

18th July 2024

End of Term, Summer 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the summer term draws to a close, I would like to congratulate students and staff on all that has been achieved over the last academic year. In a time of great change, we have come together as a community and shown each day what it means to be *more than a school*. I thank all parents for your ongoing support, and all staff and Governors for their commitment to creating the best experiences for our young people.

The summer term ends on Friday 19th July and the school day will finish at 12.00pm. School is closed to students on Monday 2nd September for a staff training day then on Tuesday 3rd September, school will be open to Year 7 students only. All students will return to school on Wednesday 4th September.

Students eligible for free school meals have been sent vouchers this week, to cover the summer period. For places where children can eat free or for £1 during the summer holidays, please visit the following link: <https://moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free>

There have been so many highlights to this term, culminating in a fantastic week of enrichment activities with students enjoying trips, Sports Day, and the whole school taking part in a walk together.

For highlights from the summer term, please see my Head's report for Governors by clicking the links below.

Summary of Head teacher's Summer Report

<https://www.blaconhighschool.net/attachments/download.asp?file=356&type=pdf>

Part 1 – Update on progress towards our strategic goals

<https://www.blaconhighschool.net/attachments/download.asp?file=354&type=pdf>

Part 2 – Highlights from the Summer term

<https://www.blaconhighschool.net/attachments/download.asp?file=355&type=pdf>

Holiday Activities and Food Programme Summer 2024

Coordinated by Edsential, Cheshire West's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme has a whole host of clubs that are completely free for children and young people in receipt of free school meals.

The interactive map makes it easy to search for various activity clubs on offer in your local area. From various sports such as basketball, swimming and football camps, to creative arts and crafts, healthy eating cooking classes, nature bush craft, campfires, and storytelling. This summer promises something for every taste and interest. For older children there will be additional activities such as hair,

beauty, and wellness. Free, healthy meals will be served throughout, ensuring that children stay fuelled and ready for action.

To find a full list of the summer holiday activity clubs visit the [website](#).



Youth Zones for 11-16 year olds (up to 25 for our SEND children and young people)

Summer programme will include a wide range of events. These include: African drumming, festival make up, dance workshops, tie dye t-shirts, inflatables, pizza making to name just a few. For more information, please email the Youth Service EHPChesterandRural@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk.

Brio Leisure

Brio Leisure will be offering lots of activities, including sports camps at Neston Recreation Centre for 5-12 year-olds, performing arts at Northwich Memorial Court for 6-10 year-olds, and fun floats, sports, and craft SEND sessions, available at Ellesmere Port Sports Village, Winsford Lifestyle Centre and Northwich Memorial Court for young people aged 5-18 years. If you would like more information, email info@brioleisure.org

Provision for all children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

In addition to accessing any of these offers, there is specific provision for **children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND)** who are eligible on benefits-related free school meals, with some providers able to offer paid for places for those not eligible based on the guidance to also attend their programmes.

Blacon Neighbourhood Plan

The Blacon Neighbourhood Plan is a critical initiative aimed at shaping the future of our community. To ensure the Plan reflects the views and needs of all residents, it is essential to gather feedback from a diverse range of people, including parents and carers of students in Blacon schools.

The attached leaflet includes important information about the Plan and details on how you can get involved, including completing the online community survey, www.surveymonkey.com/r/BlaconSurvey. The survey is open until 31st July 2024.

Cost of living support

It is a really challenging time for households throughout the Borough and families may be worried about the rising cost of energy bills, food, and transport. For help accessing welfare rights, benefits and debt advice, or to know more about national support put in place, the Council has put together some useful information to help which includes a wealth of information. Visit: [Cost of living support](#).

Uniform and mobile phones

As you prepare to kit your child out for another term, please visit our website [here](#) to familiarise yourself with the school's uniform policy. A reminder that school shoes or all black trainers should be worn and knee length skirts. We now have uniform with the new logo available to purchase through our supplier at Uniformity. Please be assured that there is no expectation for all students to wear uniform with the new logo and we expect this to be rolled out over the next few years so that families are not under any additional financial pressure. From September, students will not be allowed to use mobile phones at all during the school day. Further information on this will be shared in September.

Attendance

A new National Framework for Penalty Notices for School Absence will come into effect from the 19th August 2024. A penalty notice is an out of court settlement which is intended to cause improved attendance without the need for a criminal prosecution.

Further details about the aims of the National Framework and what the Framework includes, can be found in the letter sent out this week.

<https://www.blaconhighschool.net/attachments/download.asp?file=369&type=pdf>

Key dates for Autumn Half Term 1 2024

- Monday 2nd September, school closed for staff training day
- Tuesday 3rd September, school open for new Year 7 only
- **Wednesday 4th September, all students return**
- Monday 9th September, School Picture Day 2024 (portraits Years 7/9/11, tutor group Years 8 and 10)
- Monday 9th September, Information Evening for History department Battlefields trip, 5.15pm
- Wednesday 11th September – Open Evening 4.00pm – 7.30pm for Year 6
- Thursday 19th September, SEND Information Evening, 6.00pm – 7.15pm
- Thursday 26th September, Year 7 Information Evening, 6.00pm – 7.15pm
- Thursday 3rd October, Year 11 Information Evening, 6.00pm – 7.15pm
- Friday 25th October, school closes for half term

The school office will remain open until 1.30pm on our final day on Friday 19th July. After this date, reception will be open each day between the hours of 9.00am and 3.00pm throughout the summer, apart from the bank holiday on Monday 26th August.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all the best for the summer. We look forward to welcoming students back to school in September 2024.

Regards,



Rachel Hudson
Headteacher