

17th December 2025

End of Autumn Term 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

As the autumn term draws to a close, I would like to thank all parents and carers for your ongoing support. School will close for the Christmas break on Friday 19th December with students being dismissed at the earlier time of **12.00pm**. We return on **Monday 5th January 2026**.

Please note that due to the earlier finish time on Friday, our catering team will be delivering an extended break at **10.15am** instead of the usual time. Students who claim free school meals will be able to collect their lunch at this altered time instead.

The plan for Friday is as follows:

Timing	Year 7 + 8	Year 9 + 10 + 11
8.40 – 9.15	Extended tutor	Extended tutor
9.15 – 10.15	Christmas Assembly	Tutor time
10.15 – 10.45	Extended break (breakfast bagels)	Extended break (breakfast bagels)
10.45 – 11.00	Tutor time	Tutor Time
11.00 – 12.00	Extended tutor	Christmas Assembly
12.00	Early dismissal	Early dismissal

At the request of students, we have agreed that everyone may wear their own clothes on Friday, with a Christmas theme or Christmas jumper if possible for a suggested donation to school of **£1.00**, which can be paid via **Parent Pay**. (Appropriate clothes and no pyjamas.) These donations will go towards outdoor equipment for our students.

This term has seen students achieve so much, both in lessons and beyond the classroom. From our MFL department's trip to Lille to our extracurricular sports clubs chalking up some incredible victories, our student community has shown real dedication to enriching their studies and making the most of their time in school. We appreciate the feedback received about our weekly blog and look forward to sharing our success and news with you throughout the year.

Winter Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)

The Council, alongside Edsential and a range of community partners, are running a wide range of activities for the winter Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) across the school Christmas holidays. The HAF Programme is funded nationally by the Department for Education to support local organisations to provide free activities for children and young people who are eligible for Benefits Related Free School Meals (BRFSM) during the holidays. These activities are designed to promote wellbeing, create lasting memories, and include access to healthy meals. Provision is also available for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) who meet the eligibility criteria.

Use the link, [HAF Activities and Food Provision](#) to find programmes in your area. We advise you to contact providers to book your child's place or find out more information as **booking is essential**.

Places can be booked via the individual booking options for each provider, found on the attached flyer.

Free School Meals

As a school we are conscious of the current cost of living pressures, and in relation to this, we are also aware from our records that a number of parents who may be eligible to claim Free School Meals for their children do not submit a claim to the Local Authority. I urge you to check [eligibility](#), and make a claim if you believe you may be entitled.

Household Support Fund payments for children in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM)

Cheshire West and Chester Council are continuing to support students in receipt of free school meals during school holiday periods. The service has approved the following allocations per FSM recipient for each week during the Christmas school holidays:

- Christmas Holidays: £17.50 per week for two weeks – parents will receive these in the usual way.

Benefits Calculator Cheshire West and Chester Council also have a benefits calculator which could help maximise the income of families by identifying any benefit entitlements that are unclaimed. This calculator also assists to reduce living costs by providing details of social energy and water tariffs. Residents can access this calculator at <https://benefits.inbest.ai/cheshirewestandchester>

Should you have any questions regarding this please contact Steve Fox by email at <mailto:msteve.fox@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk> or by phone on 0151 337 6822.

Cost of living support

Whatever your money worries may be, the Council has put together some useful information to help. The link below includes a wealth of information on the Household Support Fund, the Council's HELP Scheme, and much more.

Visit: [Cost of living support](#)

Key dates for Spring Term 2025

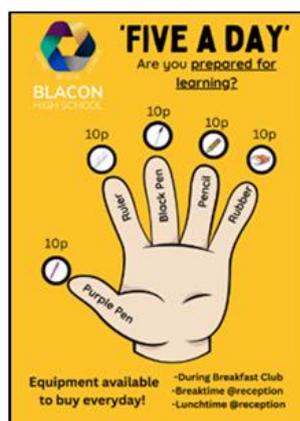
- 05/01/26 – School opens
- 22/01/26 – Year 10 Progress Evening
- 29/01/26 – Year 8 Progress Evening
- 30/01/26 – Inset day – Closed to students
- 13/02/26 – Start of half term
- 23/02/26 – End of half term
- 02/04/26 – School closes for Spring Break

School enrichment continues to flourish with lots of clubs on offer both after school and during lunchtime. Whether your child enjoys sport or being on the stage, enrichment can have a positive effect on mental health and wellbeing of all students.

<https://www.blaconhighschool.net/page/?title=Extra%2DCurricular&pid=58>

We will republish the enrichment offer at the start of next term. A list of clubs and extracurricular opportunities is also available through the Edulink One app, and I encourage you to share and discuss these with your child, and for them to identify clubs and activities to which they would like to attend and benefit from during the spring term. So far, just over 50% of the school are engaged in clubs and we would like this to be 100% so please encourage your child to get involved.

The spring term begins for students at the usual time of 8.40am on **Monday 5th January 2026** (breakfast club open from 8.00am). Please use this time over the holiday to refresh any uniform that needs replacing, ensuring that skirts are knee length and school shoes adhere to the [uniform policy](#). We have high expectations and ask that you do not send your child to school with piercings, false nails or extreme hairstyles in the New Year.



Thank you for your support in ensuring that your child also has the correct equipment – 5 a day – a black pen, purple pen, pencil, ruler and rubber each day, this has made a significant difference to learning, ensuring that no time is wasted in lessons.

We also have hampers in school, kindly donated from the Audacious Church and boxes of food from Cheshire West and Chester for Christmas available for collection as a support for families.

Staff are working hard to deliver but if you are able to collect, please go to the main reception between 8am and 4pm today or Thursday or Friday up until 12.00pm.

If you haven't already done so, I would like to invite you to download the school app or log-in via the [EduLink One](#) website to ensure that there is effective communication between school and home as this is the method by which all letters and individual reports are sent.

Finally, from all staff and governors, we wish you all the best for the festive season and a Happy New Year. We look forward to returning on **Monday 5th January 2026** to a New Year and new term with refreshed enthusiasm and look forward to all that we will achieve.

Regards,



Rachel Hudson
Headteacher



FREE WINTER HOLIDAY CLUBS
CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS
ACROSS WEST CHESHIRE

Cheshire West & Chester
HAF
Holiday Activities & Food

KEEP UP WITH ALL THE HOLIDAY FUN ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES...
Go_cheshirewest and EdsentialUK Cheshire West and Chester Council and EdsentialUK #HAF2025
If you would like help booking please call 07827 877820 or email HAF@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

www.edsential.com/haf
BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL...
Please scan the QR code and contact the relevant provider using our interactive online map.

Logos: Edsential, Department for Education, Cheshire West & Chester Council, Cheshire West Voluntary Action, Brio