



Blacon's Blog

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

ISSUE 6 10th October 2025

BLACON
HIGH SCHOOL

Headlines - Message from the Head

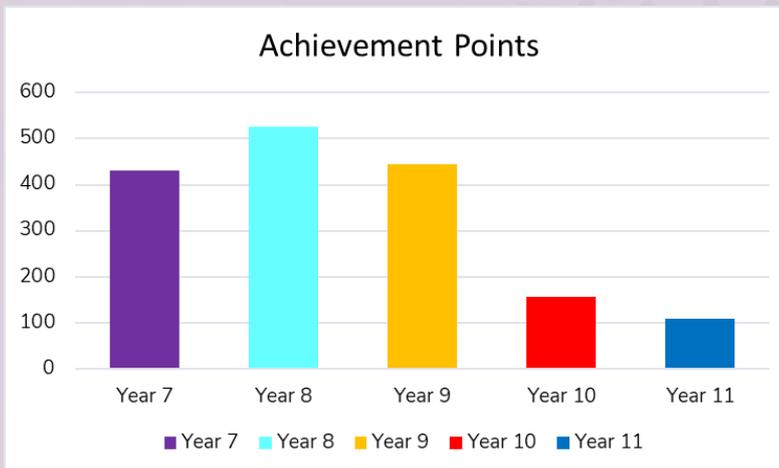
I have pleasure in sharing with you issue 6 of our Blacon Blog, featuring the successes and highlights of the last week. Students have continued to thrive in rowing each week on the River Dee and Drama students have visited StoryHouse to meet Curtis Jobling, the original designer of BAFTA-winning Bob the Builder, and creator of the hit animated BBC shows Frankenstein's Cat and Raa Raa the Noisy Lion. This was also a wonderful opportunity for students to speak about careers and future progression. The catering team have worked incredibly hard this week with special menus to celebrate International Harry Potter Day and world mental health day, along with a feature dish to mark Black History Month. I have shared sources of support for students in assembly this week, both in and out of school. Students continue to respond well to the achievement culture and we are still promoting 100% attendance for the next 2 weeks so that students can be entered into a prize draw at half term. It was a pleasure to welcome Sal Thirlwell, the Director of Education and Inclusion back into school, to meet with our Year 11 leaders. These students are representing Blacon High School next week at the annual CRAG Conference, being held at Chester Racecourse, to be the voice of young people on the area of inclusion. As another busy week draws to a close, I would like to thank all parents and the wider community for the way we come together to support our young people and provide the best opportunities for them to shine. I wish you all a peaceful weekend.

Rachel Hudson - Headteacher

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.

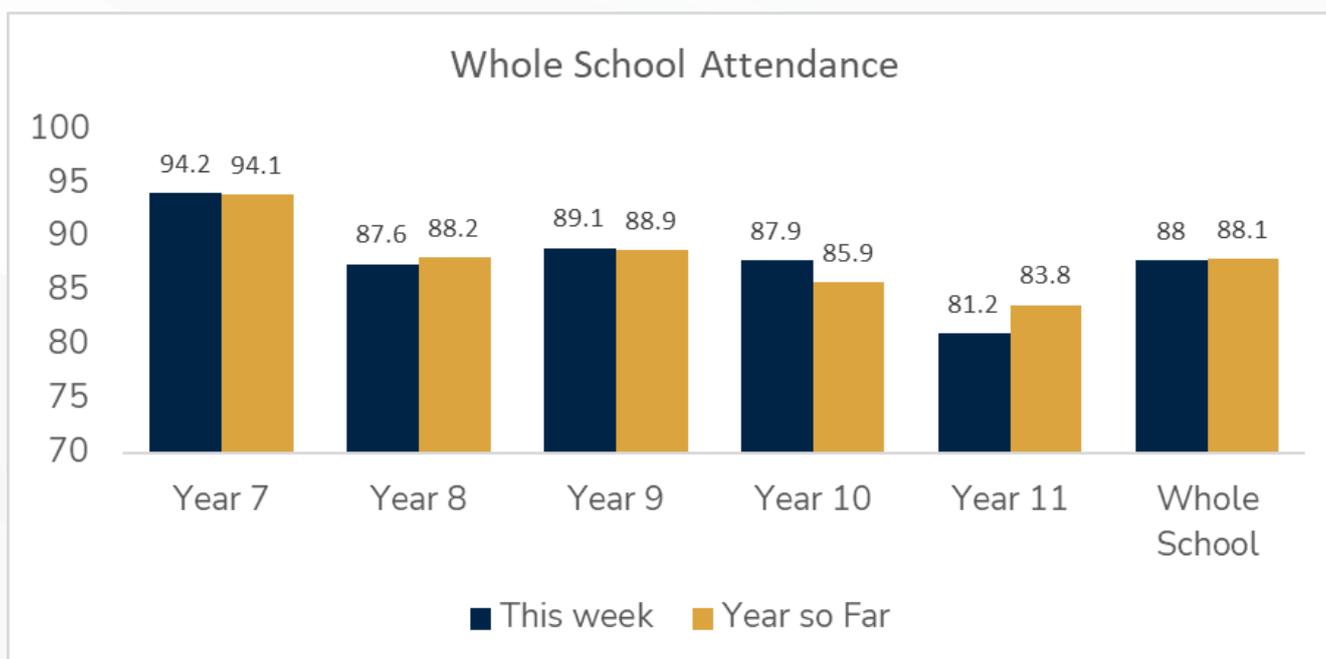
Achievement Points Week 6:



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 **88.1%** with attendance for this week being at **88%**. All students with **100% attendance** over the last 4 weeks of this half term, 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.



"THIS MORNING HE WASN'T FEELING WELL...BUT LOOK AT HIM NOW!"

MOMENTS MATTER. ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

HM Government
Head to the NHS website to find out more.



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

The Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (D of E) is a youth development programme that encourages young people to challenge themselves, build new skills, and contribute to their communities. It is divided into three progressive levels — Bronze, Silver, and Gold — each requiring increasing levels of commitment and personal responsibility. Participants complete activities in four main sections: **Volunteering**, **Physical**, **Skills**, and an **Expedition**, with an additional **Residential** section at Gold level.

Taking part in the D of E helps young people develop qualities such as leadership, teamwork, resilience, and time management. It also provides opportunities to explore new interests and make a positive impact on others. Completing the Award is widely respected by employers, universities, and organisations for demonstrating initiative, perseverance, and a well-rounded character. Students in Years 9 and 10 can sign up by seeing Mrs Hughes in Science and making a payment on Parent pay for the deposit.

Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award

We are excited to be offering the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award to students in Years 9 and 10 this year. The D of E programme gives students the chance to develop valuable life skills such as teamwork, resilience, and independence, while taking on new challenges and having fun along the way.

Our current Bronze cohort recently completed their expedition in the Shropshire Hills, successfully navigating routes they had planned themselves. In the lead-up to their trip, students took part in a series of training sessions where they learned essential skills including navigation, cooking and pitching tents.

All their preparation and hard work paid off as they confidently tackled the hills and enjoyed a real sense of achievement at the finish. We're incredibly proud not only of their expedition success but also of the ongoing effort they are putting into completing the other sections of their award. We look forward to seeing the next group of students embark on their own D of E adventure!



Amazing History Home Learning

Year 7 students Darcey, Isla, Elsie, Corey, Macey, Poppy June, Poppy, Amber, Charlie, Roksana and Maya have completed their module on History skills and have now begun studying the History of Chester. Using symbols associated with Chester, they designed their own shields in preparation for learning about Roman Chester and Blacon during the English Civil War. They also had the exciting opportunity to hold a real musket ball from the Civil War, discovered in Blacon and kindly donated by the Blacon History Society.



How you can help at home

Why connecting learning matters (and how you can help in 5 minutes)

We use the **Connect, Activate, Explore, Explain, Practice** model in every lesson, and the first stage, **Connect** is crucial. During this section of learning students **revisit recent learning** and **link it** to what's coming next. This simple routine strengthens memory, builds confidence, and aims to get every brain in the room switched on. Connecting and revisiting learning is key in the long-term retention of knowledge

How you can help at home (in 5 minutes or less):

- **3–2–1 recall:** “Tell me **3** things you learned today, **2** key words, and **1** question you still have about what you learned today.”
- **Bridge builder:** “What can you remember from last week will help with a lesson **tomorrow**?”
- **Word warm-up:** Ask your child to tell you about one new subject word that they have learned (e.g., *osmosis*, *metaphor*). Ask your child to tell you what the word means.

Ready-to-learn check: What lessons do you have tomorrow/next week? Are you prepared?

Rowing Commentary – Week 2 on the River Dee

What a brilliant second lesson out on the water this week! The students took on the challenge of mastering the four sculls and the double, and their enthusiasm was matched only by their teamwork. This week's focus was all about launching the larger boats and learning how to stabilise them a crucial skill for safe and confident rowing. The highlight of the session was Mrs Wright stepping in as cox for the four! With her guidance, the crew managed to row upstream in a straight line, showing impressive coordination and control. Even more impressive was the smooth turning manoeuvre—no tipping, no panic, just calm, collected teamwork.

It is clear that the students are growing in confidence and skill with each session. The River Dee provided the perfect backdrop for today's progress, and we're already looking forward to next week's adventure on the water.



A visit from the Director of Education

On Thursday 9th October, we were delighted to welcome Sal Thirlwell, Director of Education, to our school. He met with members of the Student Parliament ahead of the annual CRAG Conference, which will be held on Tuesday at Chester Racecourse where students will be presenting on the One City Plan about their thoughts on inclusion.

<https://www.crag.uk/>



International Harry Potter Day

We had a very successful Harry Potter Book Day on Thursday the 9th October. Mrs Thompson turned the library in to Hogwarts and students came to play 'Pin the scar on Harry' and indoor Quidditch. They designed socks for Dobby and Mrs Edwards created a fantastic Potions lesson, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. It was a superb event and lots of children, from across the school, came to celebrate the anniversary of the release of these iconic books



Black History Month

Catering Team Celebrate Culture and Wellbeing

This week, our fantastic catering team have been celebrating Black History Month by preparing a delicious traditional menu of Jollof rice and jerk chicken, bringing vibrant flavours and cultural heritage to the Blacon High dining hall. The dishes were a huge hit with students and staff alike, sparking conversations about the rich traditions behind these much-loved meals. In addition, to mark World Mental Health Awareness Day, the team baked special yellow biscuits, symbolising positivity and support for mental wellbeing. We are so grateful for their creativity and commitment to making lunchtimes at Blacon both meaningful and memorable!



Job of the week

Job of the week this week is a Sleep Technologist

A sleep technologist, also known as a polysomnographic technologist, is a trained professional who conducts sleep studies (polysomnograms) to help diagnose sleep disorders by monitoring and recording a patient's sleep stages and cycles. These professionals capture crucial data during sleep, which is then used by healthcare providers to diagnose conditions like sleep apnoea, insomnia, and narcolepsy.

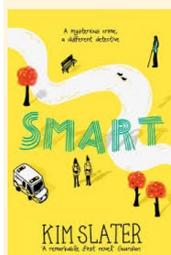
To find out more click the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWNxCJ-cpTY>



Whole School Reading

Whole school reading is a collaborative approach where all staff work together to promote a love of reading across the school, creating a shared culture that supports every pupil in becoming a confident and motivated reader.

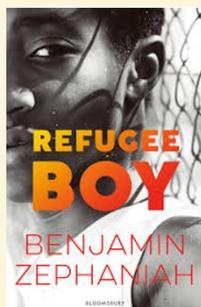


Year 7 'Smart' by Kim Slater

Synopsis - There's been a murder, but the police don't care. It was only a homeless old man after all. Kieran cares. He's made a promise and when you say something out loud, that means you're going to do it, for real. He's going to find out what really happened.

Year 8 -'Goldfish Boy' by Lisa Thompson

Synopsis - Matthew Corbin, a 12-year-old boy with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) who is confined to his house and spends his time observing his neighbours from his bedroom window. When his next-door neighbour's toddler, Teddy Dawson, goes missing, Matthew realizes he was the last person to see Teddy and must use his keen observation skills to help solve the mystery and find the child. With the help of his classmates, Jake and Melody, Matthew turns detective to unravel the disappearance,

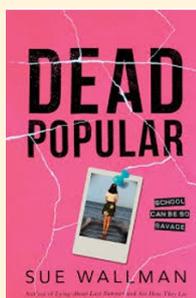


Year 9 – 'Refugee boy' by Benjamin Zephaniah OR 'They both die in the end' by Adam Silvera

Synopsis for 'Refugee boy' - Alem Kelo, a boy of Ethiopian and Eritrean descent, who is left in London by his father to escape the violence of the war between their home countries. Alem's journey through the British asylum system, from care to a foster home, is a story of adapting to a new culture while facing



Synopsis for 'They both die at the end' - They Both Die at the End is about two strangers, Mateo Torrez and Rufus Emeterio, who are notified by a company called Death-Cast that they have less than 24 hours to live on September 5th. Despite their initial isolation, they connect through the Last Friend app and decide to spend their final day together. The novel follows their whirlwind adventure as they experience new things, fall in love, and confront their fears, all leading up to their predicted deaths

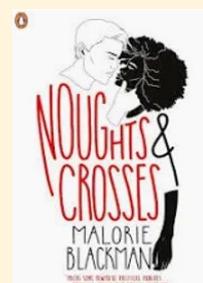


Year 10 – 'Dead popular' by Sue Wallman

Synopsis - Kate Jordan-Ferreira is a ruthless "queen bee" at an elite boarding school who faces a deadly game when a series of anonymous secrets about students—including Kate's own—are revealed. After an illicit party ends in a student's death, Kate must confront the dangerous secrets of the school and her past before she becomes the next victim.

Year 11 – 'Noughts and Crosses' by Malorie Blackman

Synopsis - Noughts & Crosses tells the story of Sephy and Callum, two teenagers from opposing racial castes in a society mirroring the real-world Jim Crow South. Sephy, a privileged Cross (dark-skinned ruling class), and Callum, a Nought (lighter-skinned underclass), fall in love, challenging the heavily prejudiced and discriminatory society that forbids their relationship. Their forbidden romance leads them into a world of escalating terrorist violence, family loyalty tests, and personal betrayal, ultimately exploring themes of racism, injustice, and the destructive nature of hate .

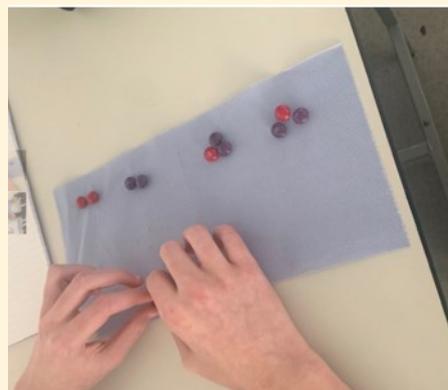


Balancing Equations in Science

Year 9 students have been learning how to balance chemical equations, a key skill in understanding reactions.

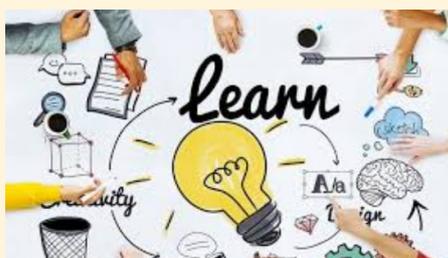
To make this tricky topic more visual and fun, we used sweets to represent different atoms.

By rearranging the sweets to show both sides of an equation, students could clearly see how the number of each type of atom must stay the same. This hands-on approach helped bring chemistry to life and made balancing equations a lot more colourful! To find out what your child is learning each term, please see the curriculum overview maps available on the school website. <https://www.blaconhighschool.net/page/?title=Subjects&pid=88>



Year 11 Achievements

We are incredibly proud of Charlie, who dedicates his weekends to tutoring children in The Gambia, helping them to improve their English skills. His commitment to supporting others and sharing his knowledge is truly inspiring, and he is making a real difference in the lives of young learners overseas.



A huge congratulations also goes to Jake, who recently represented Chester FC Under-16s and scored the winning goal in an exciting 2–1 victory against the Bradford City Academy. Jake's hard work, teamwork, and determination on the pitch have really paid off – well done, Jake!



Drama Club: Curtis Jobling's Wyrddwood Book Tour at Storyhouse

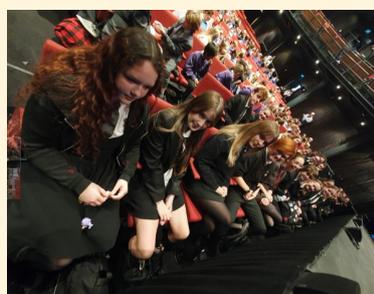
On Wednesday 8th October Dr Salisbury and Mrs Thompson escorted our Senior Drama Club and Year 10 Performing Arts students to Storyhouse to experience the work of the celebrated animator, illustrator and author Curtis Jobling on his nationwide tour.

Curtis Jobling is the original designer of BAFTA-winning Bob the Builder, and creator of the hit animated BBC shows Frankenstein's Cat and Raa Raa the Noisy Lion. Curtis also writes for older audiences. His world series of novels have sold a million copies worldwide, with the first book, Rise of the Wolf, having been shortlisted for the Waterstones Book Prize. This epic fantasy series has been adapted into a major new Netflix show, Wolf King, which has been viewed by millions globally.

His new novel for children, Wyrddwood – a folk horror set on the Isle of Man – is published this Autumn. Our students were treated to a presentation from Curtis that covered all his work in film, publishing and TV. He showcased his characters from the small screen with animation and live illustration, explaining the skills and artistry required for a career in animation, illustration and film making, with examples from his own experiences working on his characters and storylines with colleagues from Pixar and Disney in addition to local artists in North West Studios. Students were then introduced to the links between Disney films and the Grimm Fairy Tales, which led seamlessly into his introduction to the thrills and perils of the haunted Wyrddwood, culminating in a chilling reading from the novel. Curtis shared with students the importance of reading and of hobbies to support them in their career pathways. We met Curtis after the show where he answered questions from the students and signed a copy of his new book for our Library.

Dr Julie Salisbury

Head of Performing Arts



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



Extra Curricular Activities, Lunch and After School Clubs

Week 1 Lunch Clubs

Day	Club	Years	Location	Staff member
Monday	Dance	7	Studio	Miss Joynson
Monday	Football	All	MUGA	Mr Cairns
Monday	Science	7	316	Mrs Edwards
Monday	Drama	7	Studio	Dr Salisbury
Monday	Maths	KS4	506	Mr Pedder
Tuesday	Football	All	MUGA	Mr Cairns
Tuesday	Health and Social Drop in	KS4	311	Mr Gordon/ Miss Eccles
Wednesday	Football	All	MUGA	Mr Cairns
Wednesday	Maths	KS3	502	Miss Price
Wednesday	Textiles club	KS3	112	Miss Wright
Wednesday	History hot scholars	All	318	Miss Liddell
Wednesday	Eco Council	All	315	Mrs Hughes
Thursday	Dance	8	Studio	Miss Joynson
Thursday	Physics club	All	202	Mrs Lewis
Thursday	Football	All	MUGA	Mr Cairns
Thursday	Volleyball	All	Sports hall	Mr Cairns
Friday	Football	All	MUGA	Mr Cairns
Friday	Chess club	All	302	Mr Green

Week 1 After school clubs

Day	Club	Years	Location	Staff member
Monday	Performing arts coursework club	KS4	Studio	Dr Salisbury
Monday	Football	KS3	3G	Mr Cairns
Monday	Business studies P6	11		Mr Slade
Monday	Cadets	All	Containers on field	Miss Joynson
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		Mr Pedder
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

World Mental Health Day

In assemblies this week, Mrs Hudson has spoken to students about what we can do to support mental health. Mental health is an essential part of overall well-being, affecting how we think, feel, and act in our daily lives. It influences how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices. Good mental health doesn't mean feeling happy all the time - it means being able to manage life's challenges, recover from setbacks, and maintain a sense of balance and purpose. Just like physical health, mental health requires care and attention, whether through talking to someone we trust, practicing self-care, or seeking professional support when needed. Promoting mental health helps create stronger individuals, families, and communities. For sources of support, please see this area of our website.

<https://www.blaconhighschool.net/page/?title=Mental+Health+and+Wellbeing&pid=84>

Where can I go for help?

In school, talk to;

- ✓ Form Tutor
- ✓ Progress Leader
- ✓ Learning Mentor
- ✓ Family Support
- ✓ Teaching Assistant
- ✓ Teacher
- ✓ Support Staff
- ✓ Student Leaders
- ✓ Mental Health First Aiders
- ✓ Mentors
- ✓ Platform for Life

Online – Links on school website

<https://www.blaconhighschool.net/page/?title=Mental+Health+and+Wellbeing&pid=84>



MINDSHIFT APP

This app helps teens by giving strategies and tools to help deal with everyday anxiety.



SMILING MIND APP

A free meditation app developed by psychologists and educators for young people aged 7-18.



HAPPY NOT PERFECT APP

This app has simple exercises to help with mental wellbeing.



ASPIRE BELIEVE ACHIEVE

More than a school



Home Learning

HOME LEARNING

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays

P6: 3.10 - 4.00

ROOM 202

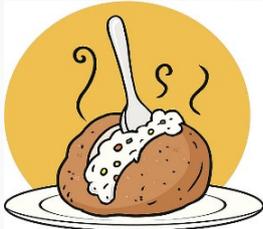
Need a quiet place to do your home learning? Need a computer? Come and use the room and computers to complete any Home Learning. Staff will also be available if you need help.

Mrs. Lewis



ASPIRE BELIEVE ACHIEVE

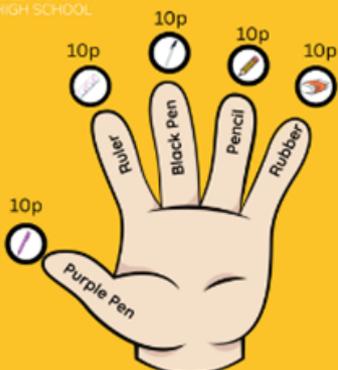
Menu for week beginning 13th October 2025

Area	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 – Week Commencing 13/10/2025					
Hot Serve Main: (£2.40) Drink: 80p Cake: 80p	Loaded chilli and rice Nachos	Macaroni cheese with crispy bacon	Sausage, mash, peas and gravy Or veggie sausage, mash, peas and gravy	Fajitas or veggie Fajitas	Fish, waffles and beans
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



BLACON
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