

# Friday Focus

Issue 189 | January 2026



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

Photo of the week  
#weareblythe



### FELIX HELPS MANCHESTER UNITED ACADEMY CLAIM EURO CUP GLORY IN GERMANY

Rising football star Felix has continued to make headlines with an outstanding performance while representing Manchester United Academy at the prestigious Euro Cup tournament held in Germany.

The highly competitive event brought together 20 elite academy teams from across Europe, showcasing the very best of young footballing talent.

Throughout the tournament, Felix and his Manchester United teammates faced formidable opposition, including renowned clubs such as FC Bayern München, BV Borussia Dortmund, and Juventus. Demonstrating exceptional skill, discipline, and teamwork, Manchester United Academy side dominated their matches from start to finish, setting the standard for excellence at every stage of the competition.

Felix played a key role in the team's success, contributing with consistent performances that highlighted his technical ability, determination, and football intelligence. The squad's hard work and resilience paid off as Manchester United went on to win the overall tournament, defeating 19 other European teams to proudly lift the Euro Cup trophy.

This remarkable achievement marks another important milestone in Felix's growing football career. Well done to Felix and the entire team on a superb tournament victory.

### JOSHUA'S SWIM SUCCESS

We are so proud of Year 12 Joshua S, who is one of swim's newest teachers at their after school lessons at our pool. He has a real passion for swimming and staying active.

We loved seeing comments on social media from families who have been impressed with Joshua's teaching:

"Joshua is a great teacher, friendly and enthusiastic and keeps the kids really engaged!"

"Joshua was great with my child last weekend and is such a great teacher. Really kept her engaged and distracted, thank you so much! It was lovely to watch how good he was with them all."

"Every swimming pool needs a Josh!"

## WELCOME

Tickets are now on sale for our annual musical 'Annie'. Staff and students have been working hard preparing for the show which takes place from 10th-12th February. Tickets are available through ParentPay for what is going to be a fabulous production. My thanks go to everyone involved in Annie, whether that is performing on stage, behind the scenes or other areas such as publicity, set design, costumes - you are all stars!

Mrs Johnson  
Headteacher

## Pride, Respect & Kindness

### ANNIE UPDATES

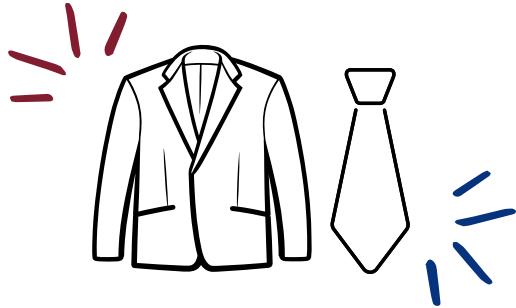
In just three weeks, our school production of Annie will take to the stage! Until then, our cast are working tirelessly in rehearsals - learning lines, preparing costumes and perfecting their choreography.

Tickets are selling fast, so be sure to secure your seat and don't miss out on this fantastic show - visit ParentPay to book. [www.parentpay.com/](http://www.parentpay.com/)

**Sponsorship & Advertising Opportunity**  
Would you like to promote your business to our school community? We are still accepting advertisements for our event programme. Check out the prices on page 2. If you are interested, please get in touch with [h.blissett@bb-hs.co.uk](mailto:h.blissett@bb-hs.co.uk) by Friday, 30th January 2026.



Pride • Respect • Kindness



## 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.



## WHY SHOULD YOU GO TO BLYTHE BRIDGE SIXTH FORM?

BY YEAR 12 DYLAN H

### The subjects

There are a wide array of subjects that cater for many different career paths. The subject teachers are highly qualified, and, due to the smaller class sizes, you get a more in-depth, one to one experience. EPQs (Extended Project Qualification) is a good way to gain an extra half an A level, whilst studying whatever you chose. You independently research your chosen topic and/or conduct an experiment to test theories.

### Sixth Form Plus

There are countless enrichment opportunities available at Blythe Bridge Sixth Form, such as 'Young Enterprise', 'Tomorrow's Teachers' and the EPQ. These opportunities are extremely valuable when it comes to applying for universities and apprenticeships and can be extremely beneficial in the long run.

### Private study and privileges

In a week (depending on how many subjects you take), you may get between 5 and 10 study periods. This time can be utilised effectively for completing assignments, doing revision, or catching up on sixth form plus activities.

## READING ADVOCATE

Anneliese C!

Reading: 'Wilder Girls' by Rory Power

As someone who likes tense dystopian stories, Wilder Girls was really fun to read. It feels intense right from the start, almost like you're stuck on the island with the characters. I liked how the girls' friendship felt real, and the creepy moments made the story even more exciting.

What stood out to me most was how unpredictable everything was. You never really know what's going to happen, which kept me hooked. Even though the story is scary at times, it's also emotional and interesting. It's a quick, gripping read that stays in your mind after you finish it.

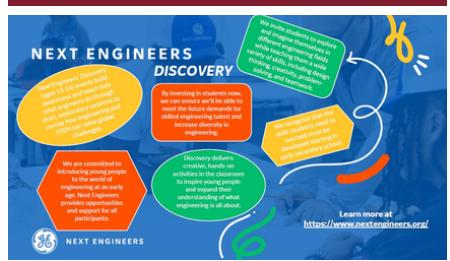


## MFL SPEAKING MOCKS

Next week will see our Year 11 students facing their last round of MFL Speaking mock exams, showing the best of what they can achieve in French and Spanish. Good luck to Year 11 and remember to revise your verbs, practise those opinions and reasons and any strategies your teachers have given you to succeed.

## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

The focus of our assemblies this week was Holocaust Memorial Day. Students listened to the experiences of survivors who experienced the horrors of the Holocaust. Students were then asked to reflect on the theme of this year and consider what we can learn from history about the importance of respecting others and showing kindness.



Pride • Respect • Kindness

## YEAR 10 BIOLOGY

Year 10 students put their learning into action in a recent biology lesson with Miss Fargher by taking part in a practical focused on homeostasis. Pupils carried out hands-on activities. The practical helped to bring this key biological concept to life, developing both their scientific understanding and practical investigation skills.

## 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](mailto:h.blissett@bb-hs.co.uk) by Friday 30th January. Please also let us know if you prefer to pay by cheque or invoice.



# LOOKING FORWARD



## 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



In preparation for the Careers Fair on Friday, Year 12 & 13 will all have career themes in citizenship.

## KEY DATES

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January

- Careers Fair

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

- Year 12 / Year 13 Progress Evening

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>

February

- Annie Jr Performances



## CAREERS SPOTLIGHT - BENCHMARK 5

BETT 2026 – Inspiring Minds at ExCeL London

On Wednesday at BETT 2026, our group of Year 12 Tomorrow's Teachers and Mr Goodwin and Miss Housley joined tens of thousands of education professionals at the world's biggest education technology event at ExCeL London. BETT this year brought together over 35,000 educators, innovators and leaders from more than 130 countries to explore the latest in EdTech and classroom innovation. Our students had the opportunity to engage with cutting-edge technology demonstrations, explore AI and STEM learning tools, and see firsthand how digital innovation is shaping future classrooms. The students attended live sessions and workshops focused on practical tools and strategies for teaching, learning, and inclusive practice. Highlights included hands-on sessions in the Tech User Labs, discussions around AI for education, and immersive showcases from leading EdTech brands.

The visit was not just about tech — it was an invaluable chance for our team to connect with educators from across the globe, spark fresh ideas, and bring back inspiration to enrich teaching and learning in our own classrooms and hopefully one day to their own classrooms.



## ASSEMBLIES

Year 9: Mental health enterprise  
Year 8: Stoke-on-Trent College  
Year 7: Kindness  
Year 10: Reaseheath  
Year 11: Holocaust Memorial Day



Group	Block 4 (5) 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan-13 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Year 7 Girls AC	Dance
Year 7 Girls DV	OAA
Year 7 Boys AC	Swimming
Year 7 Boys DV	Handball
Year 8 Girls AC	HRE
Year 8 Girls DV	Dance
Year 8 Boys AC	Basketball
Year 8 Boys DV	Football
Year 9 Girls AC	Volleyball
Year 9 Girls DV	Dance
Year 9 Boys AC	Handball
Year 9 Boys DV	Swimming



## 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.

## LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

All of Year 9 will take part in an enterprise session linked to mental health on Monday 26th January. Selected groups will be asked to present their ideas during citizenship P4. Through this opportunity, students must lead their peers through the group challenge and use their communication, teamwork and presentation skills to share their ideas.

## 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

STREATRIES		LUNCH MENU: TRADITIONAL		A la carte	
WEEK 1	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Swedish Kitchen	Swedish Style Meatballs in Gravy with Cranberry Jam	Asian	Home Style	American Diner	Chips & More
MAINS	Summer Apple, Leek & Bean Stew	Char Sui Roast Pork with Chinese Style Curry Sauce	Char Sui Roast Pork	Bacon Hand Pressed Beef Burger, Caramelised Onion & Mint Sauce	Choose from: Battered Fish & Chips, Fish & Chips, Pizza Slice, Chicken Nuggets, Garden Frites or Roasted Bacon Irish Curry Sauce, Chip Shop Gravy
SIDES	Creamy Mash, Peas & Green Beans	Chinese Style Vegetable Curry	Stir Fried Rice & Wok Fried Vegetables	Veggie Burger Tofu in the Hole	Roasted Sweet Veg, Wedges & Green Salad
PASTA & NOODLE POTS	Chinese Style Char Sui Chilli & Noodle BBQ Topped Noodles	Steamed Rice & Seasonal Greens	Best Ever Bolognese	Classic Meatball Fanta	Classic Veggie Chow Mein
DELI HOT	Smothered Chicken Strips Wrap	Mashed Potato Slice	RIBC Fish Online Deli Dog	Classic Pepperoni	Protein Packed Spicy Pork & Lentil Fanta
FILLINGS	Swedish Meatball	Chinese Style Char Sui Stir Fry	BBDQ Beans & Pork Onion	Chinese, Caramelised Onion & Mayonnaise	All The Classics
BIG BOWL SALAD	Avocado Super Green Salad	Avocado Chicken Caesar	Quinoa Superfood Bowl	Grain & Seed Health Bowl	Special Salad
DESSERTS	Chai Spiced Baked Apple Crumble & Custard	Lemon Meringue Apple Crumble & Custard	Aspens Toffee Cookies	Apple Tart Tatin & Custard	Brownie Binkle Ripple
DAILY!	Daily Meal Deals Regular Chef's Specials	Freshly Made from Scratch	Fresh Cut Fruit & Yogurt Pots Available Daily	Handcrafted Deli Sandwiches, Baguettes, Wraps, Salads & More!	DELIKITCHEN HOT GRAB & GO

Follow us on



Instagram

@blythebridgehighschool

**KICKSTART**

N1  
8:10-8:40am

MEET FRIENDS  
CHECK HOMEWORK  
READ OR PLAY GAMES  
PURCHASE STATIONERY

TOAST & DRINKS AVAILABLE

SUPPORTED BY  
YEAR 11 PREFECTS

# Check this out



## Drama Reading

Fancy reading a playscript instead of a novel?

Every half term, the drama department will recommend three playscripts that you can borrow to read.

This half term's recommendations are:



**Oh What A Lovely War**  
is a satirical take on WW1, full of song and dance that juxtapose greatly with those moments of shock and anger..



**Bouncers and Shakers** is a double bill of loud, proud, physical plays that show life in a Northern town as a variety of characters get ready for a big night out.



**The Real Inspector Hound** follows two theatre critics watching a ludicrous whodunnit who then become involved in the action.

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



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.



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

## 6 Reasons to Put Your Phone Away

by @Inner\_Drive  
[www.innerdrive.co.uk](http://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.



### Wars Your View of Reality

Nobody is as happy as they seem on Facebook or as wise as they appear on Twitter.

## Train to Teach in Local Schools

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



The John Taylor SCITT

[jtscitt.co.uk](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/educational-awards-benefits/freeschoolmeals/apply-online.aspx)