



Blacon's Blog

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

ISSUE 11 - 21st November 2025

BLACON
HIGH SCHOOL

Headlines - Message from the Head

It was a pleasure to celebrate with Governors, staff and students at our annual awards evening last night. As always, it was a superb event with former students returning and joining together to mark their achievements. We also had the privilege of listening to Catrin Pugh, our guest speaker who shared her personal story of courage, resilience and determination which helped to get her through an accident where 96% of her body was burnt. She was not expected to survive, but due to the help of an amazing medical team along with the support of her family and friends, she not only survived, but has used her story to inspire others and inspire she did. Catrin talked about the character and traits she needed to help her and how the opportunities and experiences she had along the way, helped her through this most challenging time. Catrin is now an advocate for working with others on challenging views around the way that people look, aiming for a more inclusive society.

In school, it has been great to reward students for excellent behaviour, progress and engagement and we continue to encourage students to be here every day so they can be entered into the prize draw at Christmas for 100% attendance. Our attendance has improved this week and we ask for your support in helping us to move it to over 90% - every hour and every day counts.

This week, we have a feature article on the work of Performing Arts, please look out for dates where their work will be showcased this term. At the awards evening, we enjoyed a musical piece from the students who have auditioned for Matilda - it was fantastic and we are very much looking forward to the production next July. I wish you all a restful weekend and thank you for your continued support.

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 Year 8 for achieving the most this week.**

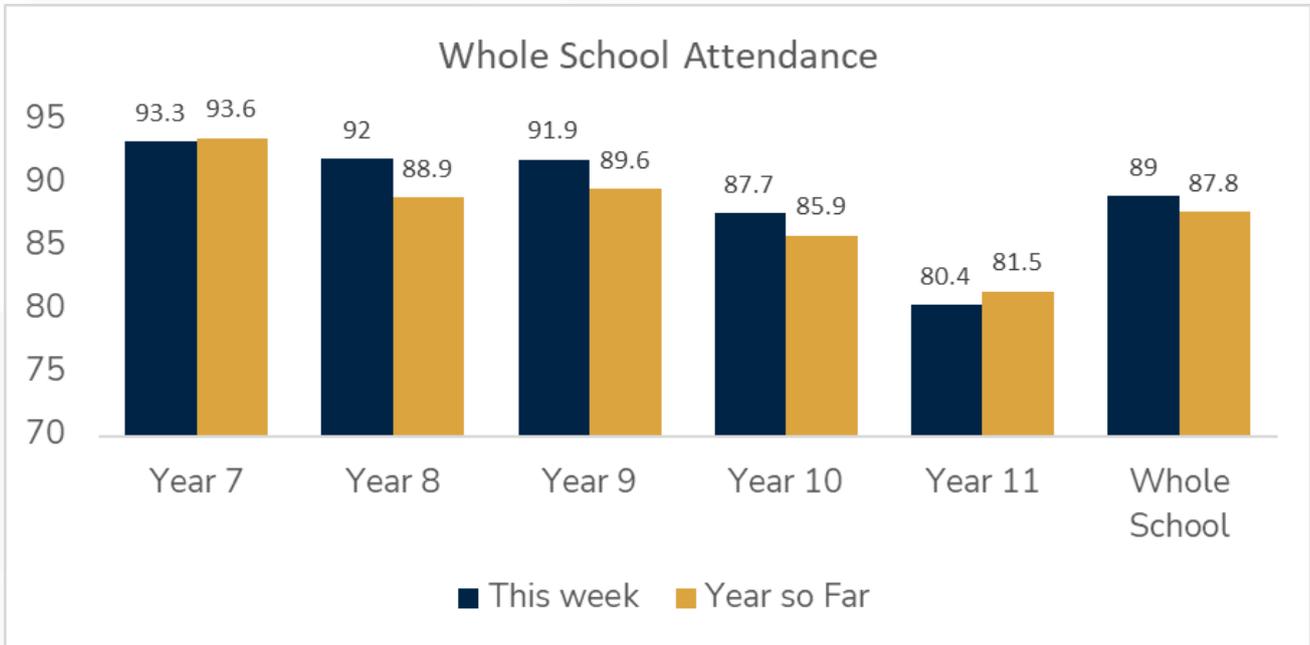
Achievement Points Week 11:



Year	Total Points
11	207
10	244
9	297
8	655
7	493

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

The attendance for the whole school so far is 87.8% with attendance for this week being at 89.0%. 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, 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. We need attendance to be 95% and over.



"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?

- ### 1 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.
- ### 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.

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

Parent Governor Election December 2025

A vacancy has opened on Blacon High School's governing board.

We are currently seeking a new parent governor, who will work as part of the governing board to provide confident and strategic leadership and to create robust accountability, oversight, and assurance for the school's educational and financial performance.

As a parent governor, you will work with the board to make sure it effectively carries out its duties. You will also play a vital role in bringing a parental perspective to the governing board.

To be a parent governor you should have:

- A strong commitment to the role and to improving outcomes for children;
- Good interpersonal skills, curiosity, and a willingness to learn and develop new skills;

If you are interested in nominating yourself for this role, please visit our school website for the Parent Governor Candidate Application Form, which will be available on our school website.

Completed forms can be returned to lmchugh@blaconhigh.cheshire.sch.uk.

Onwards and Upwards

Governing bodies are a critical part of ensuring that our schools are moving in the right direction.

Are you passionate about improving outcomes for children?

Do you have ideas on how to contribute to the strategic vision of the school?

Do you want to make a difference in our school community?

We currently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor - and it could be **you**.



Celebration Evening 20th November 2025

Thank you to all those who attended our Celebration Evening on Thursday night. It was wonderful to celebrate all your many successes and achievements together.



BLACON
HIGH SCHOOL

ASPIRE BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Combined Cadet Force Assembly

On Wednesday, Year 9 attended an assembly by the Combined Cadet Force (CCF). Many students in our school already take part in this organisation, as one of 500 secondary schools involved in the programme across the UK.

Students find it a rewarding and challenging experience, and all students in Year 8 and above are welcome to sign up and join.

For more information, please visit <https://combinedcadetforce.org.uk/>



Children in Need Bake Sale



Last Friday, members of staff brought in a dazzling array of cakes for students to buy at break time to raise money for Children in Need. The collection of baked goods looked spectacular in the diner, which had been decorated by our wonderful catering team with spots in honour of the occasion.

The baked creations of our staff members then went head-to-head in a Children in Need Bake Off. It was impossible to pick just one winner, so this year two winners were chosen across two categories. Congratulations to Miss Broadbent, winner

of the 'Professional' category for her amazing Christmas-themed cake, and to Miss Price, winner of the 'Amateur' category with her equally amazing Maths-themed creation.



The total raised by our school stands at **£91.00** - thank you to all who donated.

Chester Schools Together – Lifeguard Qualification Success

Chester Schools Together (CST) is a partnership between The King's School, Bishops' Blue Coat School, Blacon High School, Catholic High School Chester, Upton High School, Queens Park High School and Christleton High School.

For more information about this, please visit

<https://www.schoolstogether.org/formal-partnerships/chester-schools-together/>

CST is generously funded by The Westminster Foundation, whose support enables these opportunities to take place. The partnership collaborates to offer a rich calendar of events and projects that benefit both students and staff across all member schools. Previous CST initiatives have included:



- Saturday Masterclasses (Scalextric in Schools)
- Diversity and Inclusion Conference
- ADHD Staff and Pupil Conference
- Storyhouse Performing Arts Partnership
- Rowing Programme
- Lifeguard Qualification

Over the October half-term, six students from CST partner schools completed the Royal Life Saving Society National Pool Lifeguard Qualification at Christleton High School Sports Centre. Students from Blacon High School, Christleton High School, Queens Park High School and Upton High School took part in the demanding five-day course, which required them to meet set swimming times, complete deep-water dives, and practise casualty recovery techniques.

Working in groups, the students also demonstrated pool rescue skills, first aid and CPR, before completing the final written theory exam.

A special congratulations goes to Leighton M (Year 11), who successfully passed and is now a qualified lifeguard.

Well done to Leighton for your hard work, determination, and commitment throughout the course!



PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

SWEDISH STORYTELLING PROJECT

For the third consecutive year, Dr Salisbury hosted trainee teachers from Linköping University here at Blacon High School, as part of a joint Storytelling Project with the School of Education at the University of Chester.

Over the last 12 years, the School of Education at the University of Chester has long enjoyed a productive collaboration with Linköping University, whose Faculty of Teacher Education is among the highest rated in Sweden. Through the Chester-based Storytelling Project, some of their most talented teacher education students, specialising in mythology and literature, spent a week in Chester undertaking school placements. Twelve of the students enjoyed their placement at Blacon High School in the Performing Arts and the English Departments. In preparation, they had participated in online activities and academic lectures with Doctor Sally Bamber, Doctor Martin Matthews, Doctor Julie Salisbury, and Emeritus Professor Allan Owens from the University of Chester, and Lars Liljegren, Associate Professor at Linköping University.



During their time at Blacon High School our Swedish colleagues observed lessons in KS3 Drama, English and Science, and in KS4 Performing Arts and English. Dr Salisbury guided them through the structure of the English, Drama and Performing Arts curricula and highlighted similarities and differences with the Swedish curriculum for English, which they recognised from the teaching and learning experiences here in Blacon High School. The Swedish students then delivered storytelling workshops to KS3 classes in Drama and English, focusing on Scandinavian folklore, featuring characters that were familiar to our students. They used creative practice to engage our students through role play in a practical exploration of storytelling including the tales of *Odin*, *The Brothers Lionheart* and *The Sun and The Moon*.

PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT



Our Swedish guests thanked Dr Salisbury for the warm welcome and kindness they received from staff and pupils, and were impressed by the high standard of teaching and learning at Blacon High School. They particularly valued the creative practice embedded in the Drama and Performing Arts classes, the well-planned and structured English lessons, and were excited with having a range of ideas which they could take back and apply to their teaching practice in Sweden.

Dr Salisbury, Head of Performing Arts at Blacon High School and a Research Fellow of the University of Chester said: *'I am delighted to be involved in the Storytelling project for this third exciting year. As international teachers, we have so much to learn from each other and each year brings a wealth of shared experience to develop creative practice. Drama is integral to developing social skills, creating character and instilling explorative strategies for supporting our students across the curriculum as they prepare for a range of careers. This project brings together a multicultural teaching practice which truly enriches our curriculum and supports our Swedish colleagues in creative approaches to teaching.'*

STORYHOUSE FUTURES EVENT

Dr Salisbury and Mrs Garner arranged an exciting reward trip to Storyhouse in Chester for students who have demonstrated outstanding attitudes to learning in subjects across the school. The lucky students were from Year 7 to Year 10 and spent the day engaging in a range of workshops related to sustainability which took place in the Storyhouse Studio, Garret Theatre and Garret Bar. They were also treated to a premier screening in the Cinema.



Storyhouse Futures is a new festival that explores our influence on the world around us, and inspires us to make a positive impact by adopting a more sustainable way of living. Developed in collaboration with Chester University, the Secondary Schools' Day took place on Monday 10th November 2025, beginning at 10:00am and concluded at 2:45pm.

Students were treated to a screening of [Ca / Live?](#) in the Storyhouse cinema – a digital performance about the climate emergency and social justice, created by world-renowned theatre company Complicité and performed by actor Fehinti Balogun - before engaging in a variety of workshops with experts throughout the day, exploring sustainability creatively.

More information about the festival can be found here: storyhouse.com/seasons/storyhouse-futures/

PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

Dr Salisbury is extremely proud of the way our students engaged in the workshops and in their conduct and behaviour in particular. They were exemplary ambassadors for the school, bringing praise and recognition from staff and practitioners at Storyhouse.



Storyhouse Volunteer Ann Gill, a former Head Teacher and Ofsted Inspector, accompanied Dr Salisbury and our students throughout the day. *'I was impressed by different groups of students over the course of the day. The range of activities allowed different students to shine and to demonstrate how well they could effectively work together. I enjoyed the way students respected my interest in what they were doing and involved me appropriately. Your students behaved well, participated in all activities, were respectful. Throughout the day their love of music and drama became evident. They were excellent ambassadors for your school.'*

Jacob Maudsley, Schools and Education Manager at Storyhouse had organised the event: *'We were delighted to launch the inaugural **Storyhouse Futures Secondary Schools' Day**, and were thrilled to see students from Blacon High School attend with Dr Salisbury.'*



YEAR 9 AND 10 REWARDS TRIP



Students in Years 9 and 10 visited Chester Picturehouse on a rewards trip earlier this week, in recognition of their hard work and good attendance in the previous term. These students regularly approach their learning with a resilient and dedicated attitude, as reflected in their high numbers of SSA grades and excellent attendance of 95% or above.

We hope that these students enjoyed their morning, and continue to embody our school's core values in the weeks to come. Congratulations again!

Job of the week

This week's job of the week is a theme park engineer.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_LDF-g3Lso

Theme park engineers are responsible for designing, maintaining, and repairing rides and attractions to make sure they are safe and working properly. This job combines mechanical, electrical, and sometimes software engineering with a strong focus on safety.



Nasal and Intramuscular Flu Vaccination

NHS

Be Wise Immunise

Are you eligible for a **FREE Flu vaccination** this year?

Find out more at nhs.uk

HERE TO HELP

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.

For more information about the flu vaccine please visit: [Children's flu vaccine - NHS](#)

BLOG

The Wellbeing Hub
— from Teen Tips —

BONUS CONTENT

Out now on The Wellbeing Hub
Children turning to AI chatbots for therapy – should we be concerned?
By Alicia Drummond, CEO and Founder of The Wellbeing Hub

Read now: club.teentips.co.uk



**BRITISH
MUSLIM
TRUST**

**If you experience
Anti-Muslim hate,
Report it to us**



0808 172 3524

**FREEPHONE and WhatsApp
Mon - Fri, 10am - 3pm**

support@britishmuslimtrust.co.uk

britishmuslimtrust.co.uk/report-hate
Form and live chat options available

A new national helpline has been launched to help people affected by anti-Muslim hate.

The British Muslim Trust Helpline offers a free and confidential service where victims can report incidents and receive support from trained Muslim staff.

People can phone the free helpline on: 0808 172 3524 from 10am to 3pm or contact the team through an online form, email, text message, WhatsApp, or live chat at any time. The team will follow up the next day if a message is received outside phone hours.

The helpline has been developed using government funding from the government's Combatting Hate Against Muslims Fund. It aims to give victims confidence to come forward, raise awareness of hate crimes and record both online and face to face incidents.

For more information or to contact the service, visit the British Muslim Trust Helpline: <https://britishmuslimtrust.co.uk/>

Extra Curricular Activities, Lunch and After School Clubs

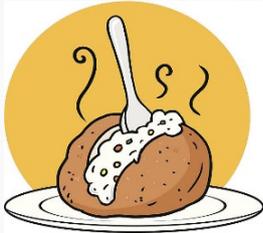
Week 2 Lunch Clubs	Day	Club	Years	Location	Staff member
	Monday	Football	All	MUGA	Mr Cairns
	Monday	Dance	7	Studio	Mrs <u>Joynson</u>
	Monday	Maths club	KS4	506	Mr Slade
	Tuesday	Football	All	MUGA	Mr Cairns
	Wednesday	Maths	KS3	502	Miss Price
	Wednesday	Games Club	KS3	315	Mrs Hughes
	Wednesday	Football	All	MUGA	Mr Cairns
	Thursday	Creative writing	All	Library	Miss Cary
	Thursday	Volleyball	All	Sports hall	Mr Cairns
	Thursday	Football	All	MUGA	Mr Cairns
Friday	Football	All	MUGA	Mr Cairns	

Week 2 After school clubs	Day	Club	Years	Location	Staff member
	Monday	Football	KS3	3G	Mr Cairns
	Monday	Business studies P6	11		
	Monday	Cadets	All	Containers on field	Mr Jones
	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	Art Graphics Product Design	KS4	112	
	Wednesday	Netball	7 & 8	MUGA	Mr Cairns
	Wednesday	Home learning club	All	202	Mrs Lewis
	Thursday	Performing arts coursework club	KS4	Studio	Dr Salisbury
	Thursday	Maths P6	11		
	Thursday	Dance club	9	Main hall	Mrs <u>Joynson</u>
	Thursday	Basketball	All	Sports hall	Mr Cairns
	Thursday	Sports Fixtures	All	TBC	Mr Cairns
	Thursday	Home learning club	All	202	Mrs Lewis
	Friday	Badminton	All	Sports hall	Mr Cairns

Follow our twitter account @BlaconPE



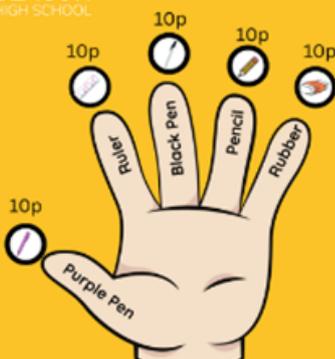
Menu for week beginning 24th November 2025

Area	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 2– Week Commencing 24/11/025					
Hot Serve Main: (£2.40) Drink: 80p Cake: 80p	Katsu Curry or Veggie Curry with Rice	Cottage Pie or Veggie Cottage Pie with Veg and Roast Potatoes	Loaded Nachos	Fried Noodles	INSET DAY
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
ASPIRE BELIEVE ACHIEVE

"CHALLENGE PREJUDICE, CHAMPION EQUALITY".

BLACON HIGH SCHOOL