will be delivering the books to the local toddler group and join the children for their Christmas party. I know our students will be whipped up in the magic of Christmas, grab some snacks from the wonderful buffet provided and get involved in singing songs and playing with the toddlers. Father Christmas will be delivering the Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form advent books to each of the children as part of his visit. Developing a love of reading is an incredibly important priority at our school and we hope the children enjoy the books as much as we have writing and wrapping them.



Mrs E Avons - Senior Leader - Student Leadership & History and Politics Teacher

School Library



12 Days of Christmas Reading Challenge

This December, our library launched the festive *12 Days of Christmas Reading Challenge*, encouraging students to complete a series of fun, one-day reading tasks designed to spark creativity, build reading confidence, and celebrate the joy of books. From snapping "shelfies" and creating kindness bookmarks to hunting for wintry book quotes, students have been getting involved in a wide range of seasonal activities. Each completed challenge earns an entry into our **Grand Prize Draw**, with two fantastic prizes up for grabs: **A £20 Stoke Ski Centre voucher / Two tickets for Clip & Climb** Thank you to everyone who has taken part so far—the **winner will be announced shortly!** Keep reading, and good luck!

Heads of Year



Year 7

As we approach the end of the first term, it's an ideal time to reflect on the fantastic progress Year 7 students have made since joining Blythe Bridge High School and Sixth Form. I am delighted to share some of the standout achievements from our newest students, who have really made their mark on the school community.

One of the first things that has impressed staff is the exceptional standard of uniform that our Year 7 students have maintained. From the very first day, it has been clear that our new students take pride in representing the school. The smartness and consistency with which you've followed our uniform guidelines have set a great example for the rest of the school. This is an excellent way to start your journey with us, and I commend you all for your efforts.

In addition to looking smart, your commitment to your studies has been outstanding. The number of achievement points awarded to Year 7 students has been phenomenal. It's not just the students who are achieving excellent results in the classroom, but also those who are contributing to school life through extra-curricular activities, showing kindness to peers, or demonstrating a positive attitude in everything they do. These achievement points reflect the hard work, respect, and responsibility that Year 7 is becoming known for.

Equally impressive are the behaviour scores. We are seeing some truly outstanding behaviour from so many Year 7 students. Whether it's showing respect for teachers and peers, working collaboratively in groups, or contributing positively to discussions, your behaviour is setting a fantastic example. It's clear to see that Year 7 has embraced the school's values of pride, respect and kindness and I am confident this will continue throughout the year.

While the first term has been filled with so many positive achievements, we are now looking forward to an incredibly busy few weeks ahead. There were several exciting events that gave you the chance to showcase your talents, engage with the wider school community, and contribute to important causes.

First, we had our 'Children in Need Ramble or Read' event. This annual event offers a fantastic opportunity to get active while raising money for a great cause. It was wonderful to see Year 7 students sign up and get excited about this event.

Next up is the Festival of Arts, which gave Year 7 students a chance to showcase their creative talents. Whether you enjoy drama, music, art, or dance, this was your opportunity to shine. Your hard work and dedication no doubt made this event one to remember.

And, of course, we celebrated the festive season with our Christmas Carol Service. This service is always a highlight of the term, and I loved seeing how Year 7 students contributed to the music, readings, and celebrations. Whether you were singing, reading, or helping behind the scenes, your involvement made this event even more special for the whole school community.

In form time, one of our key focuses has been reading. It has been a joy to visit form rooms and see the level of engagement in the books that Year 7 students are reading. From thoughtful discussions about characters and themes to the excitement of recommending books to each other, it's clear that reading is something Year 7 students take seriously. Many of you have already set reading goals and are making excellent progress. Whether you're reading for pleasure or exploring new genres, I encourage you to keep up the great work. Your enthusiasm for reading not only enhances your learning but also helps to develop important skills for the future.

In addition to your academic and creative achievements, it's been fantastic to see Year 7 students representing Blythe Bridge High School in a wide range of sporting fixtures. From football to cross-country, Year 7 athletes have really impressed us with their determination and teamwork. There have been some notable successes in these competitions, and I'm incredibly proud of the effort and sportsmanship you've shown. It's wonderful to see so many students getting involved in extracurricular activities and representing the school with pride.

Whether you're part of a team or cheering on your classmates from the sidelines, your involvement in sport plays an important role in building a positive school culture. I'm excited to see even more of you getting involved in sporting activities throughout the year.

As we move into the second term, I'm excited to see how Year 7 continues to flourish. You've all settled in so well, and I'm confident that your positive attitude, hard work, and enthusiasm will continue to make you successful in everything you do. From the classroom to the sports field, the stage to the charity events, Year 7 is proving to be an incredibly talented and hardworking year group. Keep up the great work, and let's continue to make this year a memorable one!

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



Heads of Year



Form stars of the term

7EMF Barnaby W

Barnaby has made a really positive start to the year, showing pride, respect and kindness across the curriculum and achieving outstanding lesson scores. He is an active member in the form, sharing his ideas about resilience and a growth mindset in citizenship. He demonstrates his own growth mindset in his attitude to learning and receptivity to feedback. Well done, Barnaby!

7HBL Ava R

Ava has made a fantastic start to her time at high school. She consistently demonstrates outstanding effort in lessons, consistently achieving the most weekly 1s in 7HBL. She is also keen to participate in school life, volunteering for every opportunity possible. Within form time, Ava is keen to read and encourages her peers to do so, as well as engaging with the story. She is always the first student to suggest theories around the plot of Percy Jackson and reflects on those suggested by her peers. Ava is a joy to have in form.

7HSS Fergus G

Fergus is a conscientious and thoughtful student who consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic and genuine consideration for those around him. He has a quiet, unassuming nature, preferring to get on with his tasks without seeking attention or praise. Fergus's dedication to his studies is mirrored in his passion for music, where he contributes significantly to the school community. His thoughtful contributions and steady presence make him a valued member of 7HSS.

7LLM Pippa N

Pippa has embraced high school life wonderfully since starting in September. She is a kind and conscientious student who thoroughly throws herself into all aspects of school. Pippa volunteered to read at the carol concert, is a form representative with the school council, and is a uniform / equipment monitor in form time. I couldn't ask for more. Keep it up, Pippa!

7LM Sophie G

Sophie is consistently kind, hardworking and polite, setting a brilliant example to those around her. She is always punctual with her homework and has even taken the initiative to complete extra Sparx Maths independent study. A fantastic role model - well done!

7LRO Lexi C

I am proud to nominate Lexi Capewell for her outstanding contribution to our form group. Every day, Lexi arrives with a consistently positive attitude, setting the tone for others and creating a welcoming environment for everyone around her. She demonstrates our school values exceptionally well through her kindness, reliability, and willingness to support both myself and her peers. Lexi regularly volunteers to help without being asked and plays a key role in ensuring our form is organised and prepared each day. Her enthusiasm and sense of responsibility are clear, particularly through her expressed interest in becoming a school ambassador - an opportunity I believe she would excel in. Lexi is a credit to our form and to the school. I am incredibly proud to nominate her.

7SFR Nova C

Nova has made a really impressive start to her time at Blythe Bridge High School. She has a great attitude, and she is always ready to help, both staff and other students. She works very hard in lessons, showing a great determination to do her best. WELL DONE!!

Year 7 Top Achievers up to 28/11/2025

Daisy F 7HBL 1023
Fergus G 7HSS 954
Teresa S 7EMF 929
Archie R 7LM 900
Daria S 7LRO 894
Isla B 7EMF 889
Elsa T 7EMF 859
Emily F 7HBL 859
Dottie-Mae M 7HBL 857
Molly A 7HBL 846

Heads of Year

Year 8

Year 8, well done on completing the autumn term. It has been fantastic to see so many of you engaging positively with all aspects of school life, representing the year group with maturity and enthusiasm. Whether through contributions in lessons, participation in extra-curricular activities, or taking on new responsibilities, you continue to make us proud.

We have again seen an impressive number of students achieve the Bronze Reward this term, reflecting your commitment to meeting our expectations. We look forward to celebrating your achievements during the final week of term in the celebration assembly.

I would also like to recognise the fantastic achievements of our sports teams this term. Well done to our netball team, cross-country team, indoor athletics team, indoor cricket team, and all of our football teams. You have represented the school brilliantly, showing teamwork, determination, and excellent sportsmanship throughout every fixture and event. You have truly made us proud.

A highlight of the term will be the upcoming trip to Lille, where 80 of our students will head off to experience the Christmas market. I am delighted to be joining the staff team accompanying you. I am excited to see Year 8 put their French skills to use and continue to demonstrate independence, resilience, and responsibility throughout our time in France and Belgium.

I hope you all have a restful Christmas break, take time to recharge, and return in January ready for a fresh start to the spring term.

We look forward to welcoming you back, in full uniform and ready to learn.

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

Year 8 Top Achievers up to 28/11/2025

Hope M 8SMY 1198
Gurleen K 8ESH 1175
Sebastian S 8JL 976
Daisie B 8DH 951
Sophie H 8DH 932
Sienna W 8SMY 928
Gemma H 8NAZ 925
Sophie B 8NAZ 898
Isla B 8SMY 883
Jessica W 8JJ 871

Form stars of the term

8DH Rosie H-C

The form star award for 8DH goes to this student for her kindness, politeness, and eagerness to seize every opportunity both in and out of lessons. Her constant smile and positive energy light up the room, and she always brightens my day with her presence. She's a true joy to be around.

8ESH Gurleen K

I could honestly pick so many as to me, they really are all stars, but it has to be this student. They are involved in so many aspects of school life that if I listed them all we would be here all day. She has won the Annie poster award, she is one of the year 8 careers champions, she is a year group ambassador. The list just goes on; she enters every competition going and always wins or comes second. She is a credit to the form, and we are lucky to have her.

8JJ Niamh A

This student has earned this award for consistently demonstrating pride, respect, and kindness in everything they do. They work hard across all aspects of school life, including independent study and extracurricular activities. They understand the importance of learning and show respect to all peers and staff, always managing to put a smile on people's faces. They are truly a pleasure to have in 8JJ.

8JL Elsie F

This student is a fantastic winner of the Form Star Award because she always gives her best in everything she does. She shows a positive attitude, works hard, and supports others, making her a great role model in the form. This student demonstrates respect, kindness, and pride every day, helping to create a friendly and successful environment for everyone.

8LG Dexter B

This student shows real pride in representing our form, works very hard, and demonstrates a fantastic attitude throughout. They also delivered a brilliant pitch for Form Representative. They are a positive example for everyone, and I am delighted to have them in our form.

8NAZ Lucy J

It is with great pleasure that we award the Form Star Award for outstanding achievements and remarkable dedication this term. This individual has consistently demonstrated

dedication, responsibility, and a positive attitude in everything undertaken. With an impressive attitude, they set a wonderful example for peers, showing respect to others and maintaining a high standard of behaviour both in and out of the classroom. A strong work ethic and enthusiasm define their approach to all schoolwork. Effort is always given in every task, ensuring excellence across all subjects. This commitment to studies, combined with a natural curiosity and eagerness to learn, makes this individual a role model for classmates. Additionally, a remarkable singing talent further showcases the depth of abilities. We couldn't be prouder of everything that has been achieved so far. Well done - a true star!

8RJJ Olivia M

This student has been awarded the Form Star Award for their outstanding commitment and dedication to learning. They consistently approach every task with determination and pride, striving to do their very best in all that they do. Their kindness toward others and the positive influence they bring to the classroom make them a truly valued member of the form. This award celebrates their hard work, compassion, and the remarkable example they set each day.

8SMY Sienna W

They are an exceptional student whose dedication, reliability, and positive spirit make her a truly outstanding role model within our form. She approaches every school day with unwavering commitment: always punctual, always prepared, and consistently completing every homework task to an impeccable standard. Her behaviour for learning scores are exemplary, reflecting not only her drive to succeed but also her respect for her teachers and classmates. What makes this student stand out even more is her willingness to contribute to the wider school community. She eagerly enters house competitions, demonstrating enthusiasm, teamwork, and school pride. Last year, she dedicated her own time and creativity to crafting items for our fundraising stall—an act that perfectly captures her generosity, initiative, and determination to help others. Whether it's supporting her peers, engaging wholeheartedly in lessons, or stepping up whenever help is needed, she brings positivity and purpose to everything she does.

She consistently models the highest standards of behaviour, effort, and character. She embodies the values we hope to see in every student, and she is truly deserving of recognition as the overall Form Star of 8SMY.

Heads of Year

Year 9

It has been a fantastic start to the year for many of our Year 9 students! I want to take this opportunity to celebrate all those that continue to demonstrate our school values of Pride, Respect, and Kindness in everything they do. From their commitment in lessons to the way they support one another, they are truly setting a great example.

This half term, around 30 Year 9 students had the exciting opportunity to take part in an inspiring Internet Citizens workshop led by visitors from YouTube, focusing on spotting misinformation or disinformation and the importance of fact-checking online. The event featured creative activities, powerful spoken-word performances, and even a fun vote on the ultimate crisp flavour, with special thanks to Dr Allison Gardner, MP for Stoke-on-Trent South, and Mr Broomhall for making it possible. Many students have also represented the school in athletics, achieving excellent results and showing real determination and teamwork.

Looking ahead, the History department are thrilled to offer an incredible opportunity for students to visit the Ypres and Somme Battlefields. This educational trip will allow them to explore significant historical sites and pay respects to those who fought during World War One – a truly memorable experience.

A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to making the Christmas Fayre a success. Your generosity and hard work help to create a wonderful event for our school community. We also want to express our sincere gratitude to all parents and carers for your ongoing support with this, whether it is buying a raffle ticket or donating towards our “wear your hoody to school days” – it makes a real difference.

In one of our final assemblies of 2025, we discussed the theme of the winter solstice and turning darkness into light. As we approach the New Year, I encourage all Year 9 students to set themselves positive goals. Whether it's aiming for personal bests in class, getting involved in new opportunities, or showing more kindness to those around you – every step forward counts. Let's make 2026 a year of achievement and growth!

Finally, I wish all students, parents, carers, and families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy the festive season, recharge, and come back ready to embrace everything the new term has to offer!

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



Form stars of the term

9AMW Elizabeth F - You truly embody the essence of pride, respect, and kindness in everything you do! Your actions inspire those around you, creating an environment where everyone feels valued and supported. This award is a testament to your commitment to excellence and compassion, and we couldn't be prouder to celebrate your incredible impact. Thank you for being a shining example of what it means to lead with heart!

9CBA Joshua R - Joshua, you have faced challenges during Year 9, but over the past few months you have shown remarkable growth and maturity, especially during form time. You have stepped up to represent our form at the school council, volunteered for acts of kindness, and supported activities across the school community. Your commitment and positive attitude make you a true role model for your peers. Well done!

9JJT Ryan H - Ryan truly exemplifies our school values of pride, respect, and kindness in everything they do. They take great pride in their appearance, always wearing their uniform smartly and setting a positive example for others. Their commitment to learning is evident through the effort and care they put into their work, consistently striving for excellence. They treat both staff and peers with respect, listening attentively and contributing thoughtfully to class discussions. This student is a role model for our community, and we are proud to celebrate their achievements.

9KH Amber W - This student always goes above and beyond to be the best version of herself. She is polite and respectful to staff and peers and is the epitome of the school's values of Pride, respect and kindness. She always pushes herself out of her comfort zone, whether that be offering to read in form time or to share her insightful opinions in citizenship lessons, no task is ever too much, and she throws herself wholeheartedly into everything she does. She is a pleasure to have in form and always makes my day with her positive attitude and her infectious personality.

9KSA Holly H - Holly is truly exceptional - always meeting expectations with brilliance and grace. Her kindness shines through in everything she does, and her hard work never goes unnoticed. Thank you, Holly, for setting such a high standard and inspiring everyone around you!

9SAH James M - This student is a consistently hardworking, positive and focused student. Their time management is fantastic, being able to juggle the demands of school whilst being an avid competitive swimmer. They are a calm presence in the form, and are a role model for pride, respect and kindness. Keep being you!

9TS Nyah D - Nyah consistently demonstrates kindness and politeness in every interaction. She approaches every task with determination and gives her best effort at every opportunity. Her positive attitude and strong work ethic make her a role model for others, and she truly embodies the values we celebrate today. Well done, Nyah – your commitment and character are outstanding!

Heads of Year

Year 9 Top Achievers up to 28/11/2025

Amber W 9KH 958

Freya B 9CBA 918

Darci G 9JJT 912

Maizie B 9SAH 818

Aviaana A 9CBA 726

Charlotte C 9SAH 710

Ava W 9JJT 701

However, with other schools soon launching their programmes, it's vital that you secure your placement as soon as possible. The earlier you act, the more choice you will have—and the more likely you are to find a placement that inspires and excites you. Think broadly, be proactive, and take ownership of the chance to create a memorable week during the summer term. It will undoubtedly be one of the highlights of your year.

A special well done must go to our geographers who recently visited Blencathra in the Lake District. Your behaviour, commitment, and enthusiasm were exemplary from start to finish. Whether collecting data on the hillsides, engaging in fieldwork tasks, or supporting one another through the challenges of the trip, you represented the year group with maturity and pride. The staff were genuinely impressed—not just by your participation, but by your teamwork, resilience and curiosity. Well done to all of you who took part.

I also want to congratulate the many Year 10 students who have earned a place at the Bronze Reward cinema event. To have so many of you qualify is a clear sign of your dedication, positive attitude, and commitment to your studies. Every point gained reflects consistent effort, and you deserve this recognition. Keep going—small habits grow into big achievements.

Year 10, you continue to impress. Let's maintain this momentum, support one another, and make the most of the opportunities ahead. With work experience on the horizon, rewards being earned, and successes already building, you are well on your way to an excellent year.

Keep up the brilliant work.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas. We hope that you enjoy the festive break and look forward to welcoming you back to school in the New Year.

Miss K Fargher

Head of Year 10

Teacher of Science

Year 10 Top Achievers up to 28/11/2025

Frankie A 10GM 1291

Reuben L 10GM 1038

Oliver W 10AK 1037

Lara R 10GM 1026

Paris B 10KMP 967

Holly N 10GM 938

Jack M 10GM 935

Maliyah G 10GM 908

Evie B 10GM 893

Imogen M 10GM 893



Heads of Year



Form stars of the term

10AK Corey E

He is an exceptional student who consistently demonstrates quiet determination and a strong commitment to excellence. He approaches every subject with focus and diligence, setting high standards for himself and achieving them with grace. His calm, purposeful attitude and unwavering work ethic make him a true role model for his peers. Well done!

10BRO Evie E

This pupil has been awarded the form star of the term for her exemplary attitude and work in lessons. She is regularly at the top of the form for her behaviour scores each week. In addition to her hard work in lessons she is also always one of the most polite, kind and respectful members of the year group. A real example for others.

10GM Reuben L

Reuben consistently shows impeccable manners, has pushed himself to become more involved in form activities and can be relied upon to be of assistance whenever requested. Reuben is mature and thoughtful and an asset to the form.

10KK Olivia H

This student has consistently worked hard at school as well as has embodied the pride, respect and kindness ethos. They put so much effort into everything they do and always ensure they model the correct behaviour for the form. This student has shown resilience throughout the year, as well as throughout previous years at school. I am so proud to have you in my form.

10KMP Paris B

Paris has had an exceptional term. She has gained a very impressive number of achievement points and has been involved in many extra curricular activities. She is a enthusiastic and committed house captain and was also part of the team that did so well in the Citizenship event in London. Paris was keen to get involved in the school remembrance day activity and she always shows a positive attitude in all her lessons. Paris also impressed when she presented her ideas on why she should be involved in the school council. Well done, Paris, you've had a brilliant term

10NC Joe D

Joe consistently demonstrates respect in school by listening attentively in class, helping his peers when needed, and following school rules. He is considerate of others' opinions, always treats teachers and students with kindness, and maintains a positive attitude towards his learning and the school environment.

Year 11

As we reach the end of this half term, it's important to reflect on everything that we've achieved and the progress we've made. It has been a truly purposeful and productive time, with a strong focus on preparing for the future, particularly the GCSE examinations that lie ahead.

Study Skills Presentation & Mock Examinations

First of all, a big thank you to all Year 11 students who attended the study skills presentation earlier this term. We hope that the strategies shared during the session have helped to set you up for success as you prepare for your mock exams. These skills are invaluable, and we trust that you are now putting them to good use as you work towards achieving your best possible results. We would also like to congratulate you all on your excellent conduct and resilience during the mock examination week. Your focus, determination, and mature approach to the challenges of mock exams were truly impressive. This experience is an important part of your preparation for the real thing, and you've demonstrated the qualities that will help you succeed in the months ahead.

Heads of Year

Remembrance Day

A special mention must go to those of you who were involved in the Remembrance Day activities. Your respectful attitude and thoughtful participation were deeply appreciated. It was a poignant day, and you represented the year group and the school with great dignity. Whether in uniform or showing your respect in other ways, your actions were a reminder of the importance of honouring those who have served and sacrificed for our country.

Children in Need Fundraising

Y11 also showed their generosity and school spirit by coming together for a fantastic day of fundraising and fancy dress for Children in Need. Your creativity and effort made the day a huge success, and we're incredibly proud of the positive impact you had in supporting this important cause. Well done to everyone who participated and helped raise money for such a worthwhile charity.

Careers Appointments & Future Aspirations

Over the course of this half term, many of you have had the opportunity to attend careers appointments and take part in future aspirations meetings. These sessions have been designed to help you explore your options and set clear goals for the future. It's been wonderful to see so many of you taking this seriously and engaging with the support offered to ensure you're on the right track for life beyond school.

In addition, we held our Sixth Form Open Evening this half term, which provided valuable insight into the opportunities available to you in the next stage of your education. We encourage everyone to continue thinking about the possibilities ahead and to make the most of the resources available to you to plan for the future.

Wishing You a Well-Deserved Christmas Break

Finally, after a busy and successful half term, we want to wish you all a wonderful and relaxing Christmas break. Take this time to recharge, spend time with loved ones, and come back in the New Year ready to take on the next challenges with renewed energy and focus.

Well done for your hard work, and congratulations on everything you've achieved so far. We're all incredibly proud of you! Enjoy the break, and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Mrs S Davies

Head of Year 11
Teacher of PE



Form stars of the term

11AIT Freya A

Freya has been nominated for Star of the Term in recognition of her outstanding contribution to life at Blythe Bridge. She's shown wonderful dedication in her roles as prefect and literacy leader. She throws herself enthusiastically into all of the opportunities on offer and is a brilliant ambassador for our school.

11CFL Zac K

Excellent attitude in supporting the reading intervention and improving younger students reading age. Been proactive in becoming a prefect and acting as a role model to others.

11KC Hayden O

They consistently demonstrate exemplary conduct and embody the school's core values of Pride, Respect, and Kindness. A highly accomplished guitar player, they approach their musical talent with dedication and humility, sharing their skills in a way that inspires others. They are unfailingly respectful and considerate towards both peers and staff, contributing to a positive and inclusive atmosphere within the form. Their resilience and organisational skills are evident in their ability to meet challenges with determination while remaining thoroughly prepared for lessons. In addition, they maintain excellent punctuality and take pride in presenting themselves with a smart and professional appearance. Through their consistent adherence to school expectations and values, they set a commendable example for others. Their commitment to excellence and positive attitude make them a truly deserving recipient of this recognition.



Heads of Year



11KKN Libby M

This student has made noticeable progress this term, academically. Not only is she a positive presence in tutor time, but her dedication and hard work have also led to a noticeable improvement in her progress this year, and her punctuality. Keep up the good work!

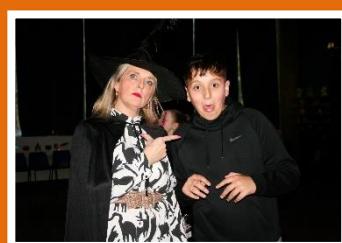
11LKB Lily D

Lily has demonstrated exceptional dedication to her studies, consistently applying herself with diligence. She has maintained an outstanding attendance record and shown unwavering commitment to her GCSEs. Above all, she is a kind, respectful, and genuinely lovely young lady.

11NG Joe C

Joe has shown a huge positive shift in his focus, attitude, manners and maturity, especially regarding the recent mock exam period.

Year 7 and 8 Halloween Disco



At the end of the first half term, we saw the spooky Halloween Disco take place. Students from Years 7 and 8 arrived at 5 pm and enjoyed the scary vibes of the evening. A special thank you to Year 9 Mason M for his great photos of the night.

A team of helpers spent the afternoon decorating the main hall to give it a spooky and eerie vibe. DJ James created an entrance track to set the mood for the evening and then did an excellent job of creating and maintaining a fantastic atmosphere.

A massive thank you to DJ James and our heads of year for the time and effort they put into making the evening as successful as it was. The Year 11 helpers also did a great job supporting the evening; without them, it would not have run as smoothly as it did. Thank you to the staff members who gave up their Friday evening to support the Halloween disco. The evening was a great success, and the students had a great time.

Halloween



This half term, the year 8 DT lunch club students have created their own Halloween tea light decoration.

Using CAD software, they created their designs before they were cut out on the department's laser cutter. Students then assembled their products. They look fantastic!



A huge shoutout must go to Form 8JL for going above and beyond to support with the Halloween disco decorations - stepping in to help Mrs Kadri when things got a little spooky behind the scenes!

Your teamwork, creativity, and kindness truly lit up the hall (and our hearts!).

Special thanks to their tutor, Mr Li, who continues to embody our school values of Pride, Respect and Kindness.

We are so proud of you all - thank you who made the event magical!

8JL Go Above & Beyond



100% Attendance

Year 7

Name	Reg
Amelia A	7LLM
Jacob A	7LRO
Molly A	7HBL
Kyan B	7HSS
Lucy B	7EMF
Isla B	7EMF
Ava B	7HBL
Anya B	7HBL
Louis B	7EMF
Evie B	7LLM
Harrison C	7SFR
Nova C	7SFR
Neave E-M	7LM
William F	7LRO
Emily F	7HBL
Grace F	7SFR
Daisy F	7HBL
Maya F	7LLM
Daniel G	7HSS
Tilly G	7HSS
Ollie H	7LLM
Benjamin H	7LLM
Archie H	7EMF
Devin H	7LLM
Lola H	7SFR
Theo H	7LLM
Grace H	7EMF

02/09/2025 to 28/11/25

Matthew H	7HSS
Savannah H-S	7SFR
Jaylen J	7LRO
William J	7HSS
Ethan K	7HSS
Piera L	7LRO
Evie L	7SFR
Mila L	7SFR
Harry L	7LM
Dottie-Mae M	7HBL
Alexa M	7HSS
Pippa N	7LLM
Harry N	7HSS
Aaron P	7SFR
Cara P	7LRO
Emilie-Mae P	7LRO
Freddie P	7LLM
Harry R	7LM
Lottie R	7LLM
Archie R	7LM
Rosie S	7LRO
Ruby S	7SFR
Vincent S	7SFR
Elsa T	7EMF
Danny T	7LM
Jude W	7LM
Kieran W	7HBL
Dante W	7HBL

Year 8

Name	Reg
Jack B	8LG
Daisie B	8DH
Sophie B	8NAZ
Chloe C	8JJ
Emma C	8SMY
Esmae C	8ESH
Alexa C	8NAZ
Seren C	8SMY
Jack C	8NAZ
Milo C	8JJ

Seren D	8SMY
Dexter D	8LG
Jacob E	8NAZ
Flynn Edward E	8LG
Freya E	8NAZ
Lennon F	8RJJ
George G	8LG
Alexa G	8RJJ
Sophie G	8JJ
Isla H	8RJJ
Esmai H	8DH
Daisy H	8JL
Emma J	8ESH
Gurleen K	8ESH
Oliver K	8NAZ
Tayla-Mae L	8DH
Jack L	8JJ
William L	8LG
Billy M	8NAZ
Emily M	8ESH
Hope M	8SMY
Ella M	8ESH
Harvey M	8LG
Lilian M	8DH
Izabella M	8ESH
Levi M	8ESH
Evie N	8ESH
Kira N	8JL
Millie O	8ESH
William P	8SMY
Elizabeth R	8NAZ
Cameron R	8SMY
Tyler S	8SMY
Olivia S	8RJJ
Mayson-Jai S	8LG
Logan S	8JJ
Sebastian S	8JL
Andisyn T	8JJ
Daisy W	8JL
Anabelle W	8ESH
Isla W	8SMY
Sienna W	8SMY
George W	8LG
Nicole W	8ESH

100% Attendance

Year 9

Name	Reg
Aviaana A	9CBA
Izabella A	9KSA
Maizie B	9SAH
Riley B	9TS
Thomas B	9AMW
Joseph C	9KSA
Elouise C	9SAH
Lacey C	9CBA
Kaeden C	9SAH
Violet-jean C	9SAH
Aaron C	9SAH
Charlotte C	9SAH
Billy D	9TS
Zachary D	9TS
Elizabeth F	9AMW
Harry G	9JJT
Benjamin G	9SAH
Molly G	9KSA
Tyler H	9KSA
Daniel I	9SAH
Sophie J	9KH
Theo K	9KH
Kye M	9KH
Brooke M	9TS
Callum M	9TS
Max M	9CBA
Archie N	9KSA
Katie R	9AMW
Jonathan R	9SAH
Darcey S	9KSA
Maddie S	9TS
Joshua T	9SAH
Yenuka W	9CBA
Benjamin W	9CBA
Lexi W	9KH
Amber W	9KH

Year 10

Name	Reg
Ruby A	10KK
Frankie A	10GM
Joseph A	10NC
Lydia B	10KMP
Lacey B	10AK
Connie B	10AK
Ava B	10KMP
Rosa C	10AK
Lilly-Mae D	10KK
Joshua E	10KK
Corey E	10AK
Katie G	10KK
Lexie G	10GM
Bella G	10AK
Kayla H	10AK
Jacob H	10BRO
Charlie H	10AK
Sophie H	10BRO
Kyle H	10KMP
Tilly H	10BRO
Casey J	10KMP
Isobel L	10KMP
Reuben L	10GM
Willow M	10GM
Ava M	10BRO
Jack M	10GM
Holly N	10GM
Lara R	10GM
James S	10AK
Ethan S	10GM
Pippa S	10BRO
Oliver T	10KK
Joshua T	10KK
Bella W	10KMP
Sonny W	10KMP
Aiden W	10NC
Matthew W	10AK

Year 11

Name	Reg
Sophia A	11NG
Francesca A	11KC
Kiera B	11KKN
Jessica C	11CFL
Lily D	11LKB
Michael F	11CFL
Joshua G	11KC
Dexter H	11CFL
Megan J	11KC
Daniel J	11KKN
Thomas K	11KC
Daniel L	11AIT
Jorden L	11KC
Thomas M	11CFL
Liam O	11NG
Maisie P	11KC
Jayden P	11AIT
Keira S	11LKB
Maximus S	11KKN
Finlay S-H	11NG
Harley T	11AIT
Ropate T	11AIT
Alex T	11LKB
Phoebe W	11NG
Jacob W	11NG
James W	11KKN

Attendance

The top three year groups for overall attendance up to 28th November are:



The top three forms per year group



The overall top form group is 8LG with 96.5%!



Year 7 Art



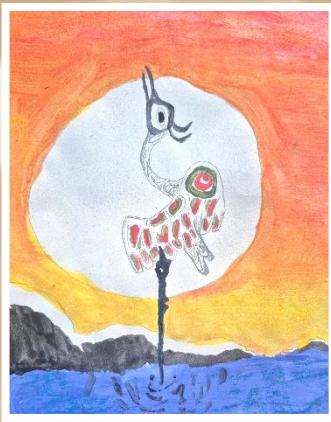
Sophie G, 7LM



Dottie-Mae M, 7HBL



Piera L, 7LRO



Daisy F, 7HBL



Serena H, 7HSS

Year 8 Art



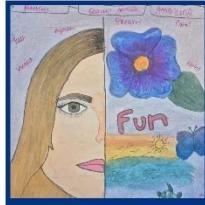
Isabella B, 8LG



Elizabeth R, 8NAZ



Elsie F, 8JL



Esmae C, 8ESH



Gemma H, 8NAZ



George R, 8DH



Isabella C, 8SMY



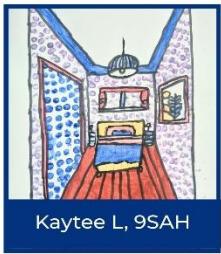
Melody B, 8LG



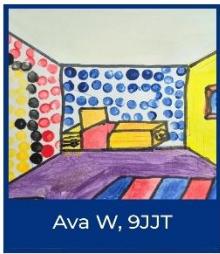
Sophie G, 8JJ

Year 9 Art

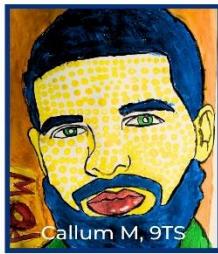
Year 9 have been exploring Pop Art, looking at the artwork of Roy Lichtenstein. They have experimented with pens and paint to create the bold style. They have applied the techniques used by the Pop Artists such as Ben Day Dots and Onomatopoeia.



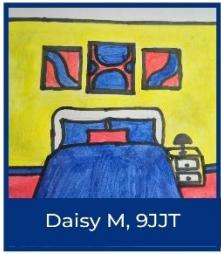
Kaytee L, 9SAH



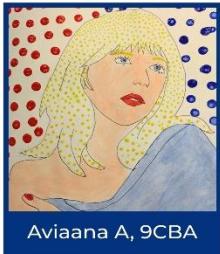
Ava W, 9JJT



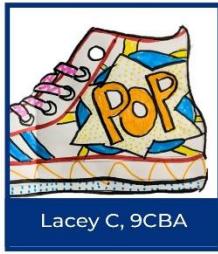
Callum M, 9TS



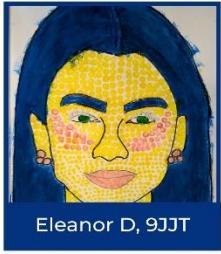
Daisy M, 9JJT



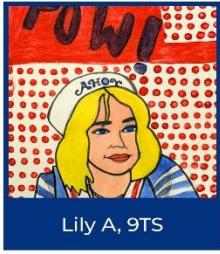
Aviaana A, 9CBA



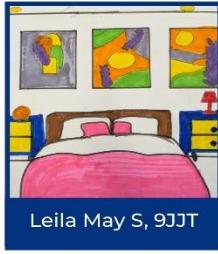
Lacey C, 9CBA



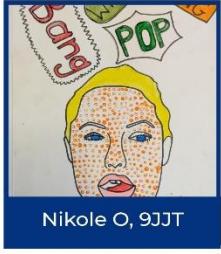
Eleanor D, 9JJT



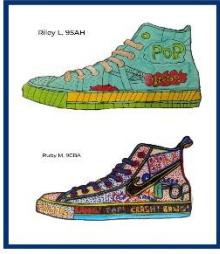
Lily A, 9TS



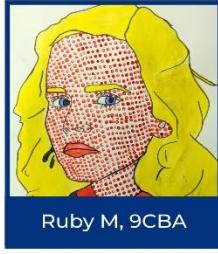
Leila May S, 9JJT



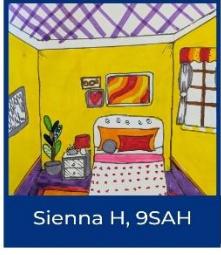
Nikole O, 9JJT



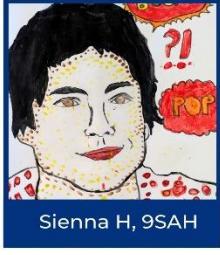
Riley L, 9SAH
Ruby M, 9CBA



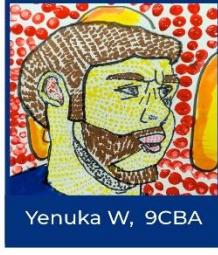
Ruby M, 9CBA



Sienna H, 9SAH



Sienna H, 9SAH



Yenuka W, 9CBA

GCSE + A Level Art and Photography

GCSE and A Level students are currently busy working on their UNIT 1 coursework projects this term. They are creating their own unique outcomes, drawing inspiration from the work of various artists, craftspeople, and designers.

Year 11 are busy adding their finishing touches to their Unit 1: Portfolio coursework.



A mixture of work from our A level photography students.

Computer Science

UK Bebras - All year groups

During computer science lessons in November, students in all year groups participated in this year's Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge. The competitors are set a range of logic puzzles and have 40 minutes to work their way through them.

Logic and computational thinking skills are at the heart of programming, information technology and computer science. Being able to decompose and abstract information is a fundamental skill which many students have without realising it.



Congratulations to the students with the top 10 scores across the school. A special well done to Pippa and Nicole - who were joint best in school!

Pippa R	Year 7
Nicole W	Year 8
Aaron C	Year 9
Katie R	Year 9
Bella W	Year 10
Fredderick S	Year 9
Annabel W	Year 9
Oliver W	Year 10
Elli-Mai O	Year 7
Bodhi B	Year 8





Year 8 Perform 'Blood Brothers'

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.

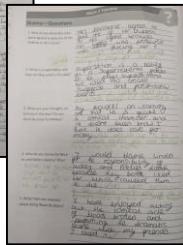
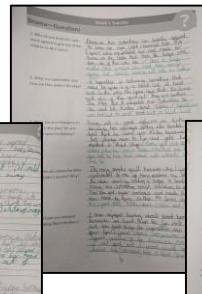
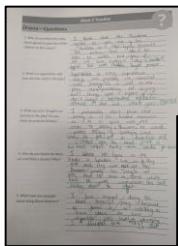
This scene saw Mr and Mrs Lyons at home with Edward in a calm and peaceful environment until Mr Lyons leaves to go to work and Mickey arrives and breaks the quiet.

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.

Mrs Baines is looking for some props for our school play Annie, and wonders if anyone could donate any of the following items to support our students:

- Old plain bedsheets for the orphanage
- Old fashioned wooden games - wooden top, hula hoop, dice
- Old fashioned suitcases - doesn't matter if can't open
- Handkerchiefs
- Two old fashioned mops
- Table tennis bat
- Old fashioned telephone

Any items can be left in reception. Many thanks for your support.



Year 8 Drama 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.



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.

Year 12 Isobel: "Doing backstage for Annie is fun, it tests skills and leads you to some unusual tasks. So far, I've wrapped presents and hunted for a pillow; it's something new every week. You can be picking costumes one week and planning a double-sided desk the next, but I wouldn't change it. And so far, it is the most fun musical I've worked on. I can't wait to be backstage on the night and see my projects alongside the amazing cast."

Modern Foreign Languages

Mrs Cotterill's book review - Glacé by Bernard Minier



Dans une vallée encaissée des Pyrénées, au petit matin d'une journée glaciale de décembre, les ouvriers d'une centrale hydroélectrique découvrent le corps sans tête d'un cheval, accroché à la falaise. Ce même jour une jeune psychologue prend son premier poste dans le centre psychiatrique de haute sécurité qui surplombe la vallée. Le commandant Servaz, flic hypocondriaque et intuitif, se voit confier l'enquête la plus étrange de toute sa carrière.

This is a very original detective book, but I cannot say too much about the plot without spoiling it for others. Bernard Minier is adept at describing people, their character, appearance, style, behaviour, etc. Also, all the interactions between the individuals are so believable.

In this debut thriller which made his name in France, Bernard Minier is good at conveying a sense of the oppressive, sinister beauty of remote Swiss valleys under the pressure of unrelenting snow blizzards with at least one unknown killer on the loose. In a page-turning plot, well-controlled despite its many twists, he is good at creating a sense of suspense and tension.

I would highly recommend this book for everyone who is a reader of crime. Bernard Minier has written a very good debut novel as it has a lot of what I search for in crime. An interesting case, good characters, good writing, some side plots, personal issues that are addressed. Very nicely done! I will definitely be reading the sequels.

Mrs K. Cotterill

Vocabulary builder

Our Year 11 students are talking about protecting the environment in their language lessons this half term! They have been exploring key vocabulary to talk about the importance of recycling, cutting down on waste, and making environmentally friendly choices. Make sure you revise these well.

Mr L. McConvey

Vocabulary builder

	Spanish	French	English
1	Reciclo	Je recycle	I recycle
2	Protejo	Je protège	I protect
3	Uso	J'utilise	I use
4	Ayudo	J'aide	I help
5	El medio ambiente	L'environnement	The environment
6	Las bolsas de plástico	Les sacs en plastique	Plastic bags
7	El papel	Le papier	Paper
8	El bosque	Le forêt	The forest
9	El agua	L'eau	Water
10	Reciclo	Je recycle	I recycle

Modern Foreign Languages

Christmas in Bolivia

As the festive season approaches, let's take a look at how Christmas is celebrated in another part of the Spanish-speaking world: Bolivia.

Christmas in Bolivia is a lively and colourful celebration that blends Catholic traditions with Indigenous Aymara and Quechua customs. Festivities centre around Nochebuena (Christmas Eve), when families gather for a late-night meal and often attend Misa de Gallo, the traditional midnight "Rooster's Mass."

One of the most iconic Christmas dishes is picana, a warming soup made with a mix of meats, potatoes, corn and spices - perfect for Bolivia's cool Andean nights. Families also enjoy buñuelos, sweet fried pastries served with syrup.

Across the country, homes are decorated with pesebres (Nativity scenes), sometimes featuring miniature llamas. Instead of typical Christmas trees, many Bolivians use tropical flowers and colourful local textiles.

Celebrations continue into the 6th of January, known as Día de los Reyes Magos (Three Kings' Day), when children may receive small gifts and families mark the end of the festive season.

What a wonderfully different way of celebrating the season compared to what we're used to here in the UK!

Mr L. McConvey

What it's like to study languages in 6th Form at Blythe Bridge?

The languages department is one of the best at Blythe Bridge. It's one of the most fun, helpful and inspiring places in the school.

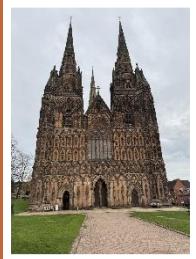
I've found that studying languages at Blythe is unique, as we have many teachers, each with their own specialty, and the relationships we build with them have a huge impact on our academic success. I really enjoy the lessons and always feel supported to do my best.

I can't thank the MFL department enough for everything they've done for me. I'm eternally grateful.

Charlie C, Y13 French student



Music



Pictures from: Lichfield Cathedral with our choir, Year 13 Samuel B on Remembrance Sunday and this year's Christmas Concert.

Music have been busy again this term.

In the classroom, Year 7 have been doing lots of singing (I think the banana song is a favourite!), getting ready for the Festival of Arts as well as learning music from the Medieval and Renaissance periods, which has culminated in a performance of Pachelbel's Canon for their assessment this term. We have some wonderfully talented Year 7s and some budding musicians that have shown great aptitude for music as well as a number that have joined in with the extra curricular life, we have here a it's great to see them get involved.

In Year 8, we started off the year singing and have moved on to playing 'O Fortuna' on the keyboard using 2 hands independently. This has been tricky to learn but I have been so impressed with Year 8's resilience in the lesson, to keep going and trying! Next, we move on to riffs and video game music.

Year 9 have been learning about Protest Songs, looking at different protests, different songs - including structure and lyrics, and have created their own protest song. It's been fantastic to see how such sensitive topics such as war, animal cruelty, racism and women's rights, to name but a few, have been treated and made into songs. Well done Year 9!

A number of students from the choir who signed up, went to Lichfield Cathedral at the start of November to take part in the award winning MusicShare programme where we collaborated with other schools across Staffordshire, Lichfield and Tamworth to perform a range of pieces. The concert also had professional musicians performing and the students also got to experience choral evensong. A wonderful evening was had by all, and we are already looking forward to the next one!

A very moving morning on Remembrance Sunday at the Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook cenotaph as the names were read out of the fallen soldiers from our community and Sam B in Year 13 was able to lead the community in the Act of Remembrance playing The Last Post before the silence and the Reveille to end it. Well done Sam. The instrumentalists then led the whole school in the Act of Remembrance on 11th November at 11am, and I'm sure you can imagine that leading this can be very daunting, but our musicians are confident and resilient to do this across different stations around the school so that everyone can hear The Last Post. A very important memorial each year and one we are proud our musicians are also able to lead. Well done to all involved.

We had our annual Christmas Concert on Thursday 11th December. There were lots of solos and some pieces from the choir and our orchestra and we loved seeing you there.

We have also been asked to play and sing carols at the Werrington Young Offenders Institute Christmas Market on the 18th December. This is a first time for us, but we are looking forward to being a part of their Christmas Market.

As well as this, Moorlands Music Centre (which is free) continues to be an important part of our musical community. It's on Thursday evenings at The William Amory Primary School and is open to anyone who has instrumental lessons or enjoys singing. The instrumental groups run 5-6pm and the choir is 6-7pm. There are a number of our school community that go but we are always looking for more students to be involved in this fantastic opportunity! If you need more information, please feel free to contact me.

If anyone would like to take up lessons - vocal or instrumental - please do not hesitate to contact me on h.balewski@bb-hs.co.uk

Eco-Garden Club

There was an autumnal feel to our nurture garden session in October where our little group carved the pumpkins they grew from seeds. Not bad for a first time!

Plus, our little animal residents enjoyed the company in our nurture garden.

Our students were busy cleaning out the animals whilst some of them were blending well with the autumnal scenery around them.



MAKE 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



OUR LOCATION

BLYTHE BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL
& SIXTH FORM

CONTACT:

A.JACKSON@BB-HS.CO.UK

Extracurricular Clubs

We offer a wide range of extracurricular clubs, including our popular free 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, escape room, football, trampolining, orchestra, STEM, choir, sculpture, craft, and our eco-garden - the endless possibilities! These are just a glimpse of the vibrant opportunities waiting for you. We encourage our students to dive into these experiences, nurture their talents, and grow alongside their academic pursuits. Discover the full line up of extracurricular adventures on Frog.



Attendance

Attendance Information

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

What is excellent attendance?

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

Days off school add up to lost learning

175 NON SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR

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

Lost Learning

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

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

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

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

Attendance

Attendance – Is 90% good?

90% attendance at the end of the academic year:

- 19 days missed, 38 sessions missed
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ 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
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ 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.

Learning Platform

FROG - A learning platform available to students, parents and teachers, where you can access everything from subject resources to support any remote learning, homework, teachers and tutors' comments every week, attendance scores from lessons and achievement points. Let's not forget the school letters, school links where other sites were created just for you and short tutorials for you to use if you need help navigating around the Frog platform. All as part of one learning platform!



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

The image shows a screenshot of the Frog Learning Platform. At the top, there is a navigation bar with various icons: Home, School Links, My Learning, Teacher Comments, Subject Sites, Exams, Sixth Form Assemblies, Frog Tutorials, Culture & Ethos, and Extra-Curricular. Below this, a blue banner reads "Welcome to your ePlanner". The main content area has a blue header that says "WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 29th MARCH IS WEEK 1 ON THE TIMETABLE. Please ensure you have the correct books and your 5 a day for all your lessons. Check our Culture & Ethos tab above for further details." Below this, there are two main sections: "Subject sites" and "SCIENCE". The "Subject sites" section lists various subjects with their respective department sites: English, Mathematics, Business, Citizenship & PSH, Design and Tech, Drama, Health, Sport and PE, History, Music, and Philosophy. The "SCIENCE" section has a "Department Site" link and links for KS3, KS4, KS5, Department Staff, and Exam practice. At the bottom, there is a "Science" section with links for Science Knowledge organisers, Science investigations, Science - Exemplar work, Blythe Bridge High School (Facebook), and a "PICJOINTER" section.

Online Safety Newsletter December 2025

AI Chatbots and companions

A simple search of "AI Chat" within the App store highlights the number of AI apps already available, many are rated as 18+ so it is important to speak to our children about them and the risks associated with them.

Examples of AI chatbots that your child may have heard of are Character.AI (18+) and My AI from Snapchat (13+).

What are the risks?

- Over reliance on AI companions, for example they may replace 'real life' friendships or over reliance on using them for homework or problem solving.
- Exposure to inappropriate content.
- Privacy/data risks.
- Misinformation as not all information shared is correct and can be biased.

How can I protect my child?

- Check age ratings of any apps or websites that your child accesses.
- Discuss the risks of AI chatbots with them and have open conversations about why they may be using them.
- Set up appropriate parental controls on their devices/broadband.
- Chat to your child regularly and ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

Further information

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/newsroom/blogs/ai-chatbots-and-companions-risks-to-children-and-young-people>

New Technology

As some children may be receiving new technology or related games at Christmas, here is a quick reminder of the importance of setting up appropriate parental controls.

Games/Consoles

- Check age ratings: look at the PEGI rating of any new games. *Remember, PEGI rates the gameplay so whilst it is important to review age ratings, you must also check to see if it has any communication elements.*
- If a game does allow your child to communicate with others, then adjust or disable the settings as appropriate to your child.
- On the device itself, set up applicable controls such as restricting spending limits. Follow the links below to find out how to set up Parental Controls for popular devices [here](#):

Xbox: <https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/family-hub>

PS5: <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/ps5-parental-controls-spending-limits/>

Nintendo Switch: <https://www.nintendo.com/en-gb/Hardware/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls/Nintendo-Switch-2-Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls-2873385.html>



Tablets/Smart phones

Set up parental controls on the device to prevent purchases, restrict content viewed and adjust privacy settings. Furthermore, remember to check any apps your child requests to check that they are suitable for their age. Follow the links below to find out more:

iPhones/iPad: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/105121>

Android Device: <https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738>

Further information

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

The Safety-First Smartphone

The Other phone is a new smartphone, which includes "SafetyMode" software. The software automatically blocks nudity, profanity, and bullying language in real time. You can find out more here: <https://otherphone.co.uk/>.

Smart Phone Free Childhood also list some alternatives that you could consider here: <https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/alternatives>.

Please note, that the inclusion of these models does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation. While these devices may provide a 'safer' alternative to traditional smartphones, there are still potential risks associated with children using any type of phone.

Online Grooming

What is Online Grooming?

Online Grooming is when an adult builds a relationship online to manipulate or exploit a child.

How does Grooming take place

Groomers may use fake profiles to pretend they are someone they are not, for example younger than they really are or pretend to be a person of influence. They will use flattery to bond and build a friendship with your child. They may use online games or social media to initiate contact but then encourage your child to switch to a different app to chat privately, usually on an app that doesn't offer parental controls.

What should I do?

- Use appropriate parental controls.
- Set privacy settings.
- Chat to your child regularly about what they do online and who they speak to. Talk to them about how people may not be who they say they are and show them how to use any blocking or reporting tools on the apps/websites that they use.

What should I do if my child is being groomed?

- If you think your child is in danger, then contact the police immediately.
- Save any evidence that you may have.
- If you are worried about online abuse or the way somebody has been communicating with your child online, then you can contact CEOP (<https://www.ceop.police.uk>). Once a report has been placed, a Child Protection Advisor will get in touch to help you.

Further information

There is a lot of information available online. The following links provide a comprehensive overview of this subject, as well as the details of who you can contact for further advice and support:

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/types-of-abuse/grooming/>
- <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/online-grooming/>

Signal Private Messenger

Signal is rated as 13+ on the App store. It is a messaging app, where users can text, send voice messages and photos plus participate in group chats and calls. There are no parental controls currently available. As with all messaging apps, the risks can include bullying and viewing inappropriate content. Find out more here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 01.12.25. The inclusion of any links does not imply any affiliation with or endorsement of the linked websites, documents, or videos, nor are we claiming any ownership or copyright in the content of the linked materials.

Nudify Apps

Have you heard of Nudify apps? Users upload a picture or video to a Nudify app and AI creates the nude image. This is obviously horrifying. Bark provides further information as well as what to do if this should happen to your child.

Find out more here:

<https://www.bark.us/blog/nudify-ai-apps/>

How to deal with online scams

Parent Zone have published an article on how to deal with online scams as well as how to prevent them from happening. You can read the article here:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/how-deal-online-scams-parent-guide>

Calm Zone

Childline have an area on their website full of activities, tools and videos to help you let go of stress. It includes yoga videos, breathing exercises, calming videos and games. It also includes information on how to get further support should you need it. Find out more here:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/>

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version:

<https://www.knowsleyccs.org.uk/december-2025-secondary>

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
ST11 9PW





Christmas Fayre

**Friday 19th December
Main Hall**

**Students can attend during
period 1 & 2 (with a ticket).**

**Buy your ticket before
school or at breaktime!**

**Games, prize draw, cakes,
sweets, refreshments - you
wouldn't want to miss the
festive fun!**