Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form

Friday Focus

Issue 217 | November 2026



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

Photo of the week #weareblythe



DO MORE AT SIXTH FORM

At Blythe Bridge Sixth Form, students have the opportunity to study for an Extended Project Qualification - dedicating themselves to an area that genuinely intrigues and interests them. Some choose to research and write an in-depth essay on a topic they're passionate about, but others take a more practical route, channelling their creativity into a hands-on project. Beatrice did exactly that, spending months developing and refining these two beautiful clay sculptures exploring movement. A wonderful example of what our students are capable of. Applications are open for Blythe Bridge Sixth Form via the link on our website www.bb-hs.co.uk

WELCOME

Following the successful Ramble or Read with Year 7 last week, our Year 11-13 students have been involved in their annual Children in Need fundraising fancy dress, with the theme of cartoon characters. Seeing one of the heads of year in a Sully costume and another as Cruella de Vil was quite a sight! I look forward to sharing the total money raised with you in next week's newsletter.

Mrs Johnson

Headteacher

Pride, Respect & Kindness



CHESS LEAGUE

This year's fortnightly lunchtime chess leagues have again been popular with 36 students already participating in matches. Ryan H is currently leading the Wednesday league with Martin G, Tor M, Josh E and Oliver W making up the top 5.

Harrison R is currently top of the Friday league with Jamie G, Mazim E, Nova W and Finlay H all joint second. Well done to all students involved!



RAMBLE OR READ FOR CHILDREN IN NEED



Year 7 students were given the opportunity to 'Ramble or Read' in aid of Children in Need on Thursday 5th November for a suggested donation of £1.

Students enjoyed a brisk run or walk around our wonderful school grounds, with other children choosing to read alongside members of staff.

We are very proud of our Year 7 students for their generosity and resilience.

SHREK UPDATE



There's lots of excitement as our students continue to bring Shrek to life!

They're busy learning their lines with Mrs Baines and diving deep into their characters, perfecting their choreography with Mrs Baxter, and singing along to those catchy tunes with Miss Balewski.

The enthusiasm, energy and talent on display are fantastic, and we can't wait to see all their hard work come together on stage. It's shaping up to be a show full of laughter, music and a little bit of fairy-tale magic!

REMEMBRANCE

We paid our respects this week during Remembrance Sunday and Remembrance Day.

We were honoured to have a group of students and staff perform The Last Post and Reveille across the school during Wednesday's two-minute silence for Remembrance. Their moving performances provided a poignant tribute and a moment for our whole school community to reflect and remember.

"At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them." - Laurence Binyon





MEDICINE INTERVIEW

A huge well done to Oliver, who recently attended the Recognising Potential – Developing Aspiring Doctors: Medicine Interview Practice Day in Chesterfield. The event provided an invaluable opportunity to experience a realistic multiple mini interview process, the style of interview used by many medical schools.

Throughout the day, Oliver took part in a series of timed interview stations led by experienced medical school interviewers, developing his communication, ethical reasoning and problem-solving skills and receiving personalised feedback to help strengthen his interview performance ahead of his medical school applications. We are incredibly proud of Oliver's commitment, determination and ambition as he takes the next steps towards a career in Medicine. We wish him every success with his applications and future interviews.

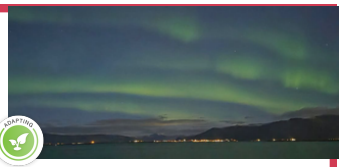


HALLOWEEN DISCO



Friday 23rd October saw the Year 7 & Year 8 Halloween Disco take place with Jamtroniktz on the decks, Year 11 prefects on refreshments and the rest of the students dancing on the dance floor in spectacular costumes! Thank you to Mr James and his team of helpers for decorating the main hall and making it the spookiest setting for the disco. The evening was a fantastic success, raising £503.85! Special well done to Best Dancer, Teresa S, plus Best Dressed: Daisy B, Maggie G and Molly E. Plus, a special thanks to Ratatouille for his surprise appearance!

YEAR 11 ICELAND VISIT



Over half term, a group of our students enjoyed an unforgettable educational visit to Iceland, experiencing some of the country's most spectacular natural and geographical features.

Throughout the trip, students visited iconic locations including the Bridge Between Two Continents, Gullfoss Waterfall, Þingvellir National Park, the Geysir geothermal area, Skógafoss and Seljalandsfoss waterfalls, and the famous Black Sand Beach. They were also fortunate enough to witness the breathtaking Northern Lights, a highlight that many will remember for years to come.

The visit provided a fantastic opportunity for students to bring their classroom learning to life, exploring tectonic plate boundaries, geothermal energy, volcanic landscapes, and glacial environments first-hand. The excellent weather throughout the visit allowed students to make the most of every experience.

Students were always a credit to Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form. Their behaviour, enthusiasm and engagement were exemplary, and they embraced every opportunity presented to them. Staff were particularly impressed by the way students supported one another and represented the school so positively throughout the visit. Overall, the trip was a tremendous success, providing students with lasting memories, valuable learning experiences, and a greater appreciation of one of the world's most unique environments. We are already looking forward to returning to Iceland in the future.

SIXTH FORM HARVEST



Sixth form students joined in the whole school harvest collection last half term. The tinned or boxed items have been donated by our students and were delivered to a food bank to help families in time of need.

READING ADVOCATE



Solitaire is honestly one of my favourite books of all time! I love the Heartstopper graphic novels, so I was really excited to read a book about Charlie Spring's older sister, Tori, who is actually my favourite character from Heartstopper. I love that we get to know her better and see things from her point of view.

What I love most about this book is how realistic it feels. Tori is a teenager in high school, dealing with real issues and feeling like she doesn't quite fit in. I think a lot of people my age can relate to that. I also love how she finds an unexpected friendship along the way. It's funny, emotional and so relatable. I'd definitely recommend it, especially if you love Heartstopper!

★★★★★

YEAR 9 FOOD TECHNOLOGY



A taste of Italy came to Blythe Bridge as Year 9 students cooked up a storm with different types of pizza. From decorating with care to carefully cutting slices and boxing up their pizza, the students impressed Mr Li and Mrs N Johnson with their attention to detail and demonstration of great teamwork.

LOOKING FORWARD

AUTUMN TERM PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Year 7: Voice & Vigilance: Staying safe out and about
Year 8: Ethics, Democracy & Law: Parliament, parties and holding power to account
Year 9: Thinking & Choices: Data, algorithms and persuasive design
Year 10: Relationships: Equal relationships, values and long-term commitment
Year 11: Health & Wellbeing: Exam pressure, stress and healthy coping
Year 12: Themes of relationships & living in a diverse society
Year 13: Independence & making responsible health choices.

KEY DATES

Tuesday 24th November
- **Year 7 Festival of Arts**

Monday 30th November
- **Year 7- 11 Flu Immunisations**

Tuesday 1st December
- **Year 7 Carol Service**

Wednesday 2nd December
- **Year 8 Lille Trip Parents' Evening**

Thursday 3rd December
- **Year 13 Leavers' Certificate Evening**



CAREERS SPOTLIGHT BENCHMARK 3,6 & 7

Our Year 12 Sports Leaders had the opportunity to visit Port Vale FC on Wednesday. They had an afternoon speaking with the CEO and the CSR Director who spoke at length about leadership within sport, focusing on the business side of sport and then a coaching and practical side of football.



ASSEMBLIES

Year 7 - 11: Equality Act
Year 12: Work Experience
Year 13: National Road Safety



Group	Block 2 (5) 12th Oct-27th Nov
Year 7 Girls AC	Swimming
Year 7 Girls DV	Netball
Year 7 Boys AC	Rugby
Year 7 Boys DV	Football
Year 8 Girls AC	Netball
Year 8 Girls DV	Swimming
Year 8 Boys AC	Rugby
Year 8 Boys DV	Handball
Year 9 Girls AC	Netball
Year 9 Girls DV	Swimming
Year 9 Boys AC	Volleyball
Year 9 Boys DV	Rugby



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

Most students have been contacted for PRK, EDI and charity champions prior to half term. Please come to see Mr Sturmey if you have not heard or if you missed last week's meetings. House captains have mostly been informed, and this will be communicated to whole school. Individual EDI and PRK students have been contacted about their roles for Thrive week, and will meet to organise next steps. EDI Champions visited forms this week. They took the School Charter and later in the week returned it with a new one for all forms to sign. This will be a topic to discuss within Thrive week.

HOUSE UPDATES

Thank you everyone who entered the Drama Poster competition! The designs were excellent and the winners were as follows

1st - Gurleen K - Centaur
2nd - Katy-Hope B - Centaur
3rd - Daisy F - Centaur
4th - Evie L - Sphinx

MENU CHOICE



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

plus
BLYTHE BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM
PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SHOP

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.



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

JTMAT

Scan the QR code for our price list and a copy of our hire request form
01782 392519 - lettings@bb-hs.co.uk

EASY FUNDRAISING

Did you know you can raise <u>free</u> 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.

