

Friday Focus



Issue 206 | June 2026

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

Photo of the week
#weareblythe



STUDENT LEADERSHIP GALA

Tuesday 23rd June saw many of our excellent student leaders celebrated at the Student Leadership Gala 2026. Whilst we celebrate those that achieved the awards there were many nominated and many more who have contributed to our school community this academic year. Well done to everyone involved and especially to students who won the awards on Tuesday evening.

WELCOME

Many thanks for your continued support regarding the adjustments made this week due to the hot weather. Making decisions about how to make school more comfortable in these high temperatures for both staff and students will undoubtedly become a more frequent occurrence, but changes such as non-uniform, moving lessons to cooler areas of the school, and adapting the curriculum where necessary have received positive feedback. As we know, extreme temperatures can have a more significant impact on our more vulnerable students with medical conditions, and parents should use the usual methods of notifying the school of any absence for these reasons.

Mrs Johnson
Headteacher

Pride, Respect & Kindness



PREFECT INTERVIEWS

Well done to all of our Year 10 students who took part in the Prefect Interview process last week. We were incredibly impressed by the confidence and maturity shown by the candidates throughout their interviews. It was wonderful to see so many students keen to take on leadership responsibilities and contribute positively to our school community. Congratulations to all of the students who were selected as prefects. We look forward to seeing the positive impact you will make in your new roles and wish you every success for next year.



YEAR 12 PHYSICS TRIP

This week, Year 12 physics and maths students visited Jodrell Bank. The observatory is home to a number of radio telescopes including the Lovell Telescope. Its diameter of 76m makes it the third largest steerable radio telescope in the world! Students took part in a range of activities including travelling deep into space in the planetarium. Another highlight was a workshop using real data collected by the radio telescope which will link closely to topics cover in the Year 13 unit on astronomy and cosmology.



YEAR 12 WORK EXPERIENCE

Last week, our Year 12 students stepped out of the classroom and into the workplace for a fantastic week of work experience. Thank you to all our employers who hosted one of our students. We have received some fantastic feedback.

“He has been a delightful student. He has been professional in his attitude and appearance. He has shown interest in everything that is going on and has asked some good, relevant questions of staff and been able to talk to patients. We wish him well for his future career”

“I just want to say how lovely, polite and helpful she is. She has offered to help me with any tasks and always asks if there is anything she can do whilst I am busy doing jobs at lunch. She has happily engaged in the activities that I have set up for her and is kind and caring towards the children, they have responded really well to her.”

“She has been a delight so far and I hope she gets the most out of this week, by Friday she will have seen a number of different areas of our business and we hope it provides some value to her learning”.

A special mention goes to Beatrice who is keen to become a photographer, she put her creative talents to great use alongside Miss Blissett, capturing our Year 4 Olympic Day and Art in Motion rehearsals. Josh made a wonderful contribution at a local primary school, while Isobel who will be completing work experience in France later this month also supported Mrs Avons and helped bring Year 5 Roman Day to life.

We are immensely proud of all our Year 12 students for their hard work, professionalism, and enthusiasm as they gained valuable hands-on experience and developed important skills for their futures.

Well done, Year 12 – you represented the school brilliantly!



MATHS PUZZLE DAY

This week, we welcomed Year 5 pupils for an exciting Maths Puzzle Day! Led by our fantastic maths team, the children tackled puzzles, cracked codes, and took on a fun quiz - showing great enthusiasm and problem-solving skills throughout the day. A huge well done to all involved, and a special thank you to our brilliant Year 7 student leaders for their support!

READING ADVOCATE: MRS REYNOLDS



Don't Stop Me Now by Jeremy Clarkson

I recently read the autobiography of Jeremy Clarkson and found it a really entertaining and interesting read. I have always admired how outspoken and honest he is, even when his opinions are controversial. It was fascinating to read about his journey from becoming famous through cars and motoring journalism to his later involvement in farming. His writing style is humorous and engaging, making it easy to follow while still giving a real insight into his life and experiences. What I particularly enjoyed was learning about the work he has done to highlight the challenges faced by the farming community. Through his farming ventures, he has helped bring agricultural issues to a wider audience and increased public awareness of the difficulties farmers face. I also liked discovering some of his links to Staffordshire, which made parts of the book feel more relatable. As someone who also enjoys football, I usually read football autobiographies but this book offered a refreshing change and kept me interested from start to finish.



SUMMER TERM MONDAY P4 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Year 7: How do I use money safely and sensibly?

The focus for sixth form will continue to be post-18 progression

Year 8: How do rights and responsibilities work in school, community and online?

Year 9: How does the UK handle disputes and crime fairly?

Year 10: How do citizens influence decisions?

KEY DATES

Monday 29th June
• Paris Trip Year 9-13
• Year 6 New Intake Day

Tuesday 30th June
• Year 6 New Intake Day
• History Trip Parents' Evening

Wednesday 1st July
• Year 10 Spain Trip Parents' Evening

Thursday 2nd July
• Summer Concert
• Art & DT Exhibition

Friday 3rd July
• MAT Staff Training Day



CAREERS SPOTLIGHT - BENCHMARK 6

Miss Housley and Mr Goodwin would like to congratulate all the Year 9 students who had their 'Out to Work' day yesterday. Miss Housley has received glowing feedback from many of your employers. Thank you for working so hard, and demonstrating pride, respect and kindness.



"Isaac has thoroughly enjoyed his work experience and has made family incredibly proud. He has helped with mixing, baking and even completed a test in the cake room. Friday's school bread and bap deliveries have been produced with Isaac's help. He has worked extremely hard, especially considering the heat inside the bakery."

"Well done to Ethan and Emilio for their hard work at the fire station, they both had a fantastic day."



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Key Stage 3 Sports Day is on Monday 6th July. Students to start sign up next week.

Head Students

We are concluding both the Year 11 prefect selection process and the Sixth Form Head Student process. This will be shared in the coming week, and we are very proud of all students who have put themselves up for these roles.

Kindness Week

- Complete ONE random act of kindness every day.
- Support your House in the token challenge.
- Let's make Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form an even kinder place!

Caught Being Kind
KIS - Monday 29th

- Staff lead out kindness
- Staff on your House bus
- Staff on your House bus
- Staff on your House bus
- Staff on your House bus

Staff will have tokens they can give out for any small or large act of kindness you see throughout the day.

Gratitude Postcards

- Offer to be a teacher
- Friend
- Friend
- Member of staff

Postcards to be posted in the leadership area by the end of Tuesday. Give time for them to be delivered back out.

Kindness Cookies

- Bake Monday afternoon
- Bake in school on Tuesday
- Share with the community

Our PE team are baking cookies to be sold on Tuesday in school and shared with the community.

Board Games (Lunch times)

- Tuesday & Wednesday Lunch
- Monopoly, Cluedo & Snakes & Ladders
- Everyone welcome!

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the PE classroom will be open for lunch times or you can play board games provided by PE champions while finishing your lunch. The table tennis room will also be open.

Litter Pick Wednesday

- Community clean up
- Helping our local area
- Make a difference

Our PE champions will be going out into the community to complete a clean up of some of the local area.

HOUSE UPDATES

- KS3 Art Competition (results to be shared next week)
- Spitfire/History Modelling
- Xbox competition (coming soon)
- Chess tournament (Wednesday 1st July)
- 6th Form Netball and Volleyball competitions (Date to be confirmed this week)
- KS3 Sports Day (Monday 6th July)
- Languages Cake Bake (details on next page)

Latest Points

- Sphinx: 2698 (1st)
- Pegasus: 2673 (2nd)
- Centaur: 2039 (3rd)
- Serpent: 1982 (4th)

Competition for events continued throughout the year

- Chess league

ASSEMBLIES

Year 7 - Year 10: Kindness Week

Year 12: Head Students' Introduction and Violence Against Women



Group	Block 7 (8) 18th May - 17th July
Year 7 Athletics & Girls AC	S&F
Year 7 Girls DV	S&F
Year 7 Boys AC	Athletics & S&F
Year 7 Girls DV	Athletics & S&F
Year 8 Athletics & Boys AC	S&F
Year 8 Girls DV	Athletics & S&F
Year 8 Boys AC	Athletics & S&F
Year 8 Girls DV	Athletics & S&F
Year 9 Athletics & Boys AC	S&F
Year 9 Girls DV	Athletics & S&F
Year 9 Boys AC	Athletics & S&F
Year 9 Girls DV	Athletics & S&F



MENU CHOICE

STREATERIES

MAINS

- HONEYBUNDEEN CHICKEN PORK & RED ONION SANGHAI BOWL
- CRISPY CHICKEN
- SLOW ROAST PULLED GARLIC & CHERRY TOMATO BUNNY
- SPICY MEXICAN BEEF
- BUTTERED RICE

VEGETARIAN

- GARLIC & POTATO
- SPICY BEAN & CHERRY QUINOA BOWL
- PIZZA TACOS
- VEGETABLE SALAD

DESSERTS

NOT JUST POTATOES... LOADED SPUDS!

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.

REMINDER

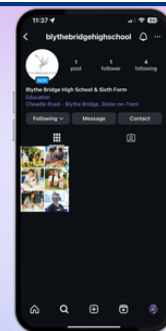
A reminder for students to check their timetables and bring in the correct kit for their PE lessons with appropriate footwear. Please also remember to bring in ingredients for food technology lessons.

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

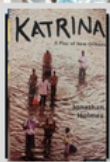
Fancy reading a playscript instead of a novel?

Every half term, the drama department will recommend three playscripts that you can borrow to read.

This half term's recommendations are:



Lady Windermere's Fan is a classic Oscar Wilde play that delves into society, shame and appearance!



Katrina is set in America after Hurricane Katrina which wiped out huge chunks of New Orleans in 2005.



Sparkleshark follows Jako who writes magical and fantastic stories in his secret book to hide from bullies.

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

THE MFL BAKE-OFF House Competition!
BAKE A CAKE OR CUPCAKES WITH A FRENCH OR SPANISH THEME!
EXAMPLES & IDEAS:
TOUR EIFFEL CAKE, FRENCH FLAG CUPCAKES, OLD SPAIN CAKE, FIESTA CUPCAKES, VIVA ESPAÑA CAKE.
ALL CAKES MUST BE BROUGHT INTO SCHOOL ON **MONDAY 6TH JULY**.
All bakers earn PARTICIPATION POINTS!
CAKES WILL BE JUDGED BY OUR FANTASTIC JUDGES!
CAKES WILL BE SOLD TO RAISE ESSENTIAL FUNDING FOR THE SCHOOL!
LOTS OF HOUSE POINTS TO BE WON!
GET BAKING, BE CREATIVE & REPRESENT YOUR HOUSE!

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.
- Worps Your 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.

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.



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

Train to Teach in Local Schools

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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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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