

Friday Focus



Issue 199 | May 2026



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

Photo of the week #weareblythe



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN CHEMISTRY

One of our sixth form students, Owen L, recently participated in the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) National Chemistry Olympiad, a highly regarded competition open to students across the UK. The Chemistry Olympiad provides an opportunity for students to challenge themselves academically, extending their problem-solving skills, encouraging creative thinking, and applying their chemical knowledge to unfamiliar, real-world contexts.

Owen achieved an excellent result, narrowly missing out on a gold award by just one mark. This is a commendable achievement, and we congratulate Owen on his hard work and success.



WELCOME

Many of you will know that we have recently changed our information management system across to Bromcom. One of the many benefits to this system is the access to information it will give parents/carers to through an app 'My Child at School'. We are in the final stages of planning the rollout to parents and hope to have this launched within the next fortnight.

Mrs Johnson
Headteacher

Pride, Respect & Kindness

WHY CHOOSE BLYTHE BRIDGE SIXTH FORM? BY JACK P

I study physics, chemistry and design & technology. I do an artifact EPQ - this is where I get to design and build a model based on my own research and ideas. I chose Blythe Bridge because they had the courses I wanted to study, and I know the staff here well. I also chose it because I know the facilities are very good in DT and science. Blythe Bridge also offers the chance to do an EPQ, which is worth half an A-level, and is something universities look for in your UCAS application. I have found that Blythe Bridge Sixth Form has let me be very flexible with subjects that I wanted to pick. For example, I started the year with studying A-level maths and decided I wanted to change it, which I was able to do very quickly and easily.

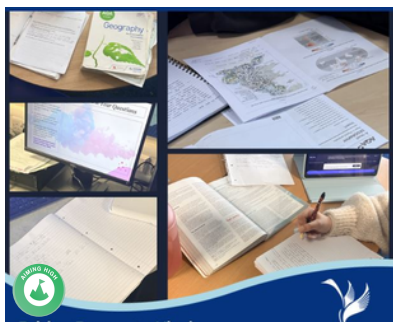


CHOCOLATE BINGO

To reward their outstanding efforts and attitudes, students across Year 7-10 were invited to a special Chocolate Bingo event on Friday.

The hall was buzzing with excitement as Mrs Kadri hosted the lively session. With clapping, chanting, and plenty of chocolate prizes, the mood was electric. Plus, students enjoyed games of 'Higher or Lower?' including a perfect game from Year 8 Noah.

It was a fantastic way to celebrate the students' recent achievements. Keep up the excellent effort!



YEAR 13 PRIVATE STUDY

We are very proud of our hardworking Year 13 students who were all engaged in focused revision in private study yesterday as they prepare for their upcoming A Level/BTEC examinations.



Cheadle took first knock and were soon reduced to 4-6 when Oliver S took four wickets in the third over of the game, including a hat-trick! After this, regular wickets fell and Blythe were able to restrict the hosts to a low total. All the bowlers chipped in, keeping it tight and giving away very few loose balls. Fred S also demonstrated some great glove work behind the stumps.

Blythe made light work of the run chase, with Seth G scoring the majority of the runs, with Blythe winning by nine wickets. A very positive start as we look to progress into the latter rounds of this new, exciting competition.



CRICKET UPDATE

The school cricket season started in glorious weather, as we made the short trip to Cheadle CC to play The Cheadle Academy in the first round of the inaugural Barclays Knight-Stokes National Competition.



CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES

This week, most year groups have enjoyed their celebration assemblies, recognising students nominated as Form Stars alongside achievements in attendance and our values of pride, respect, and kindness.

We've loved having the opportunity to celebrate the successes of all our year groups.

PROSPECTIVE YEAR 7 STUDENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

A small number of spaces have become available for students starting Year 7 in September 2026. Please contact Mrs Hodgkinson via j.hodgkinson@bbhs.co.uk for further information.



SUPER SCIENTISTS

11y2 are making such great progress in science. In their last past paper taken in test conditions, they all improved on their mock result. Even better, two thirds of the group achieved marks equivalent to grade 5 with all students at or above their targets! Keep going Year 11, you can do it!

Amazing 11y2



ENGLISH WALKING TALKING MOCK

Year 11 students took part in an English walking talking mock today, taking them through how to approach the challenging evaluation question which will form part of the English language paper. This question alone is worth a quarter of the marks on the paper. Students conducted themselves well, looking at how best to secure the highest marks to put them in a great position to secure successful outcomes in their real examination.



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Immerse yourself in a unique sound healing journey while floating effortlessly in warm water.

EXPERIENCE THE VIBRATIONS OF:

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- CRYSTAL SINGING BOWLS
- HIMALAYAN BOWLS
- CHIMES & OCEAN SOUNDS

SOUND TRAVELS THROUGH WATER APPROXIMATELY 4X FASTER THAN THROUGH AIR, ALLOWING VIBRATION TO BE FELT THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE BODY.

BYTHE BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL POOL, STOKES-ON-TRENT

SUNDAY 31 MAY 4:45 PM

Hosted by COHERENCE WITHIN WITH LOUISE BAYNE & FREDDIE HOULDER

A DEEPLY RESTORATIVE FLOATING SOUND JOURNEY FOR NERVOUS SYSTEM RESET, CALM AND RENEWAL.

07854 005743 | www.thetherapyroom.org.uk | Find us on Facebook

What's on in May & June

Tuesday 9 th May	Year 9 Progress Evening
Tuesday 16 th June	Year 5 Science Day
Monday 19 th June	Year 12 Work Experience-Week Park Trip Parent-Evening
Tuesday 24 th June	Year 6 Diamond Day
Wednesday 27 th June	Year 4 Olympic Legacy Day
Thursday 28 th June	Art in Motion
Friday 30 th June	Year 5 Roman Extravaganza
Monday 2 nd July	Year 10 Progress Evening
Tuesday 3 rd July	Year 10 Carling MFL, Student Leadership Club + Year 9 Maths Puzzle Day
Thursday 5 th July	Year 9 Out to Work Day, Year 6 Familiarisation Day (and 2 nd July)
Monday 29 th June - Tuesday 30 th June	Year 6 Inhab Day/Evening
Tuesday 30 th June	History Trip Parent's Evening
Monday 2 nd July - 3 rd July	Year 9-13 Paris Trip

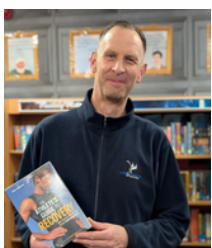


YEAR 5 TRANSITION

We are now opening our Year 5 transition window for students who will be transferring to secondary school in September 2027. Our extensive programme of academic and creative activities is designed to prepare students for their move into secondary education while also supporting their emotional wellbeing. To enrol your child in our transition programme, please contact Mrs Hodgkinson at j.hodgkinson@bbhs.co.uk

Additional information regarding our Able and Talented Year 5 provision is also available.

READING ADVOCATE: MR ELTON



The Athlete's Guide to Recovery By Sage Rountree

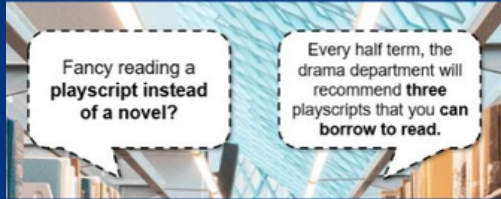
I picked up The Athlete's Guide to Recovery by Sage Rountree as someone who loves running and usually reads autobiographies about sporting legends, so this felt a bit different at first. But what surprised me was how useful and easy it is to understand, even if you're younger and just getting into sport. It explains simple things like stretching, resting, and taking care of your body in a way that actually makes sense and feels relevant whether you're training for a team or just trying to get fitter. I think this would be great for students, especially anyone into sports or fitness, because it gives practical tips you can start using straight away to stay healthy and improve.

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



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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**