

Friday Focus



Issue 193 | February 2026



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

Photo of the week #weareblythe



Pride · Respect · Kindness



Pride · Respect · Kindness



WELCOME

Year 11 students have worked incredibly hard during the first week of their mock fortnight, and their conduct in the examinations has been impressive. I encourage students to use the weekend to find a balance between continuing with their revision and taking time to rest.

We have also been impressed with the response to the changes in our mobile phone procedures. Well done to everyone for adapting to the new DfE guidance, which will be fully implemented from Monday.

It is a very different Friday for me, as I am accompanying our Maths & Physics A-Level students on a London/Oxford residential. Everyone was on time early this morning at the train station - which is just as well, as Mr Goodwin's schedule leaves no room for error.

Mrs Johnson
Headteacher

Pride, Respect & Kindness

TABLE TENNIS COMPETITION

Thursday 12th February saw an action-packed House table tennis showdown between staff and Sixth Form, with seven players per side competing at a high standard. After round-robin group stages and tense semi-finals, Harrison K (Pegasus) secured an impressive 3rd place. The title went to Mr Wright (Serpent, PE), who claimed an 11-8 victory over Mr Sturmeay (Sphinx) in a thrilling final. A huge thank you to everyone who took part and earned valuable House points!

TOMORROW'S TEACHERS

Miss Housley and the Tomorrow's Teachers would like to personally thank all the teaching staff, who kindly allowed them to observe their lessons during their pupil pursuits yesterday.

The Tomorrow's Teachers selected a student to observe from each of the form groups they have been supporting. They found the day so useful, and it has been lovely to see them all getting so involved with every lesson. The feedback was really positive.

WHY CHOOSE BLYTHE BRIDGE SIXTH FORM?

There is 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. The EPQ (extended project qualification) is a good way to gain an extra half an A level. Whilst studying, you independently research a chosen topic and/or conduct an experiment to test theories.

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 to universities and apprenticeships and can be extremely beneficial in the long run.

In a week (depending on how many subjects you take) you may get between 5 and 10 study periods a week, this time can be utilised effectively for completing assignments, doing revision or catching up on sixth form plus activities. Contributed by Dylan H, Year 12

Culture & Ethos

MOBILE PHONE EXPECTATIONS

"OFF AND AWAY" MEANS ALL DAY

Expectations

- Phones must not be seen or used at any time during the school day.
- Phones must not be visible in blazer pockets.
- Phones must not be used in toilets.
- Phones are not permitted for any learning activities.
- Phones must not be used to contact parents/carers.
- Parents/carers must contact students via Reception.

Consequences

- If it is seen, it will be confiscated and taken to Reception.
- A 30-minute after school detention will be issued.
- Defiance will mean additional consequence.
- All confiscated phones will be returned to a parent/carer ONLY.

Keep it OFF and AWAY all day.



PORT VALE FC TRAINING

Thank you to Port Vale and to Jess Smith from Port Vale FC Women, for joining us at training! We loved having you share your skills and passion with us. We look forward to taking our Year 11 and Sixth Form players to Vale Park next term, and to continue exploring opportunities for future programme development.

RIISING SKIING STAR

Following his recent ski success, William F (Year 7) met with our Headteacher, Mrs Johnson, to share updates on his achievements. He has recently found fame on Instagram, with a video showcasing his skiing ability currently reaching 15.5 million views - an incredible accomplishment. Recently, William, competed in the National Schools Snowsports Association race league at Swadlincote. He was the fastest U12 boy on the night and recorded the second fastest overall time across the league so far. With one race remaining, we have everything crossed for a national finals invitation in Gloucester. An outstanding achievement!



BIG APPRENTICESHIP EXPO

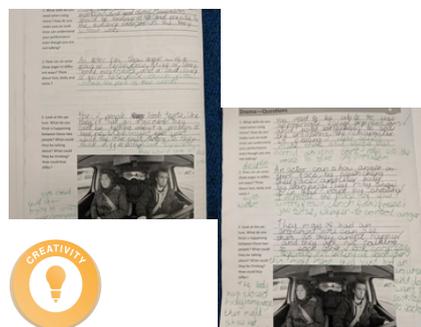
A group of eleven enthusiastic Year 8 students represented the school brilliantly at the Big Expo held at Stoke City, where they engaged with a range of employers offering apprenticeships, including Panelco, the Army, Capula, Ford Mainwaring, and Stoke-on-Trent City Council.

Throughout the event they were impeccably behaved, showing maturity and confidence as they asked thoughtful, incisive questions about future careers and training opportunities.

They demonstrated the key skills of Communication, Listening, Speaking and Aiming High through their conversations and returned with hands full of pens and sweets, and with minds full of inspiration. Their conduct was exemplary and a real credit to the school.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Mrs Johnson recently qualified as an Award Verifier for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme and had the pleasure of reviewing her first submissions with Brett Waring, Operations Officer for our region. We are delighted that along with Jack and Kayleigh who achieved their Bronze Award, Year 12 student Oliver and three Year 11 students, Dexter, Michael and Wilf have all achieved their Silver Award. All participants are encouraged to check their submissions many more of you are very close to completion.



YEAR 8 DRAMA CLASSWORK

Year 8 have been working hard in Drama and it is lovely to see them improve their homework after feedback in class. Here are some great examples from 8X2.



READING ADVOCATE

Year 11 Rory H is reading: *An Inspector Calls* by J.B Priestley

An Inspector Calls by J. B. Priestley is one of the books from school that I'll actually remember in years to come, even though I'm not really a big reader. At first, I thought it would be boring because it's an old play, but it ended up being one of my favourites. I liked how the characters changed from the start to the end, especially how they reacted to the Inspector. It made me think more than I expected, and reading it in class actually made it better because we could talk about what was really going on.



SPRING TERM MONDAY P4 CITIZENSHIP



Year 7: What should I eat to fuel focus and mood?
 Year 8: How can I resist peer pressure?
 Year 9: Protecting my health
 Year 10: Health and Wellbeing
 Year 11: Revision skills

Next week's focus in citizenship will be independence and safety. Year 12/13 are doing a series of sessions on personal safety and wellbeing.

KEY DATES

Monday 2nd March - Friday 6th March
 • Year 11 mock examinations

Thursday 5th March
 • World Book Day

Friday 13th March
 • Year 9 MENACWY/TDIPV Boosters

Monday 23rd March
 • Year 9 Progress Evening

Wednesday 25th March
 • Year 8 HPV Immunisations

Wednesday 25th-27th March
 • Silver Rewards Trip



CAREERS SPOTLIGHT - BENCHMARK 6

New Skills Champions in Year 7 have been recruited to join Mr Goodwin's Skills Champions team. Their first task is to participate in the 'Step into the NHS' event next week.

They have already shared some ideas with Mr Goodwin on what they will be doing this year as their role in the team.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

We are going to introduce two positions of sixth form leaders for the start of next academic year. The process of selecting students for these roles will start in the summer term ready for the 2026/27 academic year. If you are in Year 12 and are interested in such a role, now is a good time to start thinking about it. More information will be communicated in the coming months that will give you plenty of time to make a decision and apply.

HOUSE UPDATES

Sphinx: 901 (1st)
 Centaur: 843 (2nd)
 Serpent: 745 (3rd)
 Pegasus: 734 (4th)

Upcoming Competitions

- Spelling Bee
- Core KS3 Competition
- Year 8 Art Competition
- Spitfire Modelling
- Cross Country
- Easter Bake Off
- Escape Room
- Swimming Galas



ASSEMBLIES

Year 7-11: World Book Day



Group	Block 4 (5) 12th Jan-13th Feb
Year 7 Girls AC	Dance
Year 7 Girls DV	OAA
Year 7 Boys AC	Swimming
Year 8 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



MENU CHOICE

STREETRIES	LUNCH MENU: TRADITIONAL
Steno STEAK MON Minced Beef Hurgot topped with Root Veg & Potatoes Lamb, Onion & Root Veg Hurgot Sausy Cabbage & Peas Mexican Hot Pizza Slice BBQ Carrillón Crunch Wings Beef Mince & Onion Roasted Tomatoes & Pepper Pasta Salad Old School Jam Cambrake Crunch Daily Meal Deals Regular Chef's Specials	AMERICAN DINER STEAK TUE BBQ Chicken & Cheese Melt Cajun Spiced Bean Burger Protein Lean Chicken Bolognese Classic Meatball Pasta Masala Mayo Dill Dog Smoky Spanish Beans & Asail Pasta Burtanban, Roasted Tomatoes & Spinach Baked Cheddarite Fresh Cut Fruit & Yogurt Pots Available Daily
Steno STEAK WED Maple Glazed Gammon with Crispy Smashed New Potatoes Honey Carrot & Apple Wellington Classic Meatball Pasta Masala Mayo Dill Dog California Caprese Banana Choc Chip Loaf	Italian STEAK THU Pork Rago Lasagne au Forno Spinach, Cream Cheese & Roasted Veg Lasagne Crusty House Baked Bread, Roast Carrots or Garden Salad Pulled Ham Carbonara Chinese Style Chicken Wrap Pulled Ham Carbonara Sauce Citrus Chicken, Spinach & Misoavite Maple Apple Pie & Whipped Cream
Steno STEAK FRI Cheese Frittata, Battered Fish, Sausage or Veg Sausage, Pizza Slice, Chicken Nuggets, Chips Garden Peas or Baked Beans, Irish Curry Sauce, Chip Shop Fryer Classic Chicken Chow Mein Cheesy Chips Loaded All The Classics Special Salad Aspen Beet Ever Chocolate Brownies	Steno STEAK More Choose from: Battered Fish, Sausage or Veg Sausage, Pizza Slice, Chicken Nuggets, Chips Garden Peas or Baked Beans, Irish Curry Sauce, Chip Shop Fryer Classic Chicken Chow Mein Cheesy Chips Loaded All The Classics Special Salad Aspen Beet Ever Chocolate Brownies
LOADED SPUDS - CHOOSE, MIX & MATCH ONLY Pulled Ham Carbonara Sauce Citrus Chicken, Spinach & Misoavite Maple Apple Pie & Whipped Cream ASPEN BEET EVER CHOCOLATE BROWNIES	
DESSERTS Banana Choc Chip Loaf Maple Apple Pie & Whipped Cream Aspen Beet Ever Chocolate Brownies	

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.

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.



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%.



Warp's Your View of Reality

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



Increases FOMO

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



Reduces Memory

Instant messages are distracting, which often leads to forgetfulness



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.



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