

Friday Focus



Issue 201 | May 2026



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

Photo of the week #weareblythe



WELCOME

As we come to the end of the first full week of exams I must congratulate both Year 11 and Year 13 on their approach. As we would expect, conduct in the exams has been superb with a number of invigilators who work across other centres commenting what a pleasure it was to see such a positive attitude from students. The smiles on faces after they came out of many exams suggest that their hard work and determination to succeed is paying off. Well done to you all!

Mrs Johnson
Headteacher

Pride, Respect & Kindness

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

Thanks to Mrs Groves, we celebrated Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday with some lunchtime photos with many of his fans! Please check your school email for any photos taken. Year group assemblies have also been themed around the centenarian's monumental birthday and his extraordinary life as a broadcaster, natural historian and writer.



WHY CHOOSE BLYTHE BRIDGE SIXTH FORM? BY LILY S

At BBHS, I study Psychology (a-level), Health and Social Care (AAQ) and Early Childhood Development (AAQ).

I picked BBHS due to the ability to choose a variety of subjects to create the perfect combination. If you already come here, you already know the staff and they know you. This means they will know how you best learn and how to support you so that you can do the best you possibly can.

The chance to do extra components such as EPQs, and Tomorrow's Teachers (which I do) means that I can build my skills for a future career.

The best thing about sixth form, so far, are the opportunities to expand my friendship group and surround myself with people that care about their future. Also, the fact that I can get my homework done in private study means I do not have to worry when I get home.



YEAR 10 FOOTBALL

This week, the Year 10 football team played in the Stoke-on-Trent South Final. Blythe were looking to win it for the third year in a row and progress to the City Finals after half-term. Kicking against the wind in the first half, Blythe went into half-time 1-0 down. OSSMA then doubled their lead straight after half-time. Blythe didn't panic and were soon back in the game when Oliver H finished well. Blythe continued to press for an equaliser and were soon level when Reece B brought the game level. Blythe then went ahead when Oliver H scored well from distance, and Seth G and Oliver F secured the result late on. Blythe deserved the win for their strong second-half performance, and we wish them well in the final, where they will look to make it third time lucky. Player of the match: Oliver F



HOPE'S AMAZING ARCHERY

Year 8 student Hope has had her first two archery competitions of the season. Both were UK Record Status competitions. Last week, Hope came 1st in her category (U14 Recurve) shooting 96 arrows at 40 yards (a Weston 40). On Sunday, Hope was in a competition at Nottingham at the Greasley Castle Archers WA900 shoot. This is 90 arrows at 3 different distances starting at 40m.

Hope again came first in her category and even shot 6 golds in one of her ends. In both competitions, Hope scored personal bests and achieved the highest level available to any of the archers, Bowman 1st class. Congratulations Hope!

FOOTBALL UPDATE

Last week, the Year 8 boys' football team hosted Trentham in the South of the City Final. This was a repeat of the final from last year and Blythe were keen to win and progress through to the City Final again.

Blythe started really positively and dominated the first half. Two goals from Flynn E sent us 2-0 up at half time. Trentham came out in the second half well and managed to equalise just before the final whistle to send the game to penalties.

In a repeat of the final last year, it was again Stan W who was the hero saving Trentham's third penalty well. Blythe's penalties were all excellently put away to send us through to the City Final for the second consecutive year. Well done to all the lads and good luck in the final. POM: Billy M.



Pride • Respect • Kindness



HUG IN A BAG PROJECT

A huge thank you to all Year 7 students who have contributed to our Hug in a Bag project so far. A reminder that the deadline for contributions is Monday 1st June. Donations can be given directly to Mrs Pheasey, or delivered to the trolley in room 7. Students wishing to be considered for the delivery visit need to fill in the interest form on the FROG assignment. A packing session will be arranged for the first week back after half term. Thank you so much for your amazing kindness



YEAR 7 STEM CLUB

Last week saw our Year 7 STEM students take part in their second maths session where they were calculating their own proportions of the golden ratio.

WILLIAM THE SKIING SUPERSTAR

We are delighted to celebrate William's fantastic achievement in alpine racing over the bank holiday weekend. After securing an impressive third place in his race on Friday, William has now earned an invitation to join the National Schools Alpine Squad for the 2026/27 season — an incredible accomplishment that reflects his dedication, resilience and talent. We are extremely proud of William and grateful to his family for sharing this wonderful news with us. We look forward to following his continued success in the future. Congratulations, William!



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YEAR 7 & YEAR 8 UKMT CHALLENGE

Congratulations to our mathematicians in Year 7 and Year 8 this term who have taken part in the UKMT challenge. All students involved showed great skill and resilience with attempting some tricky problems! A special mention to those who managed to achieve a bronze certificate: Emily M, Logan L, Joe J, Seren D, Nicole W, Bobbie C, Jaime C, Dorota P, Elsie F, Jack L, Daisy W, Jackson B, Dottie-Mae M, Benjamin H, Pippa R, Grace L, Katy-Hope B, George W, Danny T, Daisy F and Oscar R. Also, to those achieving a silver certificate: Sienna W, Emma C, William L, Sophie B, Luci C, Olly M, Phoebe G, Stevie C, Grace H, Harry L, Lottie R and William C. A final special mention for our gold certificate holders: Dev P (the only Year 7 student who achieved Gold), Max Q, Gurleen K, Thea D, Tyler S, Sophie H, Daisie B, Elizabeth P, Hope M, Bodhi B and Nathanael S. Well done to all involved, we are very proud of your achievements!

READING ADVOCATE: SAVANNAH H - S



Reading: Room 13 by Robert Swindells

I read Room 13 by Robert Swindells, and I loved it because horror is my favourite genre. The story is about a school trip where the children stay in a creepy hotel, and there is a mysterious Room 13 that no one is supposed to go near. There are lots of creepy moments that made me want to keep reading to see what would happen next.

I liked that it wasn't just scary, it also had a mystery to solve. If you love horror like me, then this book is really fun to read because it's spooky without being too scary, and it keeps you hooked all the way through.

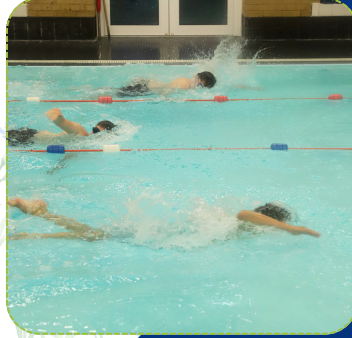


SUMMER TERM MONDAY P4 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Year 7: How do I fix a friendship without making it worse?
- Year 8: How I call it out without calling someone out?
- Year 9: What simple actions make relationships stronger every day - on and offline?
- Year 10: How do groups and online influence pull people into risk - and how can I protect myself?

KEY DATES

- Wednesday 20th May
 - House Swimming Galas
- 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 4 CAREERS IN PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Year 7 – How do I use money safely and sensibly?
This lesson links to careers in finance, banking and business by helping students understand budgeting, saving and making informed financial decisions. Developing money management skills also supports future independence, employability and responsible decision-making in adult life.

Year 8 – How do rights and responsibilities work in school, community and online?
Students explore how rights, respect and responsibilities apply in everyday life and online spaces, linking to careers involving teamwork, communication and digital professionalism. These skills are important in all workplaces, particularly in careers such as teaching, law, social care, public services and media.

Year 9 – How does the UK handle disputes and crime fairly?
This lesson introduces students to the role of the police, courts and justice system, linking directly to careers in policing, law, criminology and public services. Students also develop critical thinking, problem-solving and an understanding of fairness and responsibility in society.

Year 10 – How do citizens influence decisions?
Students learn how individuals and groups can influence local and national decisions through campaigning, voting and advocacy. This supports careers in politics, public service, journalism, community work and leadership by encouraging confidence, communication and active participation in society.

ASSEMBLIES

Year 7-9: Anti-Semitism

Year 10: Prefects

Year 12: Employment and Student Leadership



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

During next week's assembly, Year 10 will be informed of the Prefect roles open to them to apply for and commencing in September. There are various roles and types of Prefect, which they will have the details of and be able to apply for after the assembly. This is a great way for next year's Year 11 to gain leadership experience, develop a CV and help the school to continue developing.

Our PRK champions are meeting this week and next to plan and prepare for kindness initiatives to happen in the final half term of the school year.

Year 12 students will soon be able to apply for Head Student roles to commence in September. These roles will be prestigious roles within the school community and will be brilliant experiences for the students involved.

The House volleyball will be moved to the final half term due to space available in the gym. We will lead an alternative event next Thursday (details to be confirmed over next couple of days).

HOUSE UPDATES

Students have been selected for the House Swimming Gala on Wednesday 20th May. Students will be able to leave lessons at 14.45 and the event will finish before 16.00 at the swimming pool. Teams will be displayed on the PE notice board and students should tick their name to indicate they will be attending. If they cannot attend they must tell Ms Martin or Mr Sturmeay.

Upcoming Competitions

- Swimming Galas (KS4 and 5)
- Sports Day
- KS3 House curriculum event
- Year 7 Art Competition
- Spitfire/History Modelling
- Xbox competition
- Chess tournament

Latest Points

- Sphinx: 1968 (1st)
- Pegasus: 1723 (2nd)
- Centaur: 1624 (3rd)
- Serpent: 1452 (4th)

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

- SPICY MEXICAN SHEEP BURRITO
- CRISPY HONEY BREAD CHICKEN
- SEAFOOD CHICKEN
- SPICY MEXICAN SHEEP BURRITO
- CRISPY HONEY BREAD CHICKEN
- SEAFOOD CHICKEN

VEGETARIAN

- SMOKED CURED CHICKEN PASTY
- SWEET CHILLI KEBABS
- SMOKED CURED CHICKEN PASTY
- SWEET CHILLI KEBABS

HOT DELI KITCHEN

- PIZZA SLICE
- VEGgie SANDWICH
- CHICKEN SANDWICH
- PIZZA SLICE
- VEGgie SANDWICH
- CHICKEN SANDWICH

MEAL DEALS

AVAILABLE EVERY DAY

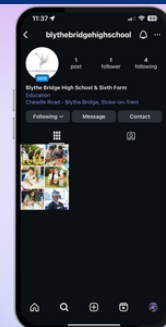
Those in receipt of free school meals are entitled to £2.72 per day.

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

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



Scan the QR code for our price list and
a copy of our hire request form

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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