



Blacon's Blog

Blacon's weekly school letter about the community, for the community, published every Friday.

ISSUE 5 3rd October 2025

BLACON
HIGH SCHOOL

Headlines - Message from the Head

I am pleased to be able to share with you a bumper edition of our weekly blog in Issue 5. We raised £139 last Friday in our Macmillan Coffee morning for this great cause. Students enjoyed a visit to Ruthin Prison last week on a History trip along with students rowing on Monday. Last Friday, we celebrated European Day of Languages and were treated to some amazing dishes in the diner at lunchtime.

This week, Miss Liddell has led assemblies with students to mark Black History month and students have engaged in seeing inspirational figures displayed on classroom doors by staff.

At the start of this week, we welcome Mr Emlyn Wright into school from the Department for Education and he commented on how polite and engaged our students were in lessons and on their good behaviour. He described Blacon as a vibrant school and could see first hand how much students are benefitting from the range of clubs and opportunities available at lunch time and after school.

Today, we were delighted to announce to a packed hall of students interested in being involved in our whole school production - Matilda! We will be performing this fantastic musical in July 2026 and auditions will begin after half term.

I would like to remind all parents of the prize draw taking place at the end of half term for all students in the 100% club over the 4 weeks leading up to 23rd October. Please work with us to secure full attendance in school. Finally, we said farewell to Mrs Tegan Whiteside from the admin team, who has secured a promotion. We thank her for 14 years of service and wish her all the best as she moves on from Blacon.

Rewards for this week

Congratulations to students for a superb week of learning in school and for all of the achievement points given. It has continued to be a positive term and we would like to thank students for their efforts so far. Well done to Year 7 for achieving the most this week.

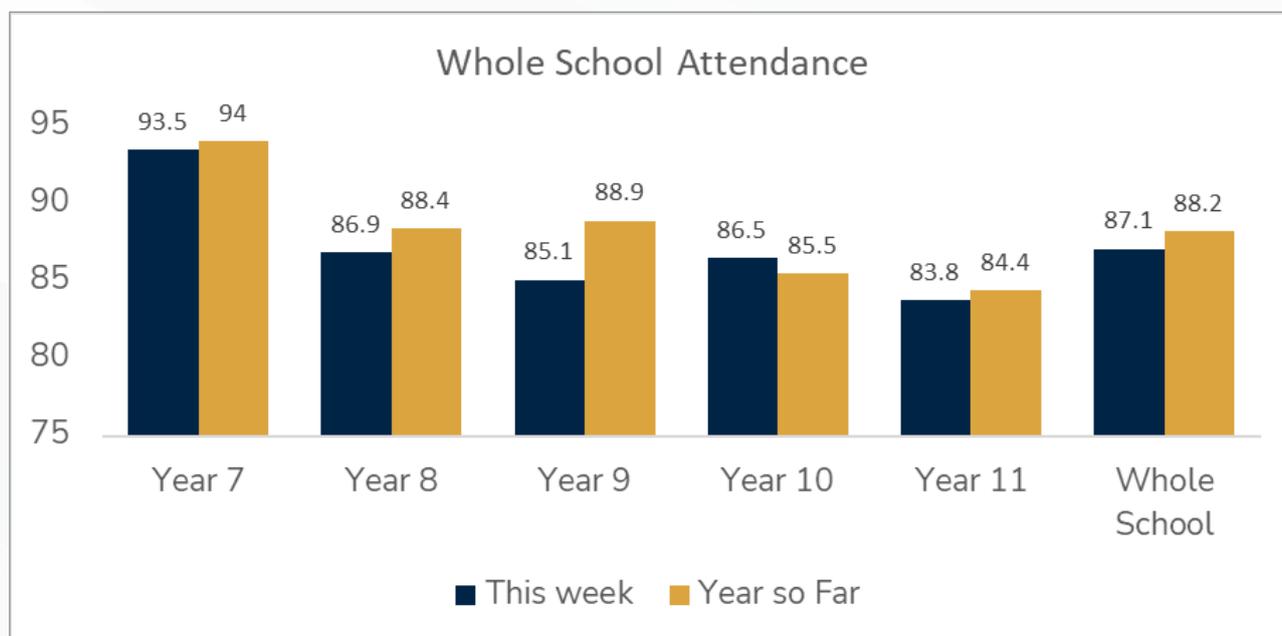
Achievement Points Week 5:



Year	Total
Year 7	543
Year 8	474
Year 9	294
Year 10	180
Year 11	131

Attendance Matters - Every Hour, Every Day Counts....

The attendance for the whole school so far is **88.2%** with attendance for this week being at **87.1%**. From Monday, all students with **100% attendance** over the next 4 weeks will be entered into a prize draw for vouchers in each year group, to be drawn on the last day of term. Please work with us to ensure your child attends every day so that they can maximise their chance of success as every absence has an impact on learning. Aim to be in the 100% club! Work with us to improve the attendance at our school.





JOIN THE 100% CLUB

WANT A CHANCE TO BAG YOURSELF A GIFT VOUCHER AT THE END OF THIS HALF TERM?

Attend school every day

1

Feeling a bit under the weather? Tired? Not keen on Period 1? Push yourself to be here. Motivate yourself by planning to meet your friends at the gate and encourage each other to get into school. Every day you attend is a step closer to success.



2

Be on time

Be on time - every minute counts! Sleep earlier, set your alarm sooner, get organised the night before, and arrive ready to learn.

Competition dates from:

Monday 29th September to Friday 24th October 2025

Prize draw will take place in the last week of this half term!

★ ASPIRE ★ BELIEVE ★ ACHIEVE

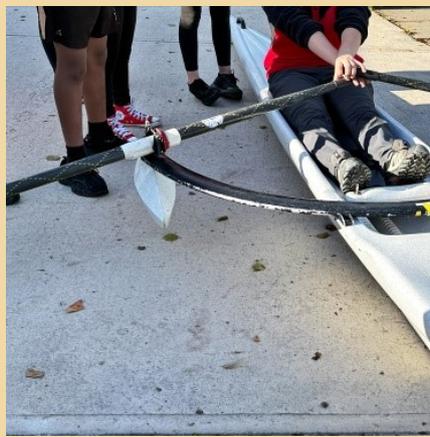
Rowing - First River Session: A Strong Start

This week marked an exciting milestone for our students as they took to the river for their first hands-on rowing experience. The session began with a comprehensive safety briefing, covering essential precautions and the correct procedures for launching boats from the dock.

Once on the water, students had the opportunity to try both doubles and single sculls, gaining valuable experience in balance, coordination, and teamwork. Despite being new to the sport, everyone showed great enthusiasm and made impressive progress throughout the session.

The confidence and skill displayed by the group set a promising tone for the weeks ahead. We are looking forward to building on this momentum in the next session as students continue to develop their technique and understanding of rowing.

Next week, we will be focusing on refining stroke technique and introducing basic drills to improve rhythm and timing.



History Visit to Ruthin Prison

Last Wednesday, a group of our Year 11 Historians visited Ruthin Gaol Museum to find out more about how people were punished in Victorian times.

The trip was led by Miss Liddell, Head of History, and during our visit students investigated how prisoners were housed as well as the punishments that they endured. Victorian prisons used the Pentonville system of incarceration to punish wrong doers.

The Pentonville system, named after the London prison, opened in 1842, refers to the separate system of imprisonment where inmates were kept in isolation for up to 23 hours a day, based on the belief that separation would promote reflection, repentance, and rehabilitation. This system was characterised by religious instruction, rigorous discipline, and isolation, with prisoners confined to their cells for work, prayer, and reflection.

As you can see from these pictures, our students enjoyed the opportunity to see the various cells and methods of correction used in Ruthin Gaol, as well as listening to an account of the hanging of William Hughes, a 42-year-old collier, who was executed on February 13, 1903, for the murder of his wife.

A huge thank you to Miss Liddell for organising this trip which enabled students from our entire Year 11 Historian cohort to experience such an interactive museum experience.



Black History Month

What is Black History Month?

1 Highlighting Forgotten Histories

- Much of Black history has been overlooked, ignored, or underrepresented in traditional teaching.
- Black History Month shines a light on stories, figures and achievements that might otherwise be forgotten

2 Celebrating Achievements

- It honours the cultural, scientific, political, and artistic contributions of Black people around the world.
- From leaders like Martin Luther King Jr and Mary Seacole to artists, inventors, and writers, it showcases role models for everyone.

3 Challenging Racism and Injustice

- It reminds us of the struggles Black communities have faced (slavery, colonialism, segregation, discrimination)
- It also highlights progress made and encourages ongoing work toward equality and justice

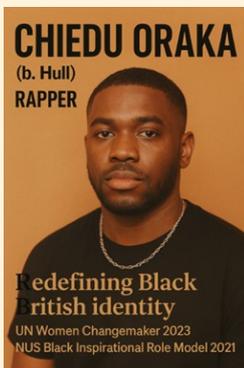


Themes 2025:

Pride - Celebrating the achievements of black individuals.

Power - Appreciating the resilience and bravery for the fight for civil rights and equality.

Miss Liddell has led assemblies this week to students, highlighting Black History Month and staff have displayed pictures of people who have inspired others to stand firm and to fight for equality.



Oraka opened for Coldplay in Hull

In August 2025, Chiedu gained one of his most high-profile opportunities yet: supporting Coldplay during two sold-out shows in his hometown at Hull's Craven Park stadium. This landmark moment not only elevated his visibility but created community pride.

He is Nigerian-British

He grew up on a Hull council estate

He raps about mental health, race and class He made Glastonbury Debut After Years of 'Hard Graft'

'It's been like 15 years of hard graft', recalling how he once sold CDs on the streets and faced ridicule for rapping in a Hull accent.

Forgotten Histories



- The **Harlem Hellfighters** were an African American regiment (the 369th Infantry) who fought in **World War I**.

- They spent more time in **combat** than any other U.S. unit — around **191 days on the front line**.

- Despite facing **racism** at home and in the army, they earned huge respect from the French, who awarded many soldiers medals for bravery.

- Their bravery helped **change attitudes** about Black soldiers and showed their courage and loyalty.

DOREEN LAWRENCE



WHY SHE IS INSPIRATIONAL

Doreen Lawrence is an inspirational figure who fought tirelessly for justice after her son Stephen was murdered in a racially motivated attack.

HARRIET TUBMAN
1822–1913



Abolitionist and Activist
“I freed a thousand slaves; I could have freed a thousand more.”

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
1929–1968



Leader of the Civil Rights Movement
“The time is always right to do what is right.”

“The time is always right to do what is right.”

- Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr

Find out more by visiting <https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/>

World Mental Health Day

Take part with thousands of schools, communities and companies wearing yellow this World Mental Health Day and raise money to show young people that they're not alone with their mental health.

Right now, the world can be a tough place for children and young people to grow up in – and they are feeling the pressure. We want young people to know that they don't have to go through this alone. Things can get better.



Job of the week

Job of the week this week is E Sports coach

An E- Sports coach guides and mentors players and teams in a competitive video game, similar to a traditional sports coach but for digital environments. They develop strategies, analyse gameplay and opponents, identify player strengths and weaknesses, and manage team dynamics. Coaches also focus on player motivation, overall health, and creating positive team environments to help players reach their full potential.

To find out more click the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f869jfYLIkk>



Animal care - Meet our Guinea Pigs and Tortoise

Meet Our New Animal Care Team: Georgie, Cookie & Shelly!

We are very excited to introduce Georgie and Cookie, our new guinea pigs, and Shelly the tortoise! They have joined us as part of the BTEC Animal Care course for Years 10 and 11.

Here's how they are helping and why they matter:

Practical animal care skills

Georgie and Cookie will allow students to practise feeding, handling, housing and caring for small mammals daily. Shelly gives students insight into reptile care, patience with slower animals, and the long term commitment that animal welfare requires.

Beyond books and lectures

Working with live animals encourages responsibility, observation, attention to detail, and understanding animal welfare, things you can't fully learn just from theory.

Real world purpose & future paths

The BTEC Animal Care course helps prepare students for many animal based careers — veterinary nursing, animal welfare work, zoo careers, pet care, and more. It combines practical experience (like caring for Georgie, Cookie and Shelly) with theory, so students get a well rounded education.

Getting involved and getting to know them

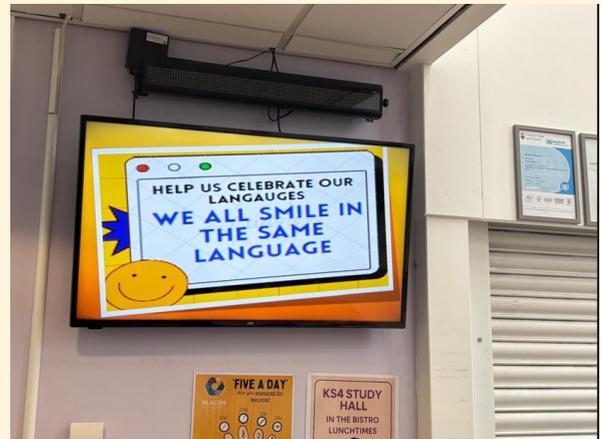
Over time, we'll share photos, stories and updates so students, parents, and carers can see how Georgie, Cookie and Shelly are teaching us too!



We look forward to seeing how our students grow through working with Georgie, Cookie and Shelly, and hope parents and students alike enjoy getting to know them through photos, and updates.

European day of Languages

Last Friday, we celebrated the European Day of Languages, recognising the beauty and diversity of the many languages spoken across Europe. Through fun activities, games, and language challenges, we explored different cultures and discovered just how important languages are in bringing people together. It was a fantastic opportunity to embrace our multilingual world and encourage a love of language learning for all ages!.



Dates for the diary

- Thursday 23rd October - SEND and Student Services Information Evening 6 - 7pm
- Friday 24th October - 3.10pm - School closes for half term
- Monday 3rd November - School opens after half term
- **Friday 28th November - School closed for Staff Training Day**
- 15th December - Reward Assemblies week
- Friday 19th December - Break up for Christmas at 12 noon



Macmillan Coffee morning

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our Macmillan Coffee Morning last Friday. Thankyou to all students, staff and parents for your generosity, delicious bakes, and warm company. We raised an amazing £200 in support of Macmillan Cancer Support. Every penny will help make a real difference to those living with cancer.

We are so grateful for the support — here's to coffee, cake, and coming together for a great cause!.



Our whole school production is Matilda

We were delighted to announce to over 150 students in the hall today, our whole school musical will be Matilda!

Performances - Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th July 2026

Ensemble Auditions - Tuesday 4th November, 3.15 - 5pm, School Hall.

Cast Auditions - Thursday 6th November, 3.15 - 5pm, School Hall.



Extra Curricular Activities, Lunch and After School Clubs

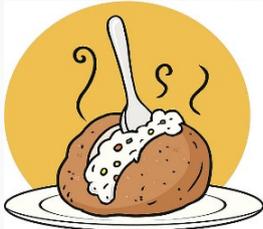
Week 2 Lunch Clubs

Day	Club	Years	Location	Staff member
Monday	Football	All	MUGA	Mr Cairns
Monday	Dance	7	Studio	Miss Joynson
Monday	Maths club	KS4	506	Mr Pedder
Monday	Science	7	316	Mrs Edwards
Monday	Drama	7	Studio	Dr Salisbury
Tuesday	Football	All	MUGA	Mr Cairns
Wednesday	Maths	KS3	502	Miss Price
Wednesday	Textiles club	KS3	112	Miss Wright / Miss Adamson
Wednesday	Football	All	MUGA	Mr Cairns
Wednesday	History hot scholars	All	318	Miss Liddell
Thursday	Volleyball	All	Sports hall	Mr Cairns
Thursday	Football	All	MUGA	Mr Cairns
Thursday	Physics club	All	202	Mrs Lewis
Friday	Football	All	MUGA	Mr Cairns
Friday	Chess club	All	302	Mr Green

Week 2 After school clubs

Day	Club	Years	Location	Staff member
Monday	Football	KS3	3G	Mr Cairns
Monday	Cadets	All	Containers on field	Miss Joynson
Monday	Performing arts coursework club	KS4	Studio	Dr Salisbury
Monday	Home learning club	All	202	Mrs Lewis
Tuesday	Performing arts coursework club	KS4	Studio	Dr Salisbury
Tuesday	Duke of Edinburgh Drop in	9 & 10	315	Mrs Hughes
Wednesday	Performing arts coursework club	KS4	Studio	Dr Salisbury
Wednesday	Drama club	8, 9, 10, 11	Studio	Dr Salisbury
Wednesday	Netball	7 & 8	MUGA	Mr Cairns
Wednesday	Product, Graphics, Art	KS4	112	Miss Wright / Miss Adamson
Wednesday	Home learning club	All	202	Mrs Lewis
Wednesday	School Band	All	124	Miss McHale
Thursday	Performing arts coursework club	KS4	Studio	Dr Salisbury
Thursday	Maths P6	11		Miss Price
Thursday	Dance club	9	Main hall	Miss Joynson
Thursday	Basketball	All	Sports hall	Mr Cairns
Thursday	Sports Fixtures	All	TBC	Mr Cairns
Thursday	Home learning club	All	202	Mrs Lewis
Thursday	School Choir	All	124	Miss McHale
Friday	Badminton	All	Sports hall	Mr Cairns

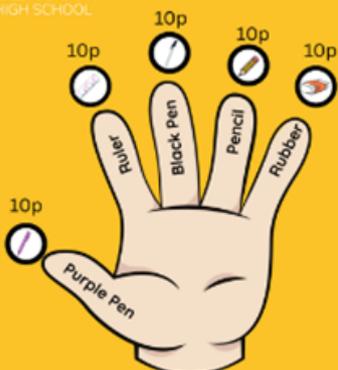
Menu for week beginning 29th September 2025

Area	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 2 – Week Commencing 06/10/2025					
Hot Serve Main: (£2.40) Drink: 80p Cake: 80p	Bolognese Bake With Garlic Bread or Veggie Bolognese Bake with Garlic Bread	Jerk Chicken or Jollof Rice (V)	Katsu chicken Wrap or Veggie Wrap (v)	Sausage Waffles and Beans or Veggie Sausage, Waffles and Beans (V)	Chicken, croquette or Sweet potato and salmon fishcake
Panini Bar Main: (£2.40) Drink: 80p Cake: 80p	 <p>Panini Cake and Biscuits Drinks</p>				
Cold side Main: (£2.40) Drink: 80p Cake: 80p	<p>Pasta Salad bar Sandwiches with Choice of fillings Cake/Biscuits/Fruit</p> 				
POD Main: (£2.40) Drink: 80p Cake: 80p	 <p>Jacket potato with a choice of Cheese Beans Tuna Included is a side salad Cake/Biscuits or Fruit</p>				



'FIVE A DAY'
 Are you prepared for learning?

BLACON HIGH SCHOOL



Equipment available to buy everyday!

- During Breakfast Club
- Breaktime @reception
- Lunchtime @reception



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