

Friday Focus

Issue 202 | May 2026



CLASS OF 2026

Photo of the week
#weareblythe

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



WELCOME

Today not only marks the end of the first period of exams but also when Year 11 and Year 13 begin their period of study leave. There have been special celebration assemblies for both year groups, with the established traditions of a football match and shirt signing for Year 11. Revision sessions and examinations will continue after the half-term break, but for now it is a fond, albeit temporary, farewell.

Mrs Johnson
Headteacher

Pride, Respect & Kindness

GEOGRAPHY MASTERCLASS

This week's Year 13 geography revision masterclass was led by Sam. Sam holds an offer to study geography at the University of Oxford so he was a perfect tutor to work alongside geography staff!

CITY ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to our Year 9 and Year 10 athletes, who competed at Northwood Stadium in the City Athletics Championships. A huge well done to the following students for achieving county qualification across 10 events — an outstanding achievement! Year 8: Flynn E – 1500m. Year 9: Ethan W-H – 300m & Long Jump, Katie R – 300m, Libby B – 200m and Eve M – High Jump. Year 10: Oliver H – Shot Put, Evie S – Triple Jump and Tilly H – 100m & 200m.

Congratulations also to our U15 girls, who stormed to victory in the relay, and to our U17 boys, who delivered a fantastic team performance to secure first place in their relay event too! We are incredibly proud of all our athletes and their achievements!



EXCELLENT ETHAN



Another great sporting success for one of our students. Following his end of season review with Stoke City Academy, Year 9 Ethan W-H has been signed for another two years. During the recent holidays Ethan and the team took part in an international tournament in Rotterdam which was a fantastic opportunity for them all.

HOUSE SPELLING BEE

Congratulations to our KS4 House Spelling Bee competitors: semi-finalist Alexis B from Centaur and finalists Tadiwa C, Mikayla W, Corey E and Oliver W from Sphinx, Freya C from Centaur, Lily M from Serpent and Rosa C from Pegasus. A special well done to our KS4 winner, Jack L from Pegasus. In KS5, congratulations to semi-finalist Harshdeep S from Sphinx and finalist Xin Y from Sphinx.



1st Pegasus (100)

2nd Sphinx (75)

3rd Centaur (50)

4th Serpent (25)



HUG IN A BAG

Our Year 7 students have been working incredibly hard collecting donations for our Hug in a Bag project with Mrs Pheasey.

There's still time to help! Please bring any remaining donations to room 7 by Monday 1st June. Donations will be turned into care packages for people staying in hospital, as well as their friends and family supporting them through difficult times. Twelve representatives who have contributed to the project will be chosen to deliver the care packages.

Every donation, big or small, will help bring comfort to someone who really needs it. Thank you for your support.



HOUSE SPORT COMPETITIONS

Sixth Form House Football

In what proved to be a very closely fought and entertaining 5-a-side competition with most games settled by just one goal, all the boys that participated in great spirit and humour. Sphinx ran out competition winners, winning all their games on the way to, and including the final. The overall results are as below.

- 1st Sphinx
- 2nd Centaur
- 3rd Pegasus
- 4th Serpent

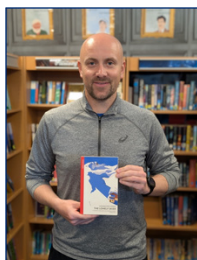
KS4 House Swimming

All that attended the Key Stage 4 Swimming competition gave a tremendous effort in completing many races in various categories. All swimmers should be proud of their achievements and commitment to this competition. Many races were closely fought and won by small margins. The overall results are as below.

- 1st Sphinx
- 2nd Serpent
- 3rd Centaur
- 4th Pegasus



READING ADVOCATE: MR STURMEY



The Lonely Skier by Hammond Innes

As someone who enjoys gritty adventure stories, I really enjoyed The Lonely Skier. The descriptions of the snowy mountains and harsh weather made it easy to picture every scene, and the setting almost became a character itself. Hammond Innes creates a real sense of danger and isolation that keeps you hooked throughout the story. I also liked how believable the characters felt. They are tough, determined and flawed, which made the story feel more realistic than many modern thrillers. I usually enjoy books based on true stories, and although this is fiction, it has that same grounded, authentic feel that makes the adventure more gripping.



SUMMER TERM MONDAY P4 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Year 7: How do I fix a friendship without making it worse? Year 12: Post-18 progression
- 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

- 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 5 + 6

The Tomorrow's Teachers were very kindly invited to visit Abbey Hill Academy and College. They were given a tour of the school and had the opportunity to talk to the staff about their career journeys into the special educational needs sector.



Many of the Tomorrow's Teachers are interested in potentially working in this line of work in the future. We would like to personally thank the staff at Abbey Hill Academy and College, Mrs Sarikaya for arranging the visit and Mr Goodwin for taking the students.

ASSEMBLIES

Monday: Year 9, Tuesday: Year 8,
Wednesday: Year 7 and Thursday: Year 10
Year 12: Effective revision ahead of their mock exams



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

On Tuesday 19th May the Year 12s had an assembly regarding the new prestigious roles of Head Students. We will have two Head Students from next year's Y13 cohort who will represent the school, the 6th form and themselves with an aim to further develop student voice and initiatives throughout the school. The application process has opened and will close on Tuesday 9th June. Students should contact Mr Sturmeay if they would like more information about the process or the role.

Year 11 Prefects for 2026/2027: The Year 10 students had an assembly regarding the roles of next year's prefect opportunity and how to apply. These roles will form an integral part of our Leadership program, and the application process has now opened; it will close on Monday 8th June. Students should speak with Mr Sturmeay if they have any questions about how to apply and/or more information regarding the various prefect roles.

PRK and Wellbeing Champions: The PRK and Wellbeing Champions have met again and are preparing to deliver a "Kindness Week" next half term. This will include assemblies, short lessons, community work and many other events. Once the dates are finalised, our team will communicate this.

HOUSE UPDATES

Upcoming Competitions

- KS3 Art Competition
- Spitfire/History Modelling
- Xbox competition
- Chess tournament
- 6th Form Netball and Volleyball competitions (to include staff)
- KS3 Sports Day

Latest Points

- Sphinx: 2043 (1st)
- Pegasus: 1823 (2nd)
- Centaur: 1674 (3rd)
- Serpent: 1477 (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 WEEK 2

MAINS

- CAJUN CHICKEN LOADED MAC CHEESE with SPICY BEEF CHILI
- GREEK PORK SOUVLARI FLATBREAD & TASTY!
- GREEK LEMON & BERRANO WEDGES
- TUNA ROAST CHICKEN, CUMIN YOGURT & SPICY GRAYV
- MARALA ROASTIES
- NORTH HARLEIGH LEMON CHICKEN TAGINE
- WEST TOMATO RICE
- BATTERED FISH SANDWICHES/VEGGIE SANDWICHES
- CHICKEN CHICKEN SANDWICHES
- CHICKEN, GRAYV & BERRY CHERRY SAUCE

VEGETARIAN

- CLASSIC BARRIE MAC with Garlic Chilli Chunks
- THEOPIA GREEK CHEESE FLOP PIE
- GREEK LEMON & BERRANO WEDGES
- MARALA SPICED VEGGIE SANDWICH, CUMIN YOGURT & SPICY GRAYV
- MARALA ROASTIES
- EAST MISH WOT ETHIOPIAN LENTIL STEW
- WEST TOMATO RICE
- PIZZA SLICE
- VEGGIE SANDWICHES
- CHICKEN, GRAYV & BERRY CHERRY SAUCE

NOT JUST POTATOES... LOADED SPUDS!

HOT DELICATESSEN

PASTA, RICE & NOODLE POTS

VEGETABLES/SALAD

DESSERTS

MEAL DEALS

DAILY!

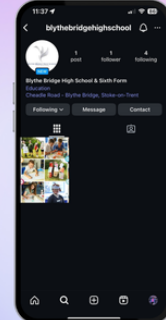
Those in receipt of free school meals are entitled to £2.72 per day.

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

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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

BLYTHE BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL POOL
BLYTHE 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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BLYTHE BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

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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