

Friday Focus



Issue 212 | September 2026

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

Photo of the week
#weareblythe



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Thank you to staff and students who supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning today! We appreciate all who baked or donated cakes and bakes and look forward to confirming our grand total next week. Well done to the sixth form team for organising!



WELCOME

Our Sixth Form Plus programme runs on a Wednesday afternoon and offers students the opportunity to take part in additional enrichment activities or qualifications. This year, as well as sessions including the EPQ, sports leadership programme and debating club, our Tomorrow's Teachers programme has proved really popular. Watching the group in action earlier this week, it is clear that we have some amazing teachers of the future!

Mrs Johnson
Headteacher

Pride, Respect & Kindness

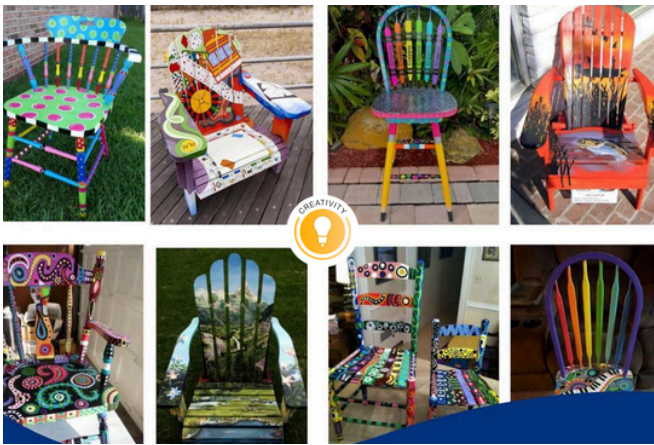
SHREK UPDATE

The technical theatre group meets after school on Wednesdays with Mrs Baines. Is this something you would be interested in?

They are currently working on creating props, costumes and pieces of set for Shrek the school musical.

This week, members were painting rocks, making signs and finding knights' outfits.





TAKE A SEAT COMPETITION

Take a Seat is the first sixth form competition of the year and the challenge set by the art department is open to all Year 12 & 13 students. Can you upcycle a chair to go on display in a corner of our school? Students can provide their own chair, alternatively chairs will be provided by the art department on a first come first served basis. Please express your interest to Mrs Johnson in Art. What will your chair represent?- your favourite subject, book, theatre show, music? There is no brief- Just let your creativity flow! Deadline 1st December 2026

SAVE THE DATE



BE SOMEONE

Sixth Form Open Evening

Thursday 22nd October 6pm



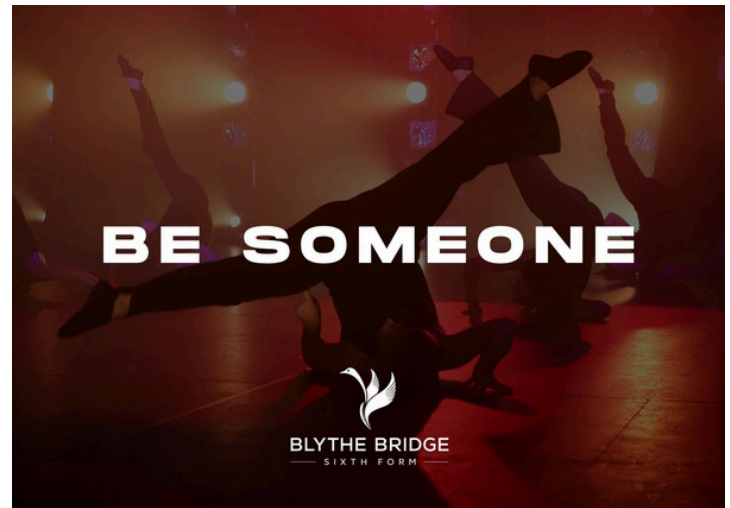
A PROUD PARTNER SCHOOL OF JOHN TAYLOR MAT

BE SOMEONE

Sixth Form Open Evening

Thursday 22nd October 6pm

sixthform@bb-hs.co.uk
01782 392519



What's on?
Moorlands Music Centre

Blast Off! Blythe Bridge

Time: 17:00-18:00 **Level:** Beginners and Improvers
Tutor: Mr Foxall

Moorlands Choir

Time: 18:00-19:00 **Level:** All voices/ages/ability
Tutors: Mrs Hollingshurst / Mr Hollingshurst

Blythe Bridge Maestros

Time: 17:00-18:00 **Level:** Grade 1 and above **Tutor:** Mrs Hollingshurst

Dates (Thursday weekly rehearsals) - The William Amory Primary School

September: 24 October: 1, 8, 15, 22 November: 5, 12, 19, 26 December: 3 (Concert only) January: 14, 21, 28 February: 4, 11, 25 March: 4, 11, 18 April: 22, 29 May: 6, 13, 20, 27 June: 10, 17, 24 (Concert only)

Contact us

Call 0333 300 1900 or email musicservice@entrust-ed.co.uk
www.entrustmusic.co.uk / www.themusicpartnership.org.uk

 [emsstaffs](https://www.facebook.com/emsstaffs)  [@emsstaffs](https://twitter.com/emsstaffs)

READING ADVOCATE



Sophie J is reading 'Faerieground' by Beth Bracken

I liked Faerieground because it was adventurous and had some creepy parts, too. Horror is normally my favourite genre, so I enjoyed the darker side of the story. I also liked that it was about friendship and how the characters dealt with what was happening.

It was quite a short book, so it was easy to read and didn't take too long to finish. I also really liked the illustrations because they made the story more interesting. I would recommend it to anyone who likes adventure, friendship and slightly spooky stories.



AUTUMN TERM PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Year 7: Health & Wellbeing: Healthy habits for adolescence
 Year 8: Identity & Equality: Protected characteristics and equal treatment
 Year 9: Relationships: Consent, readiness and respectful relationships
 Year 10: Voice & Vigilance: Image abuse and deepfakes
 Year 11: Thinking & Choices: Scams and coercive online influence
 Year 12: Wellbeing Year 13: Finance

KEY DATES

Monday 28th September - Friday 2nd October
 • Year 11 MFL speaking mock exams

Tuesday 6th October
 • Primary cluster concert

Thursday 8th October
 • Year 12 University / Apprenticeship Visit



CAREERS SPOTLIGHT BENCHMARK 6

Seven Year 9 students recently enjoyed a half-day work experience placement at a new community garden in Bucknall, gaining an insight into careers in the charity sector while developing valuable practical and employability skills. Students learned about a range of charity roles and the importance of teamwork, communication, organisation and problem-solving before getting stuck into a variety of projects. Working in groups, they constructed a large raised planting bed, planted daffodil bulbs, created hanging baskets and planters, and learned how to safely use tools including a saw. The students showed enthusiasm, maturity and excellent teamwork throughout the afternoon, taking pride in seeing the immediate results of their efforts while making a positive contribution to the local community.



ASSEMBLIES

Year 7 - Year 11: Poetry Week

Sixth Form: Be Someone: Looking After Your Wellbeing



Group	Block 1 (6) 1 st Sept – 9 th Oct
Year 7 Girls AC	Netball
Year 7 Girls DV	Swimming
Year 7 Boys AC	Football
Year 8 Girls AC	Rugby
Year 8 Girls DV	Swimming
Year 8 Boys AC	Netball
Year 8 Boys DV	Handball
Year 9 Girls AC	Rugby
Year 9 Girls DV	Swimming
Year 9 Boys AC	Netball
Year 9 Boys DV	Volleyball



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

Details on how to be a part of these student leadership teams and posts was communicated by Mr Sturmeby in assemblies this week. We aim to have most of these teams ready and contributing to the school community by half term.

- Sixth Form subject ambassadors
- Literacy Leaders (KS3 and KS4)
- House Captains
- Year Group Ambassadors
- School Parliament
- Dance Leaders
- Communication Champions
- Skills Champions
- Year 7 Inspires
- Year 8 Inspires
- EDI Champions
- Charity Champions
- Chess Leaders
- PRK Champions
- Wellbeing champions
- Sixth Form Sports Leaders

HOUSE UPDATES

- Chess League. Mr Pugh. Room 10 at lunch times
- Fantasy football league. Mr Pugh. Already started (Mr Pugh will communicate how to join)
- Staff, Year 11 and 6th Form Dodgeball and Netball Competitions
- Table Tennis. PE Dept. All years Coming Soon!!
- Poster Design for Musical. Ms Baines. All years
- Art Competition. Mrs Sherwin. Year 9
- Twisted trailers. Mrs Robinson. All years

Details to be shared very soon on many of these events and competitions. More events will be added for this half term and beyond!!

MENU CHOICE

STREATERIES

MAINES

- THAI STYLE CHICKEN SATAY
- COCONUT RICE
- CREAMY CHICKEN
- CARAMELISED ONIONS
- LAGARINE
- HOMEMADE GARLIC FOCACCIA
- CHICKEN NAGASAMA
- GLAZED CARAMEL
- NEW POTATOES
- CHICKEN NAGASAMA
- GLAZED CARAMEL
- NEW POTATOES
- CHICKEN NAGASAMA
- GLAZED CARAMEL
- NEW POTATOES

VEGETARIAN

- SWEET & SPICY
- VEGETABLE STEAK PATTY
- COCONUT RICE
- SUMMER VEGETABLE
- & BAKED LAGARINE
- HOMEMADE GARLIC FOCACCIA
- CHEESY BUTTERNUT
- PUMPKIN STEAMER RICE
- VEGETABLE
- CHICKEN NAGASAMA
- GLAZED CARAMEL
- NEW POTATOES

VEGETABLES/SALAD

- CHICKEN NAGASAMA
- GLAZED CARAMEL
- NEW POTATOES
- CHICKEN NAGASAMA
- GLAZED CARAMEL
- NEW POTATOES

DESSERTS

- CHICKEN NAGASAMA
- GLAZED CARAMEL
- NEW POTATOES
- CHICKEN NAGASAMA
- GLAZED CARAMEL
- NEW POTATOES

NOT JUST POTATOES... LOADED SPUDS!

AVAILABLE EVERYDAY

HOT DELI KITCHEN

PASTA, RICE & NOODLE POTS

AVAILABLE EVERYDAY

BIG BOWLS SALADS

MEAL DEALS

DAILY!

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



If you are interested in purchasing second-hand items of uniform, please email t.matthias@bb-hs.co.uk and we will let you know what we have in stock. Donations are always welcome.



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

