

Friday Focus



Issue 191 | February 2026

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

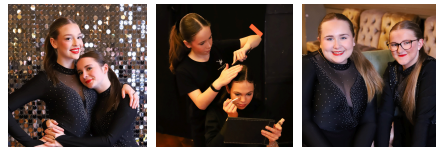


Photo of the week
#weareblythe



KICKSTART

Kickstart is our breakfast club which starts to welcome students from 8am. It is free for any student to use and is a warm and welcoming space with plenty of squash, toast and hot drinks on offer. We are able to keep it free due to the generosity of staff and parents/carers. This can be making a small donation through ParentPay or dropping off an extra loaf of bread or carton of milk that you have picked up.



DANCE FESTIVAL

Best of luck to our dance academy students from Year 8-Year 12 who will perform as part of the '026 festival at the Regent Theatre tonight. Their dance features music from Disclosure, Avicii and En Vogue, amongst others. The girls work superbly as a team and watching them perform is electric.

WELCOME

Next Thursday we will see the next house challenge between sixth form students and staff. After the successful house dodgeball game, staff and students will compete in houses in a table tennis challenge. It is a busy time for the house teams with the annual Spelling Bee taking place across all key stages this fortnight. Last year's winners Gurleen and Tommy-J will be hoping to keep their titles this year. Many thanks to Mr Sturmey and the Heads of House for organising these events and best of luck to all the participants.

Mrs Johnson
Headteacher

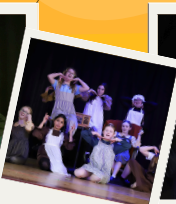
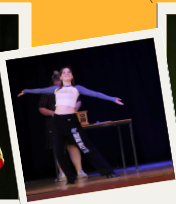
Pride, Respect & Kindness

SKIING SUPERSTAR



William F (Year 7) completed a 6-day elite ski race camp in Norway, training daily in slalom and giant slalom with world-class coaches. He placed 3rd in his first-ever GS race despite extreme weather and won the team dual slalom on the final day - an outstanding, resilience-building achievement. All at Blythe Bridge are incredibly proud, well done William!

ANNIE UPDATES



Next week, the curtain will rise on our school production of Annie. Rehearsals are in full swing, the lights are up, the stage is extended, and our cast and crew are working incredibly hard - learning lines, finalising costumes and perfecting their performances to bring this much-loved show to life. Tickets are selling quickly, so don't miss out! Make sure you secure your seats and join us for what promises to be a fantastic evening of entertainment. **Book now via ParentPay:** www.parentpay.com/

Year 10 Chemistry

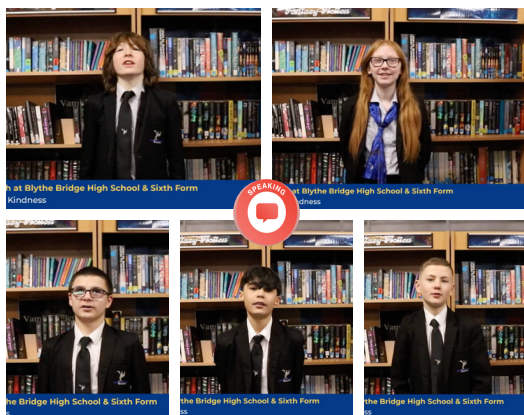


Pride • Respect • Kindness



YEAR 10 CHEMISTRY

Year 10 chemists are in the midst of the chemical reactions topic. Their attitude and engagement has been fantastic. Students have investigated energy changes during exothermic and endothermic reactions, oxidised and reduced reactants by using oxidising and reducing agents and are currently studying neutralisation reactions. Kian and Harrison expertly and meticulously modelled neutralisation to their class by reacting hydrogen ions, from acids, with hydroxide ions, from alkalis. Universal indicator and a pH meter were used to find pH 7 (pH 7.00 exactly in Harrison's case). Links to prior learning were made when discussing how to obtain the salt from the neutralisation products.



YEAR 8 READ THE TYGER

This half term, Year 8 students are studying Romanticism Poetry in English.

Enjoy 8X3's current favourite 'The Tyger' by William Blake read by Cooper, Ella, Finlay, Noah and Harvey.

Who is the harsh matron in charge of the orphanage?

- Miss Honey
- Miss Hannigan
- Miss Foster
- Miss Perkins

What is the name of the wealthy man who takes Annie in?

- Benjamin Stacks
- Oliver Warbucks
- Henry Carnegie
- Jonathan Rockefeller



What is the name of Annie's dog?

- A. Buddy
- B. Sandy
- C. Champ
- D. Rusty

SIXTH FORM ANNIE QUIZ

How well do you know Annie?! Here is a little quiz created by our sixth formers so you know what to expect in our upcoming school show. Our students have been working so hard to make it a show you do not want to miss!



CROSS COUNTRY STARS

On Saturday, seven of our students competed in the Cross-Country County Championships at Betley Court Farm, proudly representing the City of Stoke-on-Trent and achieving fantastic results. Congratulations to Isaac C (Year 7), who finished 2nd overall and was first home for Stoke. Flynn E and Finlay D both placed inside the top 20, finishing 2nd and 3rd for the team, alongside strong runs from Remi C and Elias K. Holly T (Year 11) won her race in impressive style, and Tilly H (Year 10) also delivered a great performance.

Good luck to Holly at the upcoming English Schools' Cross Country Championships!



YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY BRICK LANE VISIT

On Tuesday 3rd February, Year 12 A level Geography students visited Brick Lane, London for a human geography fieldwork trip linked to the 'Changing Places' topic. The trip provided an excellent case study of how places change over time through shifts in land use, demographics, culture and identity. Students examined Brick Lane's historical role as a centre for brick and tile production, where factories once operated and working-class families lived nearby. This industrial past helped explain how the area developed and set the foundations for later change.

Fieldwork then focused on Brick Lane today as one of London's most diverse and vibrant areas. Students observed the strong multicultural character, with independent shops, cafés and restaurants representing Bangladeshi, Lebanese, Italian, Spanish, Turkish, Hungarian, Polish, Greek and many other ethnicities. The lack of major chain stores highlighted the area's unique identity and importance of independent businesses.

Students collected data on land use, environmental quality, footfall and perceptions of place, applying key geographical concepts such as place meaning and regeneration.

Overall, it was a long but enjoyable and highly productive day, providing valuable data and bringing the Changing Places topic to life outside the classroom.



Year 7: How do I stay safe and positive online?
Year 8: How do I judge what to believe online?
Year 9: What are my rights at work?
Year 10: How do I choose smartly between budgets, risks and contracts?
Year 11: Revision skills

In citizenship Year 13 continue to explore the impact of drugs on health and Year 12 are exploring applications and personal statements.

KEY DATES

Tuesday 10th - Thursday 12th February
• Annie Jr Performances

Thursday 12th February
 • House Table Tennis Tournament

Monday 9th - Friday 13th February
• Year 12 + 13 assessment week

Monday 23rd February - Friday 6th March

- Year 11 mock examinations



CAREERS SPOTLIGHT - BENCHMARK 7

It was fantastic to see our Year 11, 12 and 13 students confidently speaking with colleges, universities and employers at the careers fair. Asking questions, exploring opportunities and taking real steps towards their future plans. Their curiosity, maturity and ambition were wonderful to see, and we're so proud of the way they embraced every conversation. Our skills champions also did an amazing job supporting and welcoming our visitors, showing professionalism and the essential skills they champion every day.



ASSEMBLIES

Year 7 - 13: Mental Health Week



Group	Block 4 (5) 12 th Jan-13 th 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



RE M I N D E R

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

STUDENT LEADERSHIP



Calling all Sphinx House Captains! A reminder of your meeting with Mr Sturmeay in the PE gym on Monday 9th February at the start of form time.

HOUSE UPDATES

Sphinx: 814 (1st)
Centaur: 812 (2nd)
Pegasus: 678 (3rd)
Serpent: 641 (4th)

Upcoming Competitions

Spelling Bee

Staff / Sixth Form Table Tennis Tournament:

Thursday 12th February

Core KS3 Competition

Year 8 Art Competition

Spotfire Modelling

Cross Country

M E N U C H O I C E

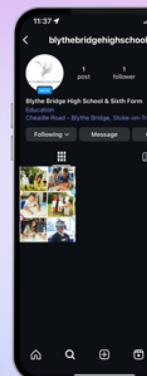
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Check this out



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.



6 Reasons to Put Your Phone Away

by @Inner_Drive
www.innerdrive.co.uk



Lowens Concentration

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



Increases FOMO

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



Increases Stress and Anxiety

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



Warpes Your View of Reality

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



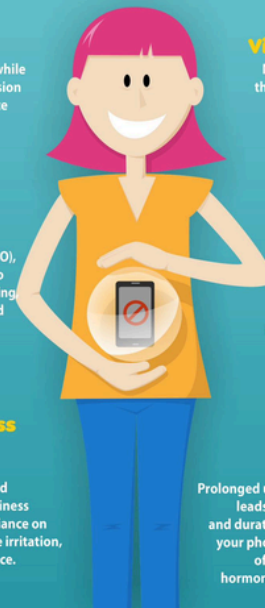
Reduces Memory

Instant messages are distracting, which often leads to forgetfulness



Makes You Sleep Worse

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



plus BLYTHE BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM
PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SHOP

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

Funding for Selected Routes

Full or Part-Time Routes

Gain School Experience

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

Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form is excited to offer our school facilities to the local community and businesses.

If you are looking for a regular indoor or outdoor venue for your club or society, or a space for a one off event, we offer a range of facilities.

THESE INCLUDE

MUGA PITCHES ● GRASS FOOTBALL PITCHES ●
MAIN HALL ● CLASSROOMS ● ICT SUITES ● ART
FACILITIES ● HARD COURTS ● SWIMMING POOL



Scan the QR code for our price list and
a copy of our hire request form

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office@bb-hs.co.uk

ST11 9PW



Free School Meals



HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET?

**See if you are entitled...
It costs nothing to try, so why not give it a go!**

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

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

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

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

Help the school by registering for Free School Meals!

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

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

Holiday Activities and Food



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



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