

Friday Focus



Issue 215 | October 2026



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

Photo of the week
#weareblythe

ONE WEEK TO GO



Are you ready for what's next?

Register for our Sixth Form Open Evening
22nd October
6pm

Time to **BE SOMEONE**



BE SOMEONE
Pride • Respect • Kindness





PLANNING



Sixth Form Open Evening

WELCOME

A busy week in school with final arrangements being made for our Sixth Form Open Evening which is to be held next Thursday. As well as an introduction from Miss Alford, you will have the opportunity to meet with staff and students to find out more about the courses on offer and attend workshops on degree apprenticeships and the university application process. Bookings can be made via the link on our website.

Next week there won't be a Friday Focus as you will receive our half termly newsletter so I will take this opportunity to wish you a safe and restful half term break, with a special good luck to our Year 11 students who start their first round of mock exams when we return.

Mrs Johnson
Headteacher

Pride, Respect & Kindness

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

We are delighted to invite Year 11 students and their families to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 22nd October. Please click [here](#) to book additional information sessions or scan the above QR code. We look forward to welcoming you and helping your son/daughter take the next exciting step in their educational journey. Please send any questions to sixthform@bb-hs.co.uk. We can't wait to see you there!



YEAR 7 & 8:
GET YOUR £2 TICKET FROM E7 AT BREAKTIME!
MUSIC, SNACKS, PHOTO BOOTH & BEST DRESSED PRIZE!



IN THE HOTSEAT

Over the last fortnight, Mrs Johnson has spent time with a number of students who had been nominated by staff to be 'In the Hotseat'. She heard all about amazing achievements in archery, success in dance troupe competitions as well as completing a qualification in sports leadership. Well done to Hope, Sydney and Mayson-Jai, you should be proud of yourselves



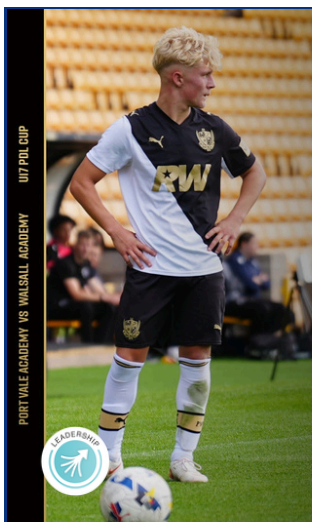
THEATRE TRIP TO ANNIE

On Tuesday over 50 students went to The Regent in Hanley to watch Annie with Claire Sweeney as Miss Hannigan. Most of those who went were the cast and crew from our production back in February and it was lovely to be surrounded by such positivity and happiness from the group - so much so that other members of the public sat around us commented on the lovely nature of our group. A huge thank you to the staff who helped such a trip go ahead.



BRILLIANT BAKING

Congratulations to our fantastic students who baked for our House MFL Bake Off – students have earned house points for their participation, and we've raised funds for our next charity cook. Well done on making such a delicious and beautifully decorated selection of baked treats! From Biscoff to chocolate to lemon to the classic Victoria sponge, all tastes were catered for and the cakes were delicious! Well done team!



OUTSTANDING OLIVER

A massive congratulations to Oliver F in Year 11, who was awarded a scholarship with Port Vale FC this week! This achievement is a testament to his hard work, dedication, and commitment to football.

We are incredibly proud of Oliver and wish him every success as he continues his football journey. Well done, Oliver!



SHREK JR

It's all hands on deck across the school to prepare for our production of Shrek Jr. In Art club, students have been busy painting the boards which will decorate the stage for Shrek. It's looking fantastic so far, keep it up!

A reminder to the cast that our first Saturday rehearsal takes place on Saturday 17th October from 10:00-13:00pm.

Tickets for the show will go on sale in January and if anyone would like to advertise in the programme, please contact Miss Blissett at h.blissett@bb-hs.co.uk



CHRISTMAS CAKE CLUB

Now in its third year, our Year 7 Christmas Cake Club will be starting on Friday 13th November. Held across five consecutive Fridays after school, students will bake, marzipan and decorate their cakes ready to be taken home just before Christmas. Places are limited and will cost £15 to cover the purchase of all the ingredients, decorations and even a box to get it safely home! Students who are interested should complete the Forms link which will be set as an assignment on the Student Portal and also emailed out to students at the start of next week.



HELLO YELLOW

We brought the sunshine to school last week to mark Hello Yellow. It was fantastic to see the school sprinkled with bright yellow clothing and accessories. Our amazing school community raised £82 to support YoungMinds and raise awareness of young people's mental health. Thank you to everyone who took part! The Wellbeing Champions wanted to commit to random acts of kindness throughout the day and offered all staff a hot drink and cakes in the staffroom in recognition of staff's kindness. They also spread kindness through kind messages given to staff.

READING ADVOCATE



Myleigh W & Kaytee L are reading: *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* by John Boyne

We watched *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* film first and really liked it, so it made us want to read the book, too. We are both interested in history and have visited Auschwitz, so the story felt even more powerful because we could picture the setting and understand more about what happened there.

Our favourite character was Shmuel, the little bald boy, because we thought he was really sweet and cute and we felt sorry for him. We liked the friendship between Shmuel and Bruno and how they became friends even though they were on completely different sides of the fence. We would recommend this book to anyone who likes history and emotional stories.



UCAS & APPRENTICESHIP CONVENTION

Last Friday, 44 Year 12 and 13 students travelled to Birmingham for the UCAS and Apprenticeship convention at the Edgbaston Cricket Ground. This enabled the students to interact with a wide range of professionals representing different universities from across the UK, apprenticeship providers, the armed services and attend seminars on such things as personal statements, students finance and application procedures.



AUTUMN TERM PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Year 7: Health & Wellbeing: Health services, hygiene and first aid basics
- Year 8: Identity & Equality: Challenging prejudice safely
- Year 9: Relationships: Sexual health, pregnancy and support
- Year 10: Voice & Vigilance: Violence, gangs and joint enterprise
- Year 11: Thinking & Choices: Post-16 pathways and ambitious planning

KEY DATES

- Thursday 22nd October
- Sixth Form Open Evening
- Friday 23rd October
- Year 7 & 8 Halloween Disco
- Friday 23rd - 26th October
- Iceland Visit
- Monday 2nd November
- INSET Day
- Monday 2nd November - 4th November
- Year 10 Geography Blencathra Visit
- Tuesday 3rd November
- Year 12/13 assessment week
 - Year 11 exams start



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Next week, we will be meeting our Charity Champions to discuss the next term and opportunities to contribute and create awareness of various causes.

We are also due to meet with sub group teams from our PRK and EDI students who have various roles for next half term.

We will be asking our prefects to help with the Halloween disco next Friday, which should be a spooktacular event!

HOUSE UPDATES

- Year 11 / Sixth Form and Staff Netball competition next week 20th October Poster Design for Musical. Mrs Baines. All years.
- Twisted Trailers. Ms Roberts. All years (Deadline 31st October)
- Art Competition. Mrs Johnson. All KS3.
- Chess League. Mr Pugh. Room 10 at lunch times
- Fantasy Football League with Mr Pugh

LEADERBOARD

- 1st: Serpent (325)
- 2nd: Centaur (300)
- 3rd: Pegasus (200)
- 4th: Sphinx (150)

CAREERS SPOTLIGHT BENCHMARK 6

Christmas arrived early at Hilderstone Hall Care Home when our Sixth Form art and photography students helped residents to make Christmas cards. Students had the opportunity to develop their communication skills and work with the local community.



ASSEMBLIES

- Year 7 - Year 11: Black History Month
- Year 12: Gaining real-world exposure through networking & placements
- Year 13: Taking action towards employment, apprenticeships or university

MENU CHOICE



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.



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.





HAF



FUN

IN STAFFORDSHIRE



Scan Me



Looking for free activities in the school holidays?

Holiday Activities and Food is funded for children and young people aged 5-16 who get targeted free school meals*

staffordshire.gov.uk/haf

*Paid for places are also available