

Friday Focus



Issue 210 | September 2026



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

Photo of the week
#weareblythe

Our mindfulness gardening club will restart
Tuesday 8th September 2026, 3.10 – 4.10pm. All welcome!

To take part, make sure you **bring extra clothing suitable for gardening.**

These can be dropped off in N10 with Mrs Cotterill on Tuesday morning to avoid carrying them all day.

We can provide gardening gloves and wellies if required.



WELCOME

As you will know, next Thursday is our Open Evening for Year 6 students and their parents. The evening is always well attended, but with a large Year 6 cohort in our partnership schools, if you or any friends or family are hoping to attend, I would encourage you to reserve your place via the link on our website as soon as possible. A huge thanks to the group of over 130 students from Year 7–13 who have volunteered to act as guides or help in departments during the evening. Your help is much appreciated.

Mrs Johnson
Headteacher

Pride, Respect & Kindness

SHREK AUDITIONS

With over 60 students attending the first round of auditions for Shrek, there are some very difficult decisions to be made by Mrs Baines, Mrs Baxter, and Miss Balewski. Some students were invited back for another audition after school on Thursday to help with these decisions but everyone who attended on Tuesday will be part of the cast and should be at the first rehearsal on Tuesday 15th September.



Pride • Respect • Kindness



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:



A Voyage Round My Father shows the bittersweet, lifelong struggle of a son striving for the love and approval, of his father.



Abigail's Party is set over one evening and is a cringeworthy satire about an excruciatingly awkward suburban drinks gathering.



Harry Potter and the Cursed Child follows on from where the novels and films end – 19 years after Harry defeated Voldemort.

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

Fantasy



FANTASY FOOTBALL

Could you be the next Mikel Arteta?

Visit <https://fantasy.premierleague.com> or use the app to register, create a team and then join the school league. Teams must be entered by Friday 18th September at 6:30pm to get points from gameweek 5 fixtures.

Enter the league code (shown on the posters around school) to be part of the school league. More details available from Mr Pugh.

Year 6 Open Evening

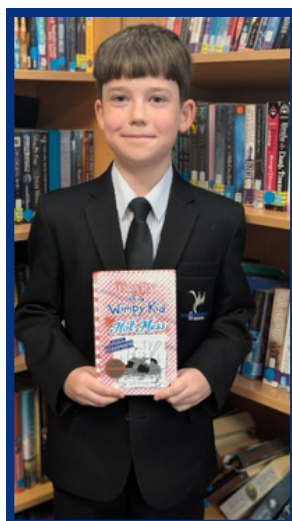


We are delighted to invite Year 6 families to our Year 6 Prospective Parents' Open Evening on Thursday 17th September.

With presentations in the main hall at 5.30pm and 6.30pm (bookable via our school website), as well as guided tours and activities from 6.00pm–8.00pm, the evening is a fantastic opportunity to explore our facilities, meet staff and students, and experience our school's ethos. We are incredibly proud of our community and the achievements of our young people, and we look forward to welcoming you and sharing what makes our school such a special place. Please register your interest at: www.bb-hs.co.uk



READING ADVOCATE



William L is reading: *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hot Mess* by Jeff Kinney

I really enjoyed *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hot Mess* because it was really funny and made me laugh a lot. I have read nearly all of the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* books and I always enjoy seeing what happens to Greg and his family. Rodrick is my favourite character because he is funny and always causes trouble.

I also liked that there are questions at the end about the story because it makes you think about what you have read and see how much you can remember. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes funny stories and the other *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* books.

A photograph of two young women in school uniforms (white shirts and dark ties) smiling and clapping. They are standing in front of a blurred background that appears to be a school setting.

A group of students in BBHS Dance Academy uniforms are performing a dance move on a wooden floor. They are lying on their backs with their legs raised and bent. The background is a vibrant, colorful graffiti wall. The students' shirts have "BBHS Dance Academy" printed on the back.



Free School Meals



Are you entitled?

From September 2026, the Government is expanding eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM). All children in households receiving Universal Credit will become eligible for Free School Meals, regardless of household earnings.

You may be eligible for Free School Meals if you meet any of the following entitlement criteria:

- Universal Credit

Aside from Universal Credit, children remain eligible if their parents receive:

- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- The guarantee part of Pension Credit

Households may also be entitled to a free school meal if:

- Are in receipt of income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Meet criteria set out in separate guidance for families with no recourse to public funds

There will be two categories of free school meal eligibility:

1) **Targeted free school meals** – for families with a household income of £7,400 or less. These pupils will attract Pupil Premium funding for schools therefore can also benefit from additional support such as the Holidays and Food (HAF) Programme and support with funding curriculum essential activities.

2) **Expanded free school meals** – a new category covering pupils who do not qualify for targeted FSM, but who are in households receiving Universal Credit.

Important Information for Families

Pupils on free school meals used to have their eligibility protected for 6 years however from September 2026 these protections for free school meals will end. Households must meet the FSM eligibility criteria from the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year to continue receiving provision and eligibility will be checked annually by the local authority. If you are already registered for free school meals this will happen automatically.

We strongly encourage eligible families to register for Free School Meals as it can provide significant benefits for both families and schools.

To apply, visit the Staffordshire County Council website below or scan the QR code.
www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/educational-awards-benefits/freeschoolmeals/apply-online.aspx

