

Friday Focus



Issue 208 | July 2026



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

Photo of the week
#weareblythe



JTMAT SCIENCE DAY

Our Year 7 and 8 science teams, along with our Year 12 chemistry team, attended the JTMAT science day at John Taylor High School. The Year 7 and 8 competition included a practical activity, a full investigation write-up and a biology, chemistry and physics quiz. The results were collated and we are proud to share that both teams were announced as winners for their respective year groups! The Year 12 chemists completed a challenging, individual practical activity and then a demanding write-up using their results to link to unfamiliar theory. Once the Year 7, 8 and 12 points were added together, Blythe Bridge High School and John Taylor High School shared joint first place for the overall science prize.

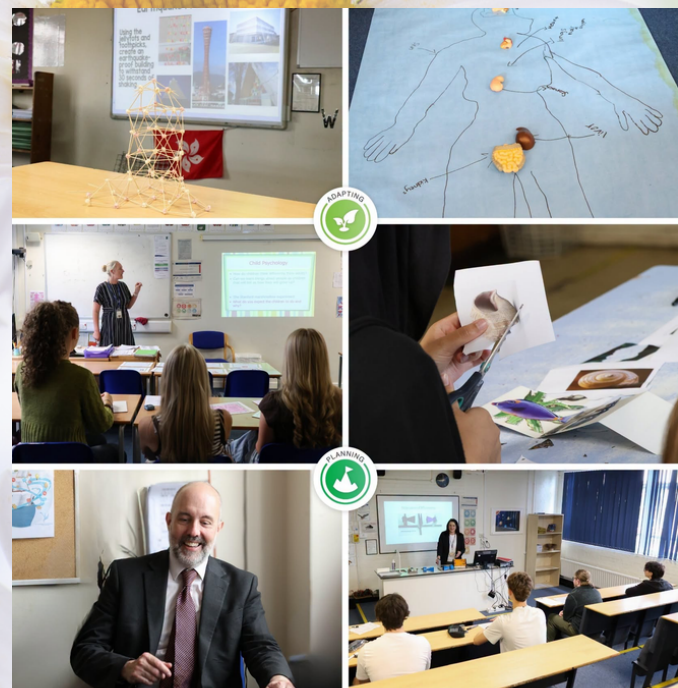


DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Huge congratulations to the 62 students who completed their expedition for their bronze award last weekend. You absolutely nailed it! Many thanks to all of the staff who helped over the weekend whether walking the route, waiting at checkpoints or supervising overnight. Special thanks to Mrs Hayes and Mr Roberts who motivated and supported all of Team Bronze.

SIXTH FORM TASTER DAY

It was fantastic to welcome Year 11 students to our Sixth Form Taster Day. Students spent the day experiencing a range of typical sixth form lessons, taking part in practical activities, and meeting current sixth form students to gain a real insight into life beyond GCSEs. Our teachers were incredibly impressed by the enthusiasm, engagement, and contributions shown throughout the day. It was wonderful to see students embracing new challenges and participating so positively in lessons and practical sessions. A huge well done to everyone who attended – you should be very proud of yourselves! We look forward to seeing you all again on GCSE Results Day (20th August) and wish you the very best for the summer ahead.



WELCOME

It has been a busy week in school celebrating the achievements of so many students. Whether at the celebration evenings, the Alton Towers reward trip or the JTMAT exceptional achievement awards, many students should be proud of their achievements.

As we approach the final week in school, I would like to remind you that students will be able to leave school from 12noon on Friday 17th July.

No Friday Focus next week so I will take this opportunity to wish you a safe and restful summer holiday.

Mrs Johnson
Headteacher

Pride, Respect & Kindness



SUMMER CONCERT

A huge thank you and well done to each and every one of our talented musicians for their contributions at this year's summer concert. We are privileged to work with such outstanding talent, and very grateful for the ongoing support of our fantastic parents and carers. A special mention to our Year 13 leavers, we wish you all the very best for your futures. Thank you to Year 12 students Lily and Xin for your hard work at refreshments.



SPORTS DAY

This week, we hosted this year's Sports Day. A large number of Key Stage 3 students took part and staff praised their attitude and commitment across the day. The day comprised of track and field events with some excellent performances and some very close finishes. A big congratulations to Pegasus House for their overall victory!

KIND GESTURES

On Thursday, we got a lovely reminder of just how wonderful our students are when a group decided to bake some amazing cakes with Mrs N Johnson and deliver them to staff in school. They looked great.....but tasted even better!



GL ASSESSMENTS

In the recent weeks, KS3 students sat their English GL assessments. These assessments give staff key information to help us to best support students moving forward. We are so proud of how focused students were and how much effort they put into these assessments. Well done KS3!



A LEVEL BIOLOGY

Our budding Year 11 biologists got a fantastic taste of A-level biology during their recent taster session. Students explored biological molecules and food tests, developing their practical skills and getting a feel for the kind of exciting content studied beyond GCSE. A huge well done to one of our current Year 12 biologists, who supported the session and led the practical with real confidence. Biology can open doors to a wide range of future careers, including medicine, nursing, veterinary science, biomedical science, physiotherapy, sports science, conservation, environmental science, teaching, psychology, forensic science and scientific research. A brilliant session full of curiosity, confidence and future possibilities!

READING ADVOCATE: MR GIBBS



Mr Gibbs is reading: *The Road to Wigan Pier* by George Orwell



I recently listened to 'The Road to Wigan Pier' by George Orwell as an audiobook while out walking, which made it an enjoyable and thought-provoking experience. The book explores poverty, working-class life, and the harsh living and working conditions in northern England during the 1930s. I was inspired to read it after supporting English classes studying *Animal Farm* and wanted to discover more of Orwell's work and ideas. What stood out to me most was that, although it was written nearly 90 years ago, many of the themes still feel relevant today. Orwell writes in a clear, honest, and engaging way, making it easy to understand the challenges people faced while encouraging readers to think about society and inequality. I found it fascinating to compare the issues he discussed with those we still see today, and it left me with a greater appreciation of why Orwell's writing continues to be studied and discussed.



LOOKING FORWARD



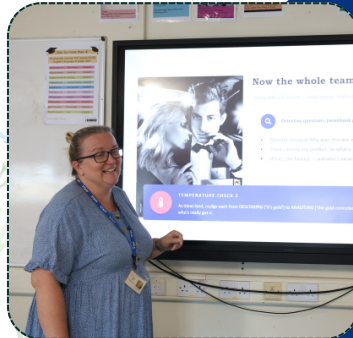
SUMMER TERM MONDAY P4 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Year 7: Who has power?
Year 8: How do services and citizens work together?
Year 9: How do I plan money choices that fit my goals?
Year 10: Work Experience

Sixth form will focus on finalising Post-18 choices and applications.

KEY DATES

- Monday 13th July**
- Year 10 Work Experience
 - Year 10 Spain Trip
- Tuesday 14th July**
- Year 9 History Trip
- Friday 17th July**
- Term ends

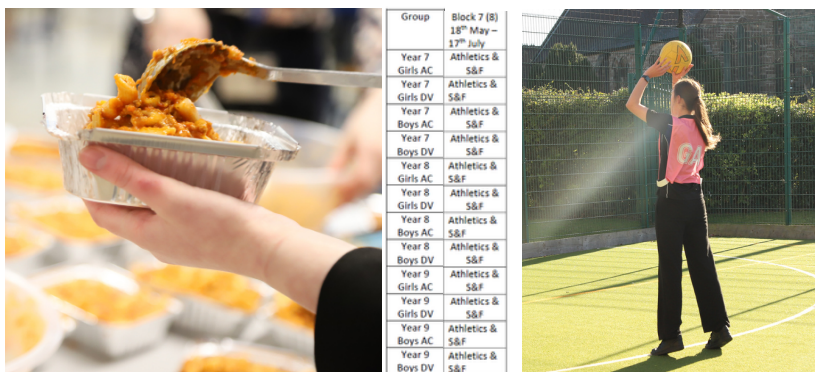


CAREERS SPOTLIGHT - BENCHMARK 6

To round off the Tomorrow's Teachers programme, students took part in a realistic mock teacher recruitment day. This included leading tours for prospective Year 5 parents, taking part in a student interview panel, completing a written task and participating in formal interviews. The feedback from interviewers was exceptional, highlighting the confidence, maturity and potential shown by every student. A huge thank you to our interview panel – Karen Snape (Parent Governor), Mr Goodwin, Miss Alford, Mrs Adams and Dr Mitchell – for giving their time and expertise, and to Mrs Mitton for providing refreshments throughout the day. We are incredibly proud of everything our Tomorrow's Teachers have achieved this term. Their commitment, professionalism and passion for education have been a credit to themselves and the school, and we hope this experience has inspired many of them to pursue a career in teaching. The future of education is certainly in safe hands!

ASSEMBLIES

Year 7 - Year 9: Malala Day
Year 12: Staying safe during the summer, independent travel and music festivals



RE M I N D E R

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

We have started our recruitment of next year's Year 11 literacy leaders and current Year 10 students will be communicated with over the coming days about this.

All prefects have been recruited and will have confirmation letters sent home in the coming week.

Our sixth form head students have been selected, and we also have an outstanding group of deputy head students. Again, letters will be sent out in the coming days.

HOUSE UPDATES

With Sports Day a massive success, we can reveal the final point totals of the year are:

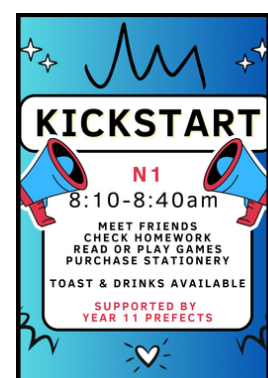
Pegasus: 3173 (1st)
Sphinx: 3098 (2nd)
Centaur: 2314 (3rd)
Serpent: 2082 (4th)



M E N U C H O I C E



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



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

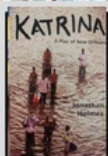
Fancy reading a playscript instead of a novel?

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 Jake 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.



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 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

Primary (3-7) • Primary (5-11) • Secondary (11-16)



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

01782 392519

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**