

Friday Focus



Issue 196 | March 2026



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

Photo of the week #weareblythe



YEAR 7 TEXTILES

Year 7 students have been developing their textile skills this week, creating fantastic doughnut projects.

Mrs Kadri stopped by to admire their work, especially Ava and Cara, who have already finished theirs – and they look good enough to eat!

Well done Year 7 – keep up the great work!

HOUSE EASTER BAKE OFF

The Easter Bake Off is coming!

Bring your best Easter-themed bake to the SLT area before school on Thursday 26th March.

Prizes, house points and baking glory are up for grabs!

Remember to add your name, form, house and ingredients list.



Pride · Respect · Kindness



WELCOME

What a difference the spring weather has made this week. It won't be long before the field has dried out enough to allow the students to use the space at break and lunchtimes. Along with the warmer weather we have longer days which means that many of our after school clubs are able to take place outside. The first house cross country competition took place yesterday and it was wonderful to see both staff and students taking the opportunity to be out in the sunshine.

Mrs Johnson
Headteacher

Pride, Respect & Kindness

EASTER RAFFLE

Get ready for our Easter Raffle Eggstravaganza!

Don't miss your chance to win some egg-cellent prizes, including delicious chocolate eggs and a 5ft Mickey Mouse!

Tickets are just £1 via ParentPay, with all proceeds going towards our breakfast club.

The raffle will be drawn next Thursday...you've got to be in it to win it – hop to it!





WHY SHOULD YOU GO TO BLYTHE BRIDGE SIXTH FORM? BY EVIE J, YEAR 12

I chose Blythe Bridge Sixth Form because it offered all the courses that I was interested in: psychology, PE and business studies.

I decided to come here because I have already developed relationships with teachers and friends.

I am a student ambassador for business studies which is great for opportunities within my subject as well as giving me the opportunity to enhance my leadership skills.

Sixth form offers great in-depth education and offers trips to multiple universities so you can see what is on offer for further education.

On a Wednesday afternoon, everyone is in their chosen enrichment lesson to help develop our life skills and assist with future university or job applications.



BRILLIANT BILLY

A special mention goes to Billy D (9TS), who is running 5k every day in March for Brain Tumour Awareness, following a recent diagnosis in his family.



Billy usually completes his run after school, but on days when he has football commitments, he gets up early to run before school. He described the month as "challenging" and said his legs feel tired, but he wanted to make "something good out of a bad situation".

His efforts have even been recognised by BBC Radio Stoke, where he featured on the morning show with Lee Blakeman today and was described as "incredible".

We are unbelievably proud of you, Billy - well done for your outstanding dedication to such an important cause and for demonstrating such extraordinary kindness. BBC Radio Stoke (Lee Blakeman from 7.55): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/p016nj82>

SUPERB SCIENTISTS

Over the past couple of weeks, we have been celebrating 'British Science Week'. We have been exploring lots of careers in our lessons such as a radiographer, biomedical scientist and toxicologist.

Over the next two weeks, students in Year 8 will be continuing to complete practical activities in their science lessons.

On Tuesday, students in Year 8 worked with Mrs Ashcroft to learn how to use a stethoscope and a pupil dilation pen. They had a go at listening to their heart sounds in different locations and measuring the diameter of their pupils in different light conditions.



GLOW IN THE DARK NETBALL

Our Year 8 students recently ventured to Discovery Academy for an exciting Glow in the Dark Netball match! As you can see from the photos, the girls jumped straight in, gave it their all, and had an amazing time. It was fantastic to see everyone getting involved, having fun, and enjoying the experience together. A huge thank you to Discovery Academy for hosting such a fun and friendly match, we really appreciate the opportunity! As always, our incredible sixth form coaches brought the energy, motivation and, of course, the glow sticks! Their enthusiasm makes such a difference every week. On a more serious note, we would also like to say a heartfelt thank you to our dedicated leaders who consistently show up, create a sense of belonging, and inspire all students to take part and enjoy netball. And finally, a big shout out to Lexi in Year 10 who joined us and did a brilliant job umpiring! Well done to everyone involved!



WELL DONE HOLLY

Congratulations to Holly T (Year 11), who represented Staffordshire in the English Schools National Cross-Country Championships, in Liverpool at the weekend. Holly had a fantastic race, finishing in 30th place from almost 400 runners. We are so proud of you Holly, this is a fantastic achievement!



BARNABY GOES INTERNATIONAL

A huge congratulations to Year 7 student Barnaby, who recently had the incredible opportunity to represent Crewe Alexandra Academy in the Algarve Cup tournament! We are extremely proud of Barnaby's dedication, resilience, and commitment to his sport. Competing at such a high level is a fantastic achievement and a reflection of the hard work he puts in both on and off the pitch.

Experiences like this not only showcase talent but also build confidence, teamwork, and determination—qualities Barnaby continues to demonstrate every day. We have no doubt this is just the beginning of many more exciting opportunities ahead! Well done, Barnaby—we are all cheering you on!

READING ADVOCATE: LEIGHTON & PARIS, YEAR 10



Leighton: *A Christmas Carol* has been my favourite text we've studied so far because the characters are really strong and memorable. My favourite character is Bella because she doesn't take any nonsense from Scrooge and is brave enough to leave him when she realises money has become more important to him than love. I like how she stands up for herself and shows that people shouldn't stay with someone who doesn't treat them properly.

Paris: I enjoyed studying *A Christmas Carol* because it shows the importance of kindness and family at Christmas. My favourite character is Fred because he is always cheerful and believes Christmas should be joyful and shared with others. Even though Scrooge is rude to him, Fred never gives up inviting him to Christmas dinner, which shows how forgiving and positive he is. I like Fred because he represents the idea of the perfect Christmas, where people come together, laugh, and care about each other.



SPRING TERM

MONDAY P4 CITIZENSHIP



- Year 7: What are emotions?
- Year 8: What should I do in the first minute of a medical emergency?
- Year 9: How can I manage puberty and menstrual changes safely—and get help when I need it?
- Year 10: What habits actually improve wellbeing — and how do I choose what works for me?
- Year 11: Revision skills

KEY DATES

Monday 23rd March
 • Year 9 Progress Evening

Wednesday 25th-27th March
 • Silver Rewards Trip

Friday 17th-19th April
 • DoFE Bronze and Silver Practice

Monday 27th April
 • Year 9 Options Evening



CAREERS SPOTLIGHT - BENCHMARK 6

We are currently collating all work experience for Year 10 and 12, and out to work day for Year 9. Well done to all those who have met the deadline, a reminder that we need completed paperwork as soon as possible to ensure your child is participating in these excellent opportunities. Please email Mr Goodwin or Miss Housley if you need further support.

ASSEMBLIES

Year 7-11: Spring
 Year 12-13: International Day of Happiness & Self-Care



Group	Block 5 (S)
Year 7 Girls AC	23 rd Feb – 27 th March
Year 7 Girls DV	Football
Year 7 Boys AC	Swimming
Year 7 Boys DV	OAA
Year 8 Girls AC	Basketball
Year 8 Girls DV	Swimming
Year 8 Boys AC	Volleyball
Year 8 Boys DV	HRE
Year 9 Girls AC	Handball
Year 9 Girls DV	Swimming
Year 9 Boys AC	Tramp
Year 9 Boys DV	HRE
Year 9 Boys AC	Football
Year 9 Boys DV	Football



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

Mr Sturme is meeting the PRK leaders on Friday 20th March to discuss their role in the House Cake Bake next week and then opportunities within the summer term whereby they can have a positive impact on the school community.

The Year Group Representatives will also be meeting on Monday 23rd March to relay their views on the ever-developing school progress. They have the opportunity to voice any aspects of school life they feel we can develop further and how we may do this.



Congratulations to Dorota P in 8JL on winning the Year 8 House Art Competition this term.

HOUSE UPDATES

There continues to be numerous house events. This week has seen the continuation of the chess and fantasy football leagues; an update of standings will be given in the weekly house update to staff and students.

The house cross country event was extremely well attended on Thursday with over 35 people participating. Well done to all who were involved. Again, a breakdown of results will be communicated soon.

KS3 Spelling Bee

A big thank you to all students in KS3 for taking part in the spelling bee last week. In a tight contest there was plenty of talent and spelling knowledge displayed. Well done to the winners and all that made the final!

Overall placings (individual):

- 1st: Gurleen K (Centaur)
- 2nd: Bodhi B (Centaur)
- 3rd: Evie F (Sphinx)

Upcoming Competitions

- KS4 Spelling Bee
- Spitfire Modelling
- Easter Bake Off - Thursday 26th March
- Escape Room
- Swimming Galas - Wednesday 25th March
- Drama Script Review Competition - Deadline 11th April

MENU CHOICE

STREATERIES	LUNCH MENU: TRADITIONAL	AMERICAN DINER	HOME STYLE	ITALIAN	Plus More
MON Mixed Beef Ragout topped with Root Veg & Potatoes Lentil, Onion & Beet Veg Bean Burger Savory Cabbage & Peas	TUE BBQ Chicken & Cheese Melt Cajun Spiced Bean Burger Cajun Rice & Roasted Mediterranean Veg	WED Maple Glazed Gammon with Crispy Smashed New Potatoes Honey Caramel & Apple Waffles Carrot & Seeds Mash, Green Beans	THU Pork Ragu Lasagne al Forno Spinach, Cream Cheese & Roasted Veg Lasagne Crispy House Baked Bread, Roast Carrots & Garden Salad	FRI Choose from: Battered Fish Sausage or Veg Sausage Pizza Slice Chicken Nuggets Chips Garden Peas or Baked Beans with Curry Sauce Chip Shop Fry	All the Classics Classic Chicken Classic Mince
PASTA & NOODLE POTS Teriyaki Chicken Noodles Pesto Lean Chicken Bolognese	DELIVERY ONLY Mexican Hot Pizza Slice BIG Cornflake Crunch Wings Masala Mayo Chili Dog	DELI HOT Mexican Hot Pizza Slice BIG Cornflake Crunch Wings Masala Mayo Chili Dog	FILLINGS Beef Mince & Onion Sausy Spanish Beans & Aul Roasted Tomato & Pepper Pasta Salad Pasta Butterbean, Roasted Tomato & Spinach California Caprese Citrus Chicken, Spinach & Mozzarella Special Salad	DESSERTS Old School Jam Caramel Crunch Baked Cheesecake Banana Chia Chip Loaf Maple Apple Pie & Whipped Cream Apples Beet Beer Chocolate Brownies	DELI KITCHEN HOT GRAB & GO

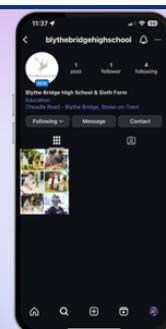
Those in receipt of free school meals are entitled to £2.72 per day.

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 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:



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.





- 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



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a copy of our hire request form

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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