

Friday Focus

Issue 188 | January 2026



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

UCAS Deadline



WE
NEED
YOU

Careers Fair



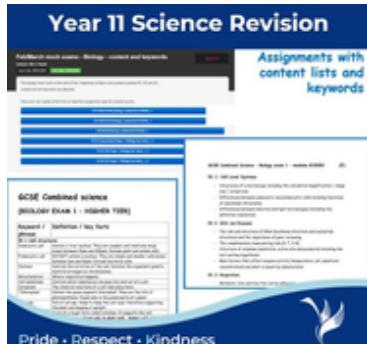
YEAR 13 FUTURES

Huge congratulations to our Year 13 students who have already submitted their UCAS applications. We're thrilled to see some fantastic offers coming from such a wide range of subjects. Students have had offers from universities across the UK to study subjects including forensic psychology, mental health nursing, physics and astrophysics, computer science, physiotherapy, sociology and social policy and aerospace engineering!

Sam and Hannah are awaiting the results of their interviews at Oxford University to study geography and Keele University to study veterinary science. We have a number of students currently interviewing for teaching and NHS-based degree courses such as Nursing, Midwifery and Speech and Language therapy. Best of luck to everyone who has an interview over the coming weeks, we are all rooting for you!

If you need any support, please speak to your form tutor or a member of the sixth form team.

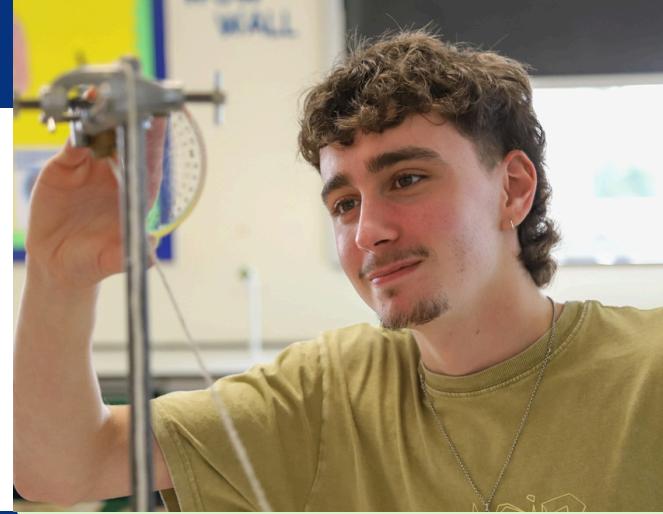
Year 11 Science Revision



SCIENCE REVISION

Mr Flavell has set an assignment on Frog which includes links to a huge range of resources for Year 11 students to use to support independent study. These include knowledge organisers, keyword definitions and quizzes. There are even specific resources for students studying separate science. It is great to hear that so many students have already accessed the revision session videos which have staff explanations alongside presentations of key concepts.

Photo of the week #weareblythe



WELCOME

As part of our personal development and wellbeing curriculum, Mrs Owen has delivered assemblies this week to Year 7-11 on staying safe. This has included a range of topics including staying safe online and reminding students how to report issues in school to the safeguarding team. Staff have noted that some students have asked a number of follow-up questions afterwards which is encouraging to know. In addition, our monthly e-safety newsletters are emailed to parents/carers and all visitors to our school receive safeguarding and safety advice when they arrive to sign in, ensuring that safeguarding remains a priority for us all.

Mrs Johnson
Headteacher

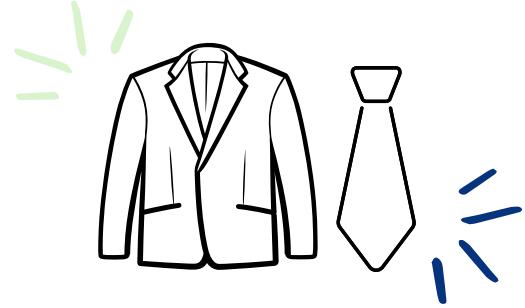
Pride, Respect & Kindness



SWIM LAUNCHES AFTER-SCHOOL LESSONS

After-school swimming lessons began this week as Swim launched its out-of-school Learn to Swim programme at our swimming pool. Olympic champion Rebecca Adlington joined the first sessions, welcoming young children and their families to the pool.

If you would like to make an enquiry (after school lessons are aimed at children aged 3-11), please visit: <https://www.swim.co.uk/centre/stoke-blythe-bridge/>



UNIFORM REMINDER

Students are reminded to wear the correct uniform when coming to school. Clear uniform cards will mean weekly achievement points.

Lost your tie? Please bring cash to Mrs Hayes in the Sixth Form Centre to purchase a new tie.

At the end of this week, Mrs Kadri will be giving out chocolate prizes to those nominated for demonstrating pride in their uniform and appearance.



WHY SHOULD YOU GO TO BLYTHE BRIDGE SIXTH FORM?

BY YEAR 12 DAISY B

"I study Geography, Health and Social and Child Development. I picked BBHS because it is a good school, and all my friends also chose to go Blythe so that was one of the main reasons. In addition, I really like the teachers of the subjects that I have picked, which is a good extra. The best thing so far has been the added opportunities, such as Tomorrow's Teachers: the ability to become an ambassador for Geography, and being a house captain. Tomorrow's Teachers is perfect if you are looking to become a teacher of any form in the future, whether it is primary, secondary, or special needs education because it helps you to gain an insight into different teaching environments through our visits to the different schools. I also like the geography trips. We went to Chester Zoo and we are planning to go to Wales in the summer."



READING ADVOCATE

Emma J, Year 8 is reading *Hunter X Hunter* by Yoshihiro Togashi

"I only got into anime and manga last year, but Hunter x Hunter has become one of my favourites so far. I'm about halfway through, and I love how the story mixes adventure, humour, and tense moments. Gon is such a likeable main character who is on his journey to become a Hunter, which is basically someone licensed to explore dangerous places, track rare creatures, and takes on missions normal people can't handle. I also really like the characters Gon meets along the way. The artwork is amazing, especially the action scenes, and even though reading backwards felt strange at first, I got used to it quickly. I still don't know how it ends yet, but I'm excited to keep reading and see what happens to all of them."



Tickets now on sale! We are excited to announce that tickets for our upcoming school show 'Annie' are now available to purchase via ParentPay.



Year 11 Revision

	Blythe Bridge High School Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire	150,383
	School Staffordshire	115,422
	School Staffordshire	94,352
4	School Staffordshire	53,848
5	School Staffordshire	31,878
6	School Staffordshire	14,634

Pride • Respect • Kindness



WELL DONE YEAR 11

Well done to all those Year 11 students who are engaging with the online revision resource Seneca. Due to the number of the hours you have spent studying outside of the classroom this week, our school is currently top of the leaderboard for schools within our MAT and placed 9th for engagement from the whole of our region! Parents are able to monitor their child's engagement by accepting an email invite sent by Seneca. If you don't receive this, please let us know.



Pride • Respect • Kindness

SCIENCE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

We are proud to celebrate Lexi C (Year 7) who, after learning about classification of species in science lessons, independently researched newly discovered species as real-life examples of how scientists classify living things. Her curiosity and initiative is fantastic to see, and Miss McFarlane was so impressed by the way she applied her classroom learning beyond the lesson. Brilliant work, Lexi - a great example of scientific thinking in action! 🌟

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS & SUPPORT OUR PRODUCTION

Following the success of last year's We Will Rock You, Blythe Bridge High School and Sixth Form is excited to present Annie Jr from 10th–12th February 2026. With over 750 audience members expected, the show is likely to sell out.

We are inviting local businesses to sponsor the production by placing a colour advert in our programme:

- Full page: £80 + VAT (£96)
- Half page: £50 + VAT (£60)
- Quarter page: £30 + VAT (£36)

To take part, please email your advert and chosen option to h.blissett@bb-hs.co.uk by Friday 30th January. Please also let us know if you prefer to pay by cheque or invoice.

SPRING TERM MONDAY P4 CITIZENSHIP



- Year 7: What makes a goal realistic and ambitious?
- Year 8: How do money decisions affect me now and later?
- Year 9: What routes exist after 16?
- Year 10: How do I secure and get the most from work experience?
- Year 11: Revision skills

KEY DATES

Monday 19th-20th January
• Year 11 GCSE Food Exam

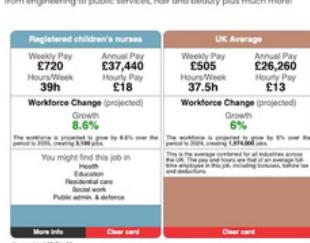
Wednesday 21st January

Friday 30th January



CAREERS SPOTLIGHT - BENCHMARK 4 CAREERS IN THE CURRICULUM + BENCHMARK 2 LMI

This week in Citizenship and Careers, students have been developing the knowledge and skills they need to make confident choices about their future. Year 7 explored how they learn best and what type of learners they are, Year 8 focused on the importance of personal attributes and transferable skills, Year 9 considered GCSE options and next steps, and Year 10 investigated post-16 routes, using Labour Market Information (LMI) alongside impartial careers advice and guidance to understand real opportunities.





ASSEMBLIES



REMINDER

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

STUDENT LEADERSHIP



School Parliament

Year group reps - remember to canvas the views of your peers about the school area you were given. Democracy in action at Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form is relying on everyone's voice.

HOUSE UPDATES

Overall points update:

- Sphinx: 814 (1st)
- Centaur: 777 (2nd)
- Pegasus: 678 (3rd)
- Serpent: 676 (4th)

Events coming up over this half term include; KS3 core sports competitions, Spitfire model competition, Year 8 art competition. spelling bee, plus many more... keep your eyes peeled!



MENU CHOICE



Check this out



Drama Reading



This half term's recommendations are:



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



6 Reasons to Put Your Phone Away

by @Inner_Drive
www.innerdrive.co.uk



Lowers Concentration

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



Increases FOMO

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



Increases Stress and Anxiety

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



Makes You Sleep Worse

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



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



Train to Teach in Local Schools

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



The John Taylor SCITT

jtscitt.co.uk

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



Free School Meals



See if you are entitled...

It costs nothing to try, so why not give it a go!

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

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

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

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

Help the school by registering for Free School Meals!

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

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

Holiday Activities and Food



www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/Holiday-activities-and-food/Holiday-Activities-and-Food.aspx



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