



Blacon's Blog

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

BLACON
HIGH SCHOOL

ISSUE 9 7th November 2025

Headlines - Message from the Head

It has been a pleasure to welcome everyone back this week for Autumn Term 2. Five students from each year group received an Amazon voucher for the prize draws held in assembly each day, for all those in the 100% club - those students with 100% attendance for the last 4 weeks of term. We have spoken to every year group about the importance of attending each day and how days off, costs grades and impacts on future earnings. This has been re-set for this term so all students have the chance to be in this club. As a staff, we thoroughly enjoyed making 155 positive phone calls home during the last week of term to congratulate students on their success. Building relationships is at the heart of our core values and it was truly a pleasure to talk to so many parents about the achievements and contributions of their children. I am incredibly proud of Muley and Elena in Year 7 whose flag designs were selected from 180 schools across the globe, to be displayed in Antarctica.

It was a privilege to receive some superb feedback from the Senior Lecturer in Art and Design at the University of Chester just yesterday who commented on the notable improvements across school from just 2 years ago. We hosted a day of Associate Teachers who came in as part of their training, to work with students and staff in our outstanding faculty of Art and Technology - a department who consistently achieve superb outcomes, well above the national average.

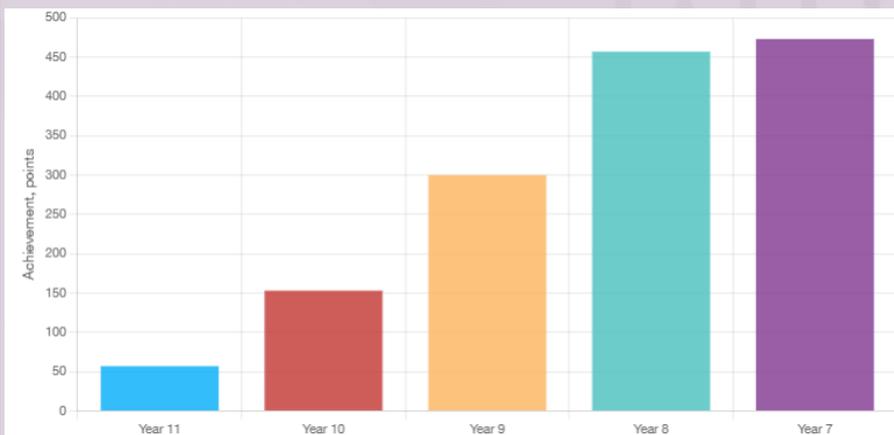
We are proud of Year 11 for the way they have approached their mock examinations and of Year 9 for their hard work in completing assessments throughout the week. Welcome back as we continue to celebrate all that makes Blacon great in the countdown to Christmas.

Rachel Hudson - Headteacher

Rewards for this week

Congratulations to students for a great return to school and for all of the achievement points given. We have made an excellent start to this half term and would like to congratulate students on their efforts so far. **Well done to Year7 for achieving the most this week.**

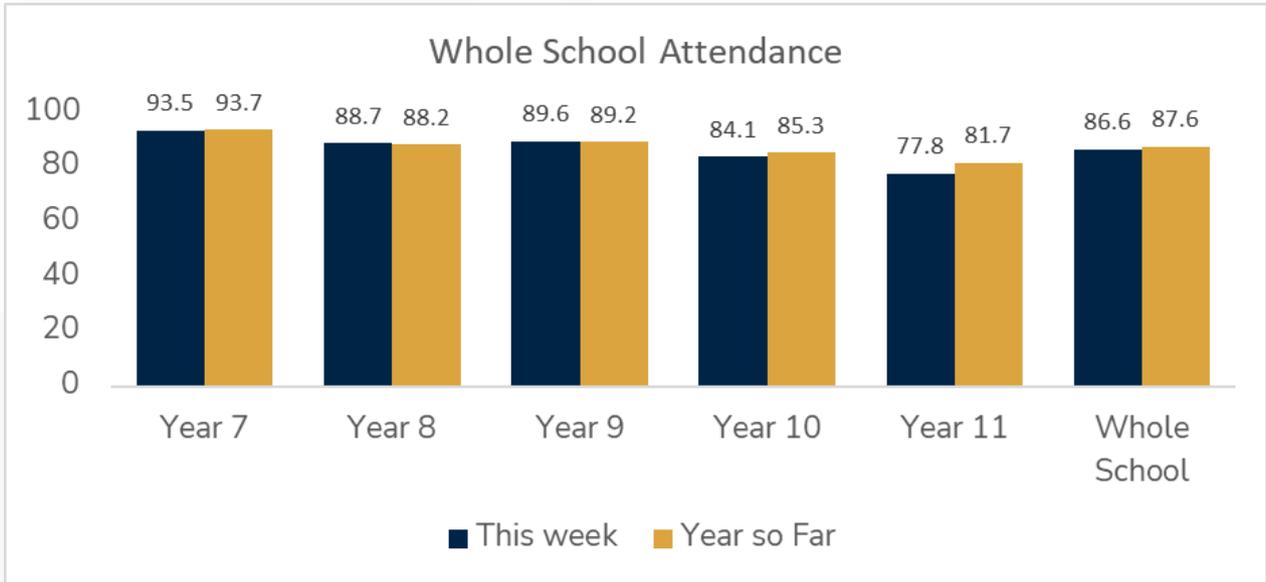
Achievement Points Week 9:



Year	Total Points
11	57
10	153
9	300
8	457
7	473

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

The attendance for the whole school so far is 87.6% with attendance for this week being at 86.6%. All students with **100% attendance** over the last 4 weeks of this half term, were entered into a prize draw for vouchers in each year group, which was drawn this week. Aim to be in the 100% club this term . Days off cost grades and affect next steps so please work with us to ensure your child attends.



"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.

NHS

JOIN THE 100% CLUB

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

- Attend school every day**

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.
- 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.

ENTER TO WIN PRIZES

Community Carols - Monday 8th December 2025

Our choir and band will be joining students from all of the Blacon Primary schools for the annual Community Carol Concert. The event will be held at Holy Trinity Church and is always a wonderful occasion that brings the whole community together. Parents and carers are invited to attend.



Dates for the diary

- Thursday 20th November - Celebration Evening 6- 7.30pm
- Thursday 27th November - Flu Vaccinations in school
- **Friday 28th November - School closed for Staff Training Day**
- Monday 8th December 9am to 4pm: Dress and technical rehearsal for The Snow Queen
- Tuesday 9th December 9am to 9pm: Dress and technical rehearsal for The Snow Queen 9am to 11am, matinee performance of The Snow Queen at 11.15am, evening performance of The Snow Queen at 7pm
- Thursday 11th December - Year 11 Progress Evening 4 - 7.30 - Please join us for Hot pot, bread, mince pies and hot chocolate available for students and parents from 3.30
- 15th December - Reward Assemblies week
- Friday 19th December - Break up for Christmas at 12 noon

Year 11 Mock Examinations Continue

Year 11 have worked hard this week in their mock examinations. The exams continue next week and finish on Friday 14th November. These exams provide an important opportunity for students to experience exam conditions and assess their progress ahead of the summer GCSEs. We encourage all students to prepare thoroughly and use the half-term break to complete any final revision.

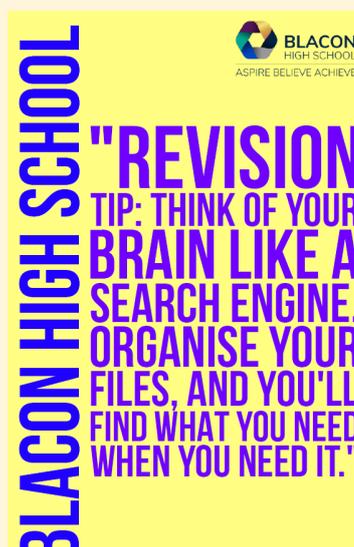
Please find links to letters sent out to parents before half term with details of what to revise and how to support at home.

[Year 11 Exam Access Letter](#)

[Year 11 Mock Exams letter](#)

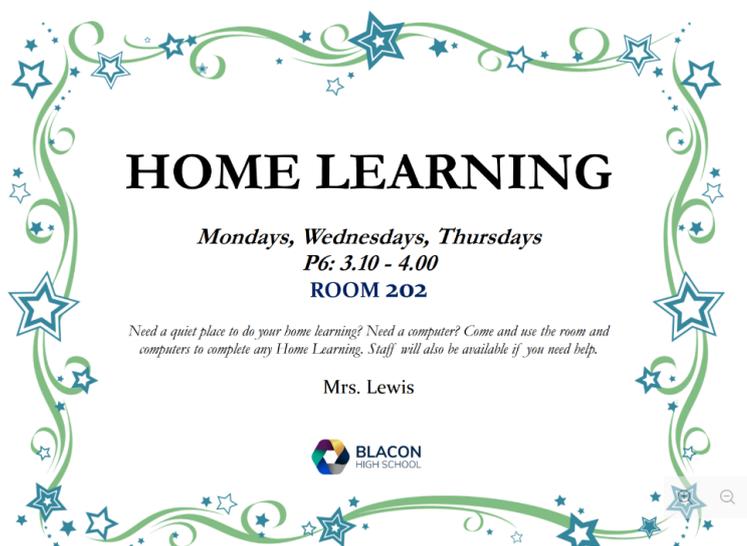
Day	Mon 10 Nov	Tues 11 Nov	Wed 12 Nov	Thur 13 Nov	Fri 14 Nov
P1	Maths 3 Exam	Eng Lit Exam	Eng	Op B	PSHE
P2			Sci/RE	Ma	Ma
Break					
P3	Physics Exam		Op C	Eng	Eng
P4		Op B	Ma/PE	Op D	Op C
Lunch					
P5	Op B	Op D	Ma/PE	Sci	Op A

Op A	Geography, History, Performing Arts, Sport
Op B	Marketing, IT, Geography, History, Music, Animal Care
Op C	Art, Marketing, Child Development, Product Design, Sport, RE
Op D	Art, French, Health, IMedia, Media Studies, Product Design, Sport, Food



Year 9 Assessments

Year 9 have worked hard this week to complete assessments and this will continue in lessons next week. Please talk to your child about what they need to revise and support them. If students need a place to work or access to a computer, they can attend home learning club on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.



Please see link to letter sent to Year 9 parents with details of what to revise and how to prepare for the assessments.

[Year 9 Letter Assessments November 2025](#)

Positive Phone Calls Home

31 staff

155 calls

24% of the school

Builds relationships

Boost morale

Increases motivation

During the last week of term, 31 staff made positive calls home to 155 parents. This means that 24% of the school received a positive phone call home from staff. It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to speak to so many parents to let them know how proud we are of their children and their achievements so far. This generated a genuine buzz of positivity

and was a lovely way to end the first half term.

We look forward to speaking to more parents again this half term and to celebrating achievements in the rewards assemblies, which are held at the end of term, just before Christmas.

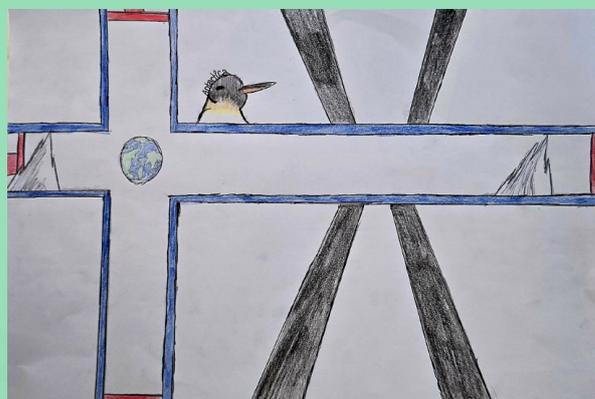


Geography Success - Winning Flags in Antarctica

The "Royal British Antarctic Competition to design flags for schools" is a national outreach initiative organised by the UK Polar Network that encourages students to design a flag for Antarctica. Schools can participate in these flag competitions, which culminate in winning designs being sent to Antarctica via polar researchers, such as those from the British Antarctic Survey.

Students learn about the continent and its environmental importance, and the researchers send back photos of the flags in Antarctica, sometimes documented on the UK Polar Network's website and social media. The initiative aims to inspire new generations about Antarctica by connecting them with scientific research and raising awareness for Antarctica Day.

Over 180 schools from around the world entered and we are delighted that two of our Year 7 students, Muley C and Elena E won. Their flags will now be displayed in Antarctica by a Scientist in the New Year and we are pleased to share the winning designs with you below.



Sweet Treats for the end of Half Term

Years 7, 10, and 11 had a fantastic time in the final week of half term, making delicious chocolate apples and cake pops. The highlight for many was dipping the apples in melted chocolate and decorating them with colourful sprinkles and toffee fudge pieces. The cake pops sparked plenty of curiosity when students discovered the secret ingredient — a mix of crumbled Biscoff biscuits and Philadelphia cream cheese, rolled into bite-sized balls before being decorated. One enthusiastic Year 7 student couldn't resist sampling several (and claimed he was saving a few for his brother!).

In the Inclusion Centre, everyone agreed that making and tasting the treats was the best part — although the same can't be said for the cleaning up! Miss Lloyd and Miss McMillan have warned that next time, if the cleaning doesn't meet their high standards, there will be no taste testing privileges!

Miss Lloyd and Miss McMillan



Reward Winners for 100% Attendance

Congratulations to the following students for winning the voucher in the 100% attendance prize draw.

Mark Year 7

Alex Year 8

Michael Year 9

Stanley Year 10

Year 11 to be drawn next week



Students in Years 7 and 8 with the highest number of achievement points in each tutor group, have also been awarded special badges to recognise their efforts last term. This is a new initiative launched this term, to ensure that students' hard work ethic is rewarded.



History Highlights

This week, Year 7 have been enjoying the Roman armour and shield from the Grosvenor Museum in Chester. Many of our students tried on the armour and experienced what a soldier would feel like in Roman times. Even Mr Jones and Jayden in Year 11 gave it a go!



Year 10 have also been recreating key turning points in the Spanish Armada out of play dough as part of our studies of the Elizabethan Age GCSE course. Here you can see: Fire ships, soldiers, Scottish storms and Francis Drake.



Science - Looking at Eyes

A Closer Look at How the Body Works!

Year 8 students have been fully engaged in some fascinating hands-on learning this week as they took part in an eye dissection activity. This practical lesson helped bring their science studies to life, allowing pupils to explore the structure and function of the eye in detail. By carefully examining the different parts — such as the lens, iris, and retina — students gained a deeper understanding of how the human body works and how we are able to see the world around us.

Although a few found the experience a little squeamish at first, most were captivated by the opportunity to see real-life anatomy up close, making it a memorable and educational session for everyone involved.

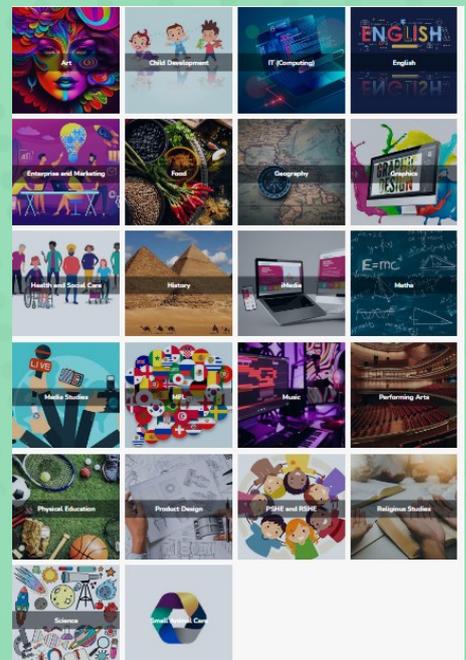


What is your child learning?

For more information on what your child is learning in each subject, please visit our website. This provides an overview of all the topics covered so that you can ask your child questions about their learning, to support their understanding and progress.

Each section provides an overview of the subject with links to online resources and careers that students can follow, along with an explanation of how the subjects are assessed.

<https://www.blaconhighschool.net/page/?title=Subjects&pid=88>



Visit of Associate Teachers from University of Chester in Art and Design

Chester university associate teachers spent the day in the Art and Technology faculty as part of an intensive training day focussed on modelling. The day consisted of a tour, lesson observations, practical workshops and a Q and A with Head of Technology Miss Wright and Assistant Headteacher, Mr Haycock.

The Associate Teachers gained invaluable experience spending the day in a new school and fully immersed themselves into the faculty. Spending time to talk to our staff and get to know our students.

The practical workshops where a great success, students got fully involved had fun and learning a number of new techniques- producing some creative outcomes! In food they focused on nutrition and the eat well guide. In technology students designed inserts for their memory boxes they are making with Mrs Adamson. In Art, Year 9 created a variety of outcomes based on the artist Lucinda Roger's and graphics students got some great experimental water colour pieces and printed with actual fruit for their course-work folders. We look forward to welcoming them back next year.

I am delighted to share this feedback with parents and the community from Senior Lecturer and Subject Lead in Art and Design at the University of Chester.

Thank you so much for having us, it was an invaluable experience for the trainees. We have worked with your school in providing these days since 2023 I believe, I personally have had the pleasure in seeing the improved impact on the school in general in visiting today.

When we visited in 2023, the school I believe was working on developing the quality of behaviour for learning. What struck us at the time was the contrast of behaviour on the corridors compared to the behaviour in Art and Design and Technology. It was clear then that students really valued and respected the subject and the staff within these subjects. It helped the Associate Teachers to see the value of our subject. We really enjoyed our visit.

Since our visit then compared to today the improvements are so notable as an external visitor, the corridors today were so calm, there was order throughout the school and in all classrooms as we had a full tour. The pupils were an absolute delight as we walked around the school, saying hello and enquiring on why we were there. Macey was a pupil that particularly stood out and we gave her some very positive feedback as we left. The quality of provision for Art and D and T was good then, but since then this has also notably improved as well!

It is clear that the relationships that you build at the school are at the heart of everything you do, on visiting your inclusion space I did say it felt like a warm hug.

Thank you for this experience, well done to all the staff and leaders for your hard work it has clearly had an impact.

We will most definitely recommend our Associate Teachers apply for any future opportunities and we look forward to working with you next year.

Leanne Mee

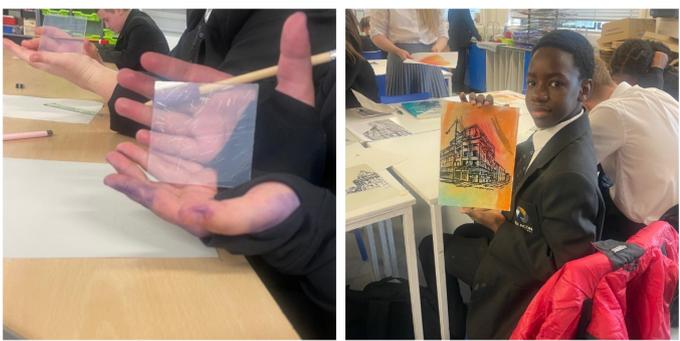
Senior Lecturer and Subject Leader of Design and Technology PGCE

School of Education

University of Chester



Visit of Associate Teachers from University of Chester in Art and Design



University of
Chester



Job of the week

Job of the week this week is a Packaging Designer.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHEmmG5tLYo>

Packaging designers are responsible for designing the look and packaging of products. Their job is to ensure the packaging is fit for purpose to protect the product, catches the customer's attention and matches the brand's image.



Flu Vaccine

Nasal and Intramuscular Flu Vaccination

Your child is due to have their flu vaccine. The school session is booked for **27th November 2025**.

The vaccine helps protect your child from flu. Flu can make people feel very unwell and can be serious. The vaccine also helps stop flu spreading to family and friends.

Most children will get the nasal spray. Some children may need the injection instead. This might be because of health, religion, or diet.

Please choose which one you want your child to have on the consent form. Fill in the consent form using the link below by **20th November 2025**:

<https://nhslmms.azurewebsites.net/session/27ef4f31>

If you do not want your child to have the flu vaccine, please let us know using the same link.

If you have any problems using the link, please telephone 0333 358 3397.

For more information about the flu vaccine please follow the link below:

[Children's flu vaccine - NHS](#)

NHS

flu: 5 reasons to have the vaccine

- 1. Protect yourself**
The vaccine will help protect you against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia
- 2. Protect your family and friends**
Having the vaccine will help protect more vulnerable friends and family
- 3. No injection needed**
The nasal spray is painless and easy to have
- 4. It's better than having flu**
The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions worldwide and has an excellent safety record
- 5. Avoid lost opportunities**
If you get flu, you may be unwell for several days and not be able to do the things you enjoy

For more information visit www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Most children have the nasal spray vaccine which is the preferred vaccine. A vaccine injection is also available which does not contain gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine).

Flu **mmunisation**
Helping to protect you against flu

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

Follow our twitter account @BlaconPE



THC Vaping Parent/Guardian Resource

Introduction

There has been an increase in young people using vapes and in particular experimenting with THC vaping. THC is the chemical that gives the 'high' effect in cannabis. The latest reports show that this has led to some young people overdosing on THC, causing them to become unwell and needing medical attention. This resource has been created to give information to support conversations with your child around THC vaping. You will read about THC vaping, the short term and long term effects as well as the legalities to help you make the most informed decisions to keep your child safe and happy.

What is Vaping?

Vaping is the inhalation of vapor from a vaping device or e-cigarette. These devices are electronic, and they heat a liquid to a vapour to be inhaled. The liquid is usually a mixture containing nicotine, propylene glycol and/or vegetable glycerine, and flavourings. Other liquids can be added to the vape.

What is THC Vaping?

The most common emerging trend amongst young people is to add THC oil to their vaping liquid. THC oil is a sticky thick, yellowy brown liquid which comes from the cannabis plant. THC is the chemical that gives the 'high' effect and it is illegal in the UK.



How Do I Know My Child is Vaping?

Vaping tends to produce clouds of smoke that are scentless and disappear quickly, so it can be difficult to sense if your child is using a vape. Vaping is relatively new still, and little is known about the short term effects, however it is generally thought that vaping is less harsh than smoking as it is generally tobacco free and has less chemicals than cigarettes, which is why it is a popular method for stopping smoking. The short term effects of vaping can also vary depending on what is in the vaping liquid such as the nicotine content. However inhaling any substances is not entirely risk free. Below are some images of different styles of vape or e cigarettes.

**THC
Vaping**



How Do I Know My Child is Vaping THC?

Vaping THC will have similar effects to using cannabis. Vaping THC as opposed to smoking cannabis allows a larger amount of THC to be inhaled very quickly, potentially causing overdosing. The effects of vaping THC depends on the amount of THC/CBD in the vape, your child's mood, the environment and how often it is used. The short term effects are listed on the right and can be signs your child has vaped THC oil.

**Short Term Effects Of
Vaping THC**
Blood shot eyes
Dazed/dreamy demeanour
Short term memory loss
Faint/feeling sick
The giggles
The munchies
Dry mouth
Paranoia
Anxiety

You can watch more about the short term effects on this talktofrank video.
FRANK: Cannabis Side Effects - YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ASKyLdSa_E

Will Vaping THC Effect My Child's Health Long Term?

The long term health effects of vaping are still being studied. It is believed that whilst vaping is not risk free as it still contains chemicals, it contains a significant amount less than a traditional cigarette as there is no tobacco therefore no tar or carbon monoxide. Studies are beginning in the USA on the impact of vaping on the lungs. However we know that vaping THC can cause the same long term health effects as cannabis use which are laid out below.

You Can read more on the NHS website about Vaping to stop smoking. Using e-Cigarettes to stop smoking - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

The long term effects of cannabis use can include the increased risk of psychotic illness such as schizophrenia as well as other mental health issues.

Schizophrenia = delusions and hallucinations.

- Delusions – believing things that are not true
- Hallucinations – seeing things that are not really there

Risk of schizophrenia is increased if you use cannabis from a young age, frequent use, stronger cannabis i.e. skunk, and family history of schizophrenia.

Mental Health - Anxiety and paranoia Hallucinations

These can happen during use, and may settle when stopped but use can also aggravate existing mental health issues.

You Can read more on the NHS website about the mental and physical effects associated with Cannabis use. Cannabis: the facts - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

Vaping and The Law

Cannabis is an illegal Class B drug. There are consequences for the illegal possession, supply and production of cannabis. Possession – having (possessing) cannabis in any form including edibles can get you up to 5 years in prison, unlimited fine or both. Supply - supplying cannabis which includes giving it to your friends for free or sharing it with them can get you up to 14 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both. Dealing - selling cannabis for any sized financial gain can get you up to 14 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both. Trafficking - moving it around the country on transport or through private vehicle etc. can get you up to 14 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both. Production - producing cannabis whether growing for self consumption or to be sold can get you up to 14 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both. Young people who use cannabis are at increased risk of child criminal exploitation (CCE), and to be groomed into County Lines operations, see below for more information

**THC
Vaping**

To read more about the legality of Cannabis please see the government website Drugs penalties - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). To learn more about County lines and CCE, see The Children's Society website What Is County Lines? The Children's Society (Childrensociety.org.uk).

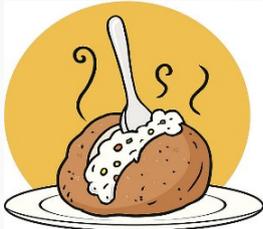
How can I help my child?

It can be difficult to know the best way to support your child if you are concerned. Speaking with professionals already working with your child is the first step such as teachers, and key workers. Below are local and national services to find more information and support for your child.

National

- Childline - 0800 1111
- Frank - talktofrank.com 0300 123 6600 frank@talktofrank.com text - 82111
- youngminds - youngminds.org.uk
- ADFAM - adfam.org.uk
- Samaritans - samaritans.org
- The Children's Society - Childrensociety.org.uk
- MIND - mind.org.uk
- CYPMHs - NHS mental health support nhs.uk - search CYPMHs

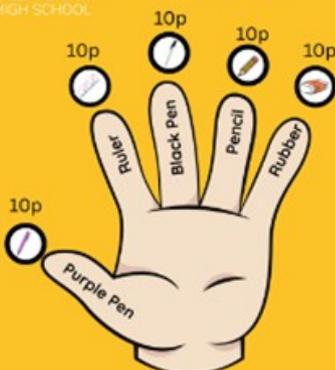
Menu for week beginning 10th November 2025

Area	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 2– Week Commencing 10/11/025					
Hot Serve Main: (£2.40) Drink: 80p Cake: 80p	Chicken Tikka Masala or Vegetable Tikka Masala with Rice and Naan Bread	Sausage or Vegetarian Sausage with Waffles and Beans	Macaroni Cheese or Macaroni Cheese with Crispy Bacon	Meatball Sub or Vegetarian Meatball Sub	Chicken Burger or Veggie Burger with Beans and Croquettes
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
 HIGH SCHOOL



BLACON HIGH SCHOOL

"REVISION
TIP: THINK OF YOUR
BRAIN LIKE A
SEARCH ENGINE.
ORGANISE YOUR
FILES, AND YOU'LL
FIND WHAT YOU NEED
WHEN YOU NEED IT."