

Friday Focus



Issue 194 | March 2026



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

Photo of the week #weareblythe



WORLD BOOK DAY

What a fantastic World Book Day we had in school!

Yesterday morning, students across the school enjoyed listening to their teachers read the short story "The Button", followed by thoughtful class discussions. It was wonderful to see how much students engaged with the story, and we are incredibly grateful to our amazing members of staff for bringing such energy and enthusiasm to reading.

Our Masked Reader competition was also a huge success. A big thank you to Mrs Pheasey for her time and technical wizardry in making this possible.

The library was a real hive of excitement at break and lunchtime, and Mrs Jones did a fantastic job creating such a welcoming and lively space for students – thank you!

Plus, our teachers had a whale of a time dressing up as iconic characters from books!

A brilliant day celebrating the joy of reading! 📖🌟

WELCOME

A huge well done to all of those Year 11 students who have worked so hard preparing for their assessments during the mock fortnight. You should be really proud of yourselves. We can't wait to share your results with you at the mock results afternoon on Monday 23rd March. Enjoy a weekend away from the books and revision resources - the forecast looks like you'll be able to get some time outside in some lovely spring sunshine.

Mrs Johnson

Headteacher

Pride, Respect & Kindness

U16 FOOTBALL UPDATE

Yesterday the U16 Girls played St John Fisher in the County Cup 1/4 final. This was the first game the girls have played for a while and this showed when they went behind in the second minute. After this, Blythe dominated the game and had a number of good chances. Jaimee W and Ava B scored just before half time to give Blythe a deserved 2-1 lead. The second half was very similar with Blythe continuing to threaten, it wasn't until 5 minutes before the end though when Jaimee W managed to score her second and a deserved 3-1 victory for the girls. Well done to the girls and good luck in the semi-final. POM Ava B.



A "PHEASANT" SURPRISE ON THE SCHOOL FIELD

We have had a very special visitor causing quite a stir! This handsome little pheasant decided to drop by our school fields, and he has been the talk of the playground.

It looks like he has taken a real liking to our woods - perhaps he is scouting out a new home? We are keeping our fingers crossed that he decides to stay and become our newest "outdoor student"!



A LEVEL MATHS & PHYSICS RESIDENTIAL TRIP HIGHLIGHTS



Pride · Respect · Kindness

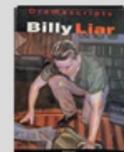
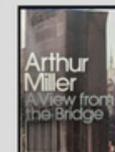


Drama Reading

Fancy reading a playscript instead of a novel?

Borrow a script, write a review and possibly win a prize as well as points for your house!

This half term's Drama house competition



Spring house competition for drama

Borrow one of these or many other play scripts that the drama department has, read it and then write a review of the play. The Year 12 Drama subject ambassadors will judge the entries and award prizes and house points.

All reviews to be received by Mrs Baines by 11th April.

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

SCIENCE WRITERS

On Monday, we had a wonderful group of year 9 and 10 students preparing for the scientific writing competition.

Each year students are encouraged to submit an essay on a topic of their choice that is influenced by an area of STEM. These students were working hard in a workshop led by Mrs Ashcroft and Miss Marsden to choose their topic and start their research in the area. Students were then supported to start writing their essay in an academic style.

To support the students in doing this, our science and English sixth form ambassadors helped out throughout the session and were incredible.

We are so excited to see the final submissions and see if any of our students win one of the prizes.



READING ADVOCATE

Cobie E is reading: Heartstopper Volume 5 by Alice Oseman

Heartstopper Volume 5 is one of my favorite books in the Heartstopper series. I've read most of the books and watched the show on Netflix. In this book, the story feels more serious and emotional, especially as Nick and Charlie deal with being apart and thinking about the future. Nick is my favorite character because he is kind and really cares about Charlie. I like that the book talks about coming out and teenage challenges in a way that feels honest and true to real life. It's a love story, but it also shows how hard growing up can be.



SPRING TERM MONDAY P4 CITIZENSHIP



- Year 7: What is self esteem?
- Year 8: What is gambling / addiction?
- Year 9: Contraception , STIS, confidential advice.
- Year 10: What is mental health?
- Year 11: Revision skills

KEY DATES

- 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 5 + 6

Year 7 and 8 skills champions took part in the 'Step into NHS' event this week. They had opportunities to listen to people from different roles and ask questions about their workplace. They now have a task to submit a competition entry. Well done to all students involved.



ASSEMBLIES

Year 7-13: British Science 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



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

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: I311
- Centaur: I166
- Serpent: I160
- Pegasus: I124

Upcoming Competitions

- Spelling Bee
- Year 8 Art Competition
- Spitfire Modelling
- Cross Country - Thursday 19th March
- Easter Bake Off - Thursday 26th March
- Escape Room
- Swimming Galas



MENU CHOICE

STREATERIES	LUNCH MENU: TRADITIONAL	PRN ASIAN	Home STYLE	AMERICAN Diner	More & More
WEEK 1 Swedish Kitchen MON MAINS: Swedish Style Meatballs in Gravy with Cranberry Jam Sides: Creamy Mash, Peas & Green Beans Desserts: Chai Spiced Baked Rice Pudding	TUE MAINS: Char Siu Roast Pork with Chinese Style Curry Sauce Sides: Steamed Rice & Ink Fried Vegetables Desserts: Lemon Meringue Apple Crumble & Custard	WED MAINS: Roast Chicken & Thyme Toad in the Hole Sides: Roasties, Smashed Honey Fennel & Seasonal Greens Desserts: Fresh Cuf Fruit & Yogurt Pots	THU MAINS: Asperns Hand Pressed Beef Burger, Caramelised Onion & Mac Sauce Sides: Veggie Burger Toad in the Hole Desserts: Apple Tart Tatin & Custard	FRI MAINS: Chicken Hand Pressed Beef Burger, Caramelised Onion & Mac Sauce Sides: London Pies or Bakal Beans with Curry Sauce & Chip Shop Fryer Desserts: Handcrafted Deli Sandwiches, Baggets, Wraps, Salads & More	More & More Choose from: Battered Fish Sausage or Veg Sausage Pizza Slice Chicken Nuggets Chips Protein Packed Spicy Pork & Lentil Ragù
DELICIOUS - LOADED SPUDS - Swedish Meatball, Chinese Style Curry Char Siu Pork, BBQ Pork, Onion & Bull Dog, Classic Meatball Pasta, Classic Veggie Chor Melt, Protein Packed Spicy Pork & Lentil Ragù					
DELICIOUS - PASTA & NOODLE POTS - Southern Chicken Strip Wrap, Malaysian Prawn Noodle, BBQ Pork, Onion & Bull Dog, Classic Pappardelle, Cheesy Chips					
DELICIOUS - FILLINGS - Swedish Meatball, Chinese Style Curry Char Siu Pork, BBQ Pork, Onion & Bull Dog, Classic Meatball Pasta, Classic Veggie Chor Melt, Protein Packed Spicy Pork & Lentil Ragù					
DELICIOUS - DESSERTS - Daily Meal Deals, Bagel, Chef's Specials, Freshly Made from Scratch, Fresh Cuf Fruit & Yogurt Pots, Handcrafted Deli Sandwiches, Baggets, Wraps, Salads & More, DELIKITCHEN HOT GRAB & GO					

Those in receipt of free school meals are entitled to £2.72 per day.

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 PERFECTS

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:



Confusions is a collection of five short plays that are interlinked which is recommended for sixth form students.



Private Peaceful is a wonderfully evocative story set in WW1 that is a novel, film and now playscript.



My Mother Said I Never Should follows four generations of women in one family through different events in their lives.

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.



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.

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
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.



Warp's 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.



Train to Teach in Local Schools

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



The John Taylor SCITT
jtscitt.co.uk

- Funding for Selected Routes
- Full or Part-Time Routes
- Gain School Experience

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

01782 392519

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