

Friday Focus

Issue 200 | May 2026



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

Photo of the week
#weareblythe



Emma J, 8ESH | Joshua S, 8SMY
Sophie G, 8JJ | Eshan A-J, 8DH
Archie W, 8JL | Emily M, 8ESH

VE DAY

Year 8 students have produced commemorative celebratory art to honour VE Day on 8th May. Friday marks the 81st anniversary of the end of World War Two in Europe. Well done to Year 8 for some beautiful tributes to a significant day in history.



WELCOME

We are incredibly grateful to parents and carers for taking the time to complete the inspection survey this week, and we sincerely thank you for your kind words and continued support of our school. We look forward to sharing the full report with you when it is published.

As we move into exam season, we would also like to wish the very best of luck to all students sitting exams over the coming weeks. We are extremely proud of the hard work, resilience and dedication they have shown, and support is always available in school whenever it is needed.

Mrs Johnson
Headteacher

Pride, Respect & Kindness

CHARITY CHAMPIONS

Our Charity Champions were hard at work yesterday during another brilliant cooking session for a local homeless shelter. The students prepared a delicious pasta bolognese followed by sponge cake for dessert, creating comforting meals to support members of the community. A huge well done to all the students for their enthusiasm, teamwork, and kindness throughout the session, and thank you to the staff who gave their time to support the event. Another fantastic effort making a real difference.

GARDEN COMPETITION

The sun is out and the garden is officially waking up! Our amazing students have been busy bees today mowing, tidying and getting the grounds ready for a huge season of growth. Even our chickens, rabbit and guinea pig are loving the fresh grass and sunshine! We are launching the House Border Competition! We want YOU to design and plant a flower border that represents your House. Go head-to-head with the other houses to see who has the greenest thumb. The best design wins major house points!

When: Every Thursday after school
Where: The School Nurture Garden
Come and get your hands dirty and bring even more colour to our garden.



YOUNG MUSICIANS

A huge congratulations to Jorja (Year 13) and Isabela (Year 7) who have both been selected as finalists in the Staffordshire Young Musician of the Year Competition. The final takes place in July and we wish our students the very best of luck in their preparations for it and for their final performance.

YEAR 13 PRIVATE STUDY



Pride • Respect • Kindness

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.

FANTASTIC FELIX

Year 7 Felix has enjoyed another exceptional opportunity representing Manchester United Academy during their recent tour in Ireland, where he took part in the highly competitive Robbie Keane tournament.

Throughout the tournament, Felix demonstrated a consistently high level of performance. He showed excellent technical ability, composure on the ball, and strong decision-making under pressure. His work rate and attitude stood out, contributing both offensively and defensively, and he played an important role in helping his team progress through the group stages against such strong opposition.

In the knockout rounds, Felix continued to impress, rising to the demands of high stakes matches. The semi-final against AC Milan was a particularly intense and closely contested game, with Felix contributing significantly in open play. The match ultimately went to penalties, where Manchester United were narrowly defeated, a tough outcome after such a strong performance.

Finishing 3rd overall in a tournament of this calibre is an excellent achievement. Felix should be very proud of his contributions, as he not only held his own but excelled against some of the best young players in Europe. This experience will no doubt support his continued development, and he has represented both himself and the academy with great credit.



A MESSAGE TO YEAR 11 & YEAR 13



ENGLISH LITERATURE

A new learning resource has arrived in the English corridor. Every time students walk past, those quotations are quietly working their way into their long-term memory - that's revision happening without even sitting down. Carefully selected key quotations from the GCSE English Literature texts are displayed for every student to read on their way to English lessons. The quotations will rotate regularly, so there's always something new to absorb.

SIXTH FORM STUDIO 22

Sixth form students studying either A level art or A Level photography base themselves in Studio 22 - a specialist room just used by our Year 12 or 13 students. This facility allows them to access the materials, technology and support they need in addition to having plenty of space to develop and display their work.



YEAR 11 REVISION

Our pre-exam sessions are another important way for Year 11 to access support. It could be anything from a reminder of key terminology, recap of useful quotes or just a positive confidence boost from their teacher before going into the exam. Students with exams this week should go straight to the rooms shown on the timetables emailed out to students/parents when they arrive into school. A copy of the full timetable is also on FROG. Good luck Year 11 - you've got this!

Pearson | Edexcel Monday 11th May

Macbeth and BOYS DON'T CRY or J.B. Priestley AN INSPECTOR CALLS

Pearson | Edexcel Tuesday 19th May

A Christmas Carol and Conflict poetry and unseen poetry

Pride • Respect • Kindness

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE EXAMS

A reminder that the Edexcel literature paper 1 on Monday 11th May is on Macbeth and either Boys Don't Cry or An Inspector Calls.

On Tuesday 19th May, the paper will be on A Christmas Carol and conflict poetry and unseen poetry.

READING ADVOCATE: OLIVIA L



Reading: Notes from the Upside Down By Guy Adams



I am in the middle of reading 'Notes from the Upside Down' by Guy Adams and I really like it so far. I have already watched all of Stranger Things, so it's really fun to learn what happened behind the scenes. My favourite parts are all the facts about how they made the show and the ideas they had for the characters and story. It makes me feel like I understand the show even more. I think this book is great if you are interested in how TV shows are made and not just the story. It's not like a normal book with a plot, but more full of information. If you love Stranger Things, like I do, then you would probably enjoy reading this too. This book is available from the library.



SUMMER TERM MONDAY P4 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Year 7: What should I share - and what should I keep private online?
 Year 8: What do I do if someone asks for - or shares - an image?
 Year 9: How do I end a relationship safely and move on well?
 Year 10: How do I keep online relationships safe, respectful and lawful?
 Year 11: Revision skills

Year 12 will continue to explore writing personal statements and making an application to university or an apprenticeship.
 Year 13 will focus on personal preparation for examinations.

KEY DATES

Monday 11th May
 • A-level and GCSE Exams Start

Tuesday 9th June
 • Year 5 Science Day

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

Monday 15th June
 • Paris trip parents' evening

Tuesday 16th June
 • Year 6 Diamond Day

Wednesday 17th June
 • Year 4 Olympic Legacy Day



CAREERS SPOTLIGHT - BENCHMARK 8

We will soon begin Year 10 careers interviews, continuing through the summer term and into Year 11. These interviews will help support students in making informed decisions about their post-16 pathways.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Inspires and dance leaders are preparing to host an upcoming sports activity day for primary school children. We will soon be communicating with Year 10 students about the process to select next year's Year 11 prefects and roles. We will be doing the same for our Year 12 students regarding the lead students we will have in next year's Year 13 cohort.

HOUSE UPDATES

Latest Points

Sphinx: 1968 (1st)
 Pegasus: 1723 (2nd)
 Centaur: 1624 (3rd)
 Serpent: 1452 (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
- 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

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

ASSEMBLIES

Year 7-10: David Attenborough Turns 100
 Year 12: Apprenticeship Applications



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

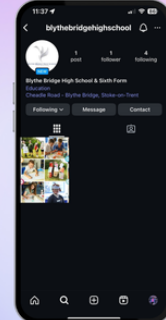
A reminder for students to check their timetables and bring in the correct kit for their PE lessons with appropriate footwear. Please also remember to bring in ingredients for food technology lessons.

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

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:

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.

FLOAT. RECEIVE. RESTORE.

FLOATING SOUND BATH

— DEEP RELAXATION EXPERIENCE —

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

EXPERIENCE THE VIBRATIONS OF:

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

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

SUNDAY 31 MAY 4:45 PM

BLYTE BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL POOL, BLYTE BRIDGE, STOKES-ON-TRENT

Hosted by COHERENCE WITHIN WITH LOUISE DAVIES & FREDDIE SHOULDER

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

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BLYTE 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**