

Friday Focus



Issue 198 | April 2026



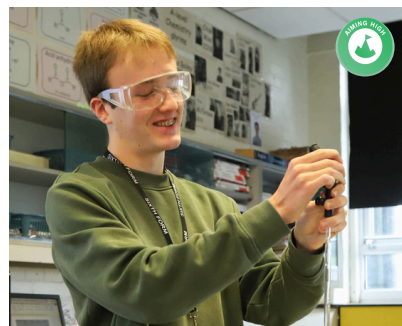
Highlights of this week's news at school and forthcoming events

Photo of the week #weareblythe



STUDENT LEADERS

Our dance leaders are working hard towards their preparation for their primary school dance sessions. From stretching to cardio and different dance styles, our students are doing a fantastic job of showing what they've learned from Miss Housley and are working on their speaking and confidence skills, getting ready to lead the sessions. Well done team!



WELCOME

Many thanks to all of the parents/carers who completed this week's short survey regarding homework and working independently. A number of you noted that you would like to discuss some of the points in more detail and these parents/carers will be contacted over the next few days. Remember that homework club and breakfast club provide a space for students who require a quiet space to complete independent work and our recent extension to include a homework club for students with a SEND helps to ensure all students can access specialist support.

Mrs Johnson
Headteacher

Pride, Respect & Kindness

WHY CHOOSE BLYTHE BRIDGE SIXTH FORM?

Year 13 students were asked to give their top tips for students considering sixth form in the future, here is what they had to say.

"Before deciding on which A-levels to study, make sure that you have checked university websites for courses you might be interested in. They often have specific requirements for grades in certain A-levels"

"My course at university required specific work experience and it had to be over five weeks long, I wish I had known this sooner!" (Veterinary medicine)

"I wanted a college with small class sizes, I picked Blythe Bridge Sixth Form as the teachers know me well and we get lots of individual feedback."

ROAD SAFETY

As part of our Personal Development Week, THRIVE, we were pleased to welcome the Fire and Rescue Service to speak with our students about road safety.

The session was both engaging and impactful, with students listening thoughtfully and showing real maturity throughout. This was especially valuable for our Sixth Form students as they begin preparing for driving and greater independence.

A big thank you to the Fire and Rescue team for delivering such an important and thought provoking session.



RESPECT IN ACTION

Year 9 students spent time litter picking near Caverswall Creamery, who decided to reward the boys' kindness with free milkshakes!

A massive well done to the boys for taking the time to show their local community and environment some respect. Some lovely comments were shared on social media, including, "What lovely, kind young men to do such a lovely thing for the community."



Pride • Respect • Kindness



DUKE OF EDINBURGH

The sun shone on our Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants as they complete their practice expeditions last weekend. Students enjoyed a busy weekend including planning and walking their routes and setting up their tents before cooking on the stoves. Thank you to the team of instructors as well as Mrs Hayes and all the staff for their support and encouragement. Well done to all!



ELLIE



JOSHUA



ISOBEL



LILY



TAMSIN



WELLBEING CHAMPIONS

Our Year 12 Wellbeing Champions have been putting their training into action over the last few weeks supporting lower school students at lunchtimes with drop-in mindfulness sessions down in ALD.

The students are completing a peer education programme with Ms Roberts, provided by the Mental Health Foundation. The training is a secondary school-based educational programme that aims to give young people the skills and knowledge they need to safeguard their mental health and that of their peers. Their kindness and encouragement have already had an impact on some of our younger students who have been seeking them out around school to chat and seek guidance.



A LEVEL BIOLOGY FIELDWORK

Our A Level Biology students have been getting hands-on with their practical skills by exploring the distribution of organisms in our own school woods and testing abiotic factors such as light intensity, temperature and soil conditions. It has been a great way to bring ecology to life, helping students develop key scientific skills through real fieldwork and investigation. A fantastic example of the exciting, practical learning experiences available in A Level Biology.



CAKE CREATIONS

Year 9 were busy in Food Technology this week putting their skills to the test as they baked and decorated their own cakes, including using fondant to create bespoke designs. It was fantastic to see so much creativity on display-especially Billy D's indulgent creation, featuring pink icing, Kinder Bueno, and chocolate buttons! A brilliant effort from everyone - well done, Year 9!



YEAR 5 TRANSITION

We welcomed our penultimate group of Year 5 pupils into school for their transition morning this week. Mr Jackson has been hugely impressed by their enthusiasm for the activities and looks forward to seeing the final group from St Peter's Primary School next week.

READING ADVOCATE: JESSICA



Ghost Town by Rachel Caine

I read Ghost Town by Rachel Caine and it was my first time reading one of her books. I usually love Harry Potter, so this was a bit different but still really exciting. The story is about a town where humans and vampires live together, which I thought was good but also a bit scary. There were lots of creepy moments that made me want to keep reading to find out what happens next. My favourite part was how the characters had to work together even though they didn't always trust each other. It felt different from Harry Potter because it was darker and more serious, but I still enjoyed it a lot. I think if you like stories with danger, mystery, and a bit of horror, you would like this book too.

This book is available to borrow in the library.



SPRING TERM

MONDAY P4 CITIZENSHIP

- Year 7: How do I show respect for people different from me?
- Year 8: How do I tell if a relationship is good for me?
- Year 9: How does media (including porn) distort ideas about sex and relationships?
- Year 10: How do my values and emotions share relationship choices - and how do I set boundaries?
- Year 11: Revision skills



Year 12 will cover Post-18 destinations and personal statement writing.

Year 13 will be continuing with exam preparation.

KEY DATES

Monday 27th April
• Year 9 Options Evening

Tuesday 5th May
• Year 8 Progress Evening

Tuesday 9th June
• Year 5 Science Day

Monday 15th - Friday 19th June
• Year 12 Work Experience Week



CAREERS SPOTLIGHT - BENCHMARK 2 + 6

Maths Ambassadors and A-level Maths students have been supporting some Year 11 in the lead up to their examinations. The Year 12 students have shown excellent essential skills in the work they are doing and the Year 11 have been very grateful.



ASSEMBLIES

Year 7-11: Mindfulness

Year 12: Post-18 destinations & personal statement writing



| Group | Block 6 (5) 12 th April – 15 th May |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Year 7 Girls AC | Swimming |
| Year 7 Girls DV | Football |
| Year 7 Boys AC | Basketball |
| Year 7 Boys DV | OAA |
| Year 8 Girls AC | Volleyball |
| Year 8 Girls DV | Swimming |
| Year 8 Boys AC | Handball |
| Year 8 Boys DV | HRE |
| Year 9 Girls AC | Tramp |
| Year 9 Girls DV | Swimming |
| Year 9 Boys AC | Football |
| Year 9 Boys DV | HRE |



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

In the coming weeks, we will be communicating with Year 10s about the details and selection process for next academic year's prefects. We will also be communicating the application process and details of the new "Head Student" sixth form roles to be selected from this year's Year 12 cohort, ready for a September start. Our PRK champions will also be holding a Kindness week in school and will be meeting again to confirm the details of this soon.

HOUSE UPDATES

Staff Spring Competition

Staff from the four Houses competed in a selection of tasks after school on Monday 13th April. There was a competitive nature to the event, and the results were very close.

The results were as below:

- 1st place: Sphinx (100)
- 2nd place: Centaur (75)
- 3rd place: Pegasus (50)
- 4th place: Serpent (25)

Latest Points

- Sphinx: 1918 (1st)
- Pegasus: 1623 (2nd)
- Centaur: 1599 (3rd)
- Serpent: 1377 (4th)

Upcoming Competitions

- Spelling Bee (KS4 and 5)
 - Staff and sixth form volleyball
 - Swimming Galas (KS4 and 5)
 - Sports Day
 - KS3 House curriculum event
 - Year 7 Art Competition
 - Drama script review competition (all years): Ongoing competition and deadline 11th April; results to be shared soon
 - Spitfire/History Modelling
 - Xbox competition
 - Chess tournament
 - 6th Form football and/or Netball
 - Competition for events continued throughout the year
 - Chess league
 - Fantasy football league
- Dates, details and any more events to be communicated in the coming days and weeks.



MENU CHOICE

STREATERIES

MAINS

- UPGRADE SHIRAZ PORK & RED CHINESE BEEF BOLL
- CRISPY HONEY GARLIC CHICKEN
- 50% Fried Noodles & Butterbeans
- SLOW ROAST PULLED BURGERS & TARTARE POTATO WITH SAUSAGE
- SPICY MEXICAN BEEF STEAK SALAD
- SPICY BEAN & CHERRY TOMATO SALAD
- VEGETARIAN
- SMOKED CHICKEN & SPINACH RAVIOLI
- SWEET CHILI BEEF/CHICKEN/VEGETARIAN
- 50% Fried Noodles & Butterbeans
- GARLIC & TARTARE ROASTED VEGETABLE BEAN BOLL
- SPICY BEAN & CHERRY TOMATO SALAD
- PIZZA SLICES
- BUTTERED FISH
- CHICKEN SUGGESTS
- CHIPS, GRUYERE & BREAD CURRY SAUCE
- CHIPS, GRUYERE & BREAD CURRY SAUCE

VEGETABLES/SALAD

DESSERTS

NOT JUST POTATOES... LOADED SPUDS!

REGULAR CHEF'S SPECIALS

HOT DELI KITCHEN

PASTA, RICE & NOODLE POTS

BIG BOWL SALADS

MEAL DEALS

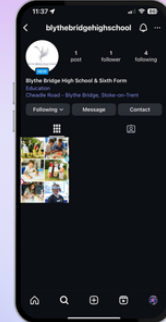
Those in receipt of free school meals are entitled to £2.72 per day.

Follow us on



Instagram

@blythebridgehighschool



KICKSTART

N1

8:10-8:40am

MEET FRIENDS
CHECK HOMEWORK
READ OR PLAY GAMES
PURCHASE STATIONERY

TOAST & DRINKS AVAILABLE

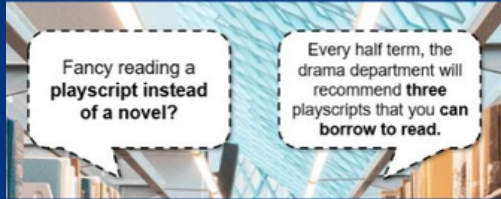
SUPPORTED BY YEAR 11 PREFECTS

Check this out



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.

Drama Reading



This half term's recommendations are:

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | |
| Art shows the breakdown of a friendship because of a white painting with white stripes! | Birthday is set in an alternative reality where men are able to have babies – will they cope any better than women? | An Evening with Gary Lineker follows a group of friends on the evening of the semi-final in the 1990 World Cup. |

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



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)

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

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

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