



Blacon's Blog

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

ISSUE 15 19th December 2025

BLACON
HIGH SCHOOL

Headlines - Message from the Head

As the autumn term draws to a close, I would like to thank parents and carers for your ongoing support this year. Thank you for working with us to improve attendance by sending your child in each day. We have made great progress through our mentoring scheme and look forward to reducing our persistent absence further next term. The final blog of 2025 is a bumper edition, packed full of sport, dance and learning. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to see our students perform over the last few weeks and we are so proud of their contribution not just to the school, but also to the wider community.

Congratulations to all those students who attended the end of term rewards assemblies and to those who won some fantastic prizes. I would like to thank all of the staff for their hard work and commitment to our students.

I wish you all the best for the festive season and hope that you can enjoy some time together with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming students back to school on **Monday 5th January 2026**. Happy Christmas and wishing you every happiness for 2026.



Rachel Hudson - Headteacher

Rewards for this week

Congratulations to students for all of the achievement points given out this week. Congratulations to Year 8 on achieving the highest number of points.

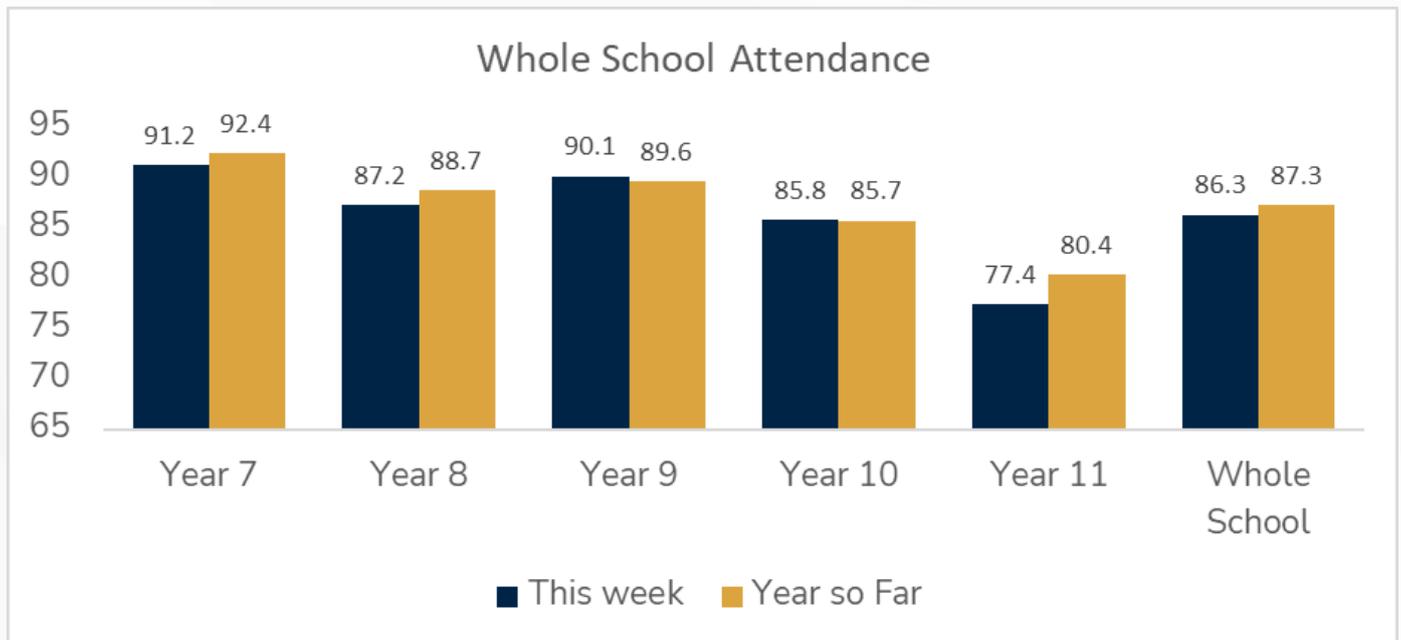
Achievement Points Week 15:



Year	Total Points
7	168
8	209
9	19
10	116
11	74

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

The attendance for the whole school so far is 87.3% with attendance for this week being at 86.3%. All students with **100% attendance** between the 1st and 19th December have been entered into a prize draw. Aim to be in the 100% club next term. Days off cost grades and affect next steps so please work with us to ensure your child attends.



BLACON HIGH SCHOOL
ASPIRE BELIEVE ACHIEVE

DECEMBER ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE!

1ST - 19TH DECEMBER 25'

Attend school every day from Monday 1st Dec 1- Friday 19th and you could WIN a Family Ticket to this year's panto at Storyhouse!

Each ticket admits 6 people to the show! We have 10 to give away. A prize worth up to £250 per family!

Get your name in the wheel of names which will be drawn on the last day of term!

BE IN IT TO WIN IT!

ASPIRE BELIEVE ACHIEVE

🎄 ✨ Make December Count! 🎄 ✨

Attend every day from the 1st to the 19th December 25 and get entered into our Panto Prize Draw!

🎫 We have 10 Family Tickets (admits 6!) to Beauty & the Beast at Storyhouse up for grabs!

🎉 We will be doing the prize drawers in the final assemblies on the last day of term. Make sure you are in the wheel of names!

★ Be here every day → Be in to WIN! ★

Blacon High School's Christmas Celebrations

During the final week of term, we've taken the time to enjoy the festive season and celebrate all our students and their successes.

From rewards trips to a fantastic Christmas dinner made by our catering team, there's been plenty of reasons for our school to smile this week.

Rewards Assemblies

Earlier in the week, we held our rewards assemblies. A big congratulations goes to Olly G and Lily C in Years 7 and 8 for winning Progress Leader Awards, and to Lily C for her victory in 'What's in the Box', where she won an Amazon Fire tablet!



Our Year 9, 10, and 11's also had plenty to celebrate. A special congratulations goes to Hector M, whose 'What's in the Box' prize was a TV!



We would like to share our congratulations to all our students for their effort and achievements this first term. We hope to continue celebrating with them in the New Year!



Blacon High School's Christmas Celebrations

What a fantastic way to end the term with our Christmas Dance Celebration! On Tuesday evening, our talented dancers from Years 7–10 lit up the stage with outstanding performances in contemporary, ballet, tap, street and original choreography.

The commitment, passion and enthusiasm from every student were truly inspiring, and the standard of performance was exceptional. A huge congratulations to everyone involved — you should be immensely proud. You are a tremendous credit to yourselves and a real asset to Blacon High School.



Humanities Heroes Term 2

After another fantastic term in Humanities - the staff had plenty of students to nominate for this term's award. The award is given to students who go over and above in one or more of Geography, History or Religious Studies. There were 20 nominations this term. They were:

Year 7

Emily B
Myley L
Corey J

Year 8

Maja S
Amani A
Lexi H
Ava P
Beverly M
Robin M
Amy H
Lyncoln T
Perla J

Emmanuella PB

Year 9

Peniel E
Thomas W
Maja T
Codey M
Peniel E

Year 10

Ollie L
Emmy M
Lacey M



Well done! We can't wait to see who will receive the certificate and chocolate this half term!!

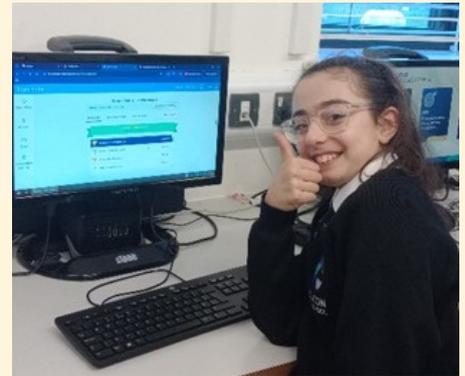
Dates for the Diary

- 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

Home Learning Club – Autumn Term Report

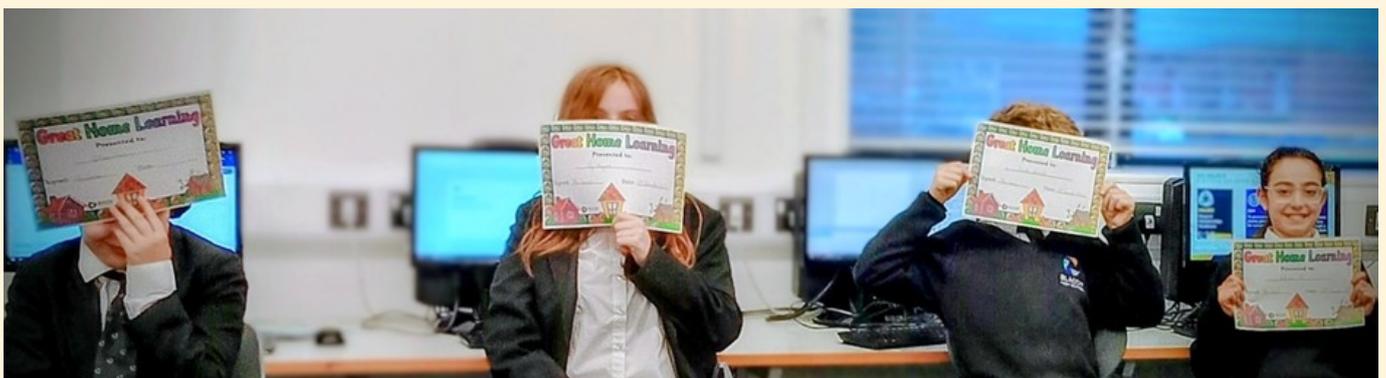
The Home Learning Club has had a very positive and productive autumn term. The club was established to support pupils in developing independent learning habits, reinforcing classroom learning and building confidence through structured study beyond the school day. Home learning plays a vital role in helping students consolidate key skills, deepen understanding, develop responsibility and resilience as learners.

Attendance and engagement this term have been strong, with pupils making excellent use of the time to complete homework, revise, read, and seek guidance when needed. The supportive environment has encouraged focus, collaboration and positive attitudes towards learning.



A particular highlight of the term has been the commitment shown by our most dedicated students. The top ten students collectively contributed **over 64 hours of extra study time** through the Home Learning Club alone. In recognition of this outstanding effort, these students were awarded certificates to celebrate their commitment and achievement. Notably, the student with the highest level of engagement not only led the Home Learning Club leader board but also topped the **'Sparx Maths' leader board**, demonstrating exceptional consistency and dedication to their learning.

The Home Learning Club has been a valuable addition this autumn term, strengthening the link between school and home learning. We look forward to building on this success in the coming terms and continuing to support students in reaching their full potential.



National College—Managing Screen Time this Winter Break

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for... MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you do want to go online.

AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



DEVICE BOX

The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

[@natonsafety](https://twitter.com/natonsafety)

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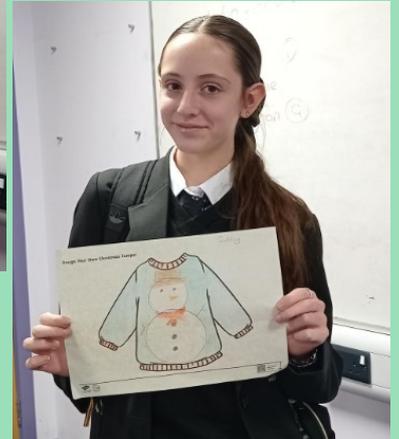
[@nationalonlinesafety](https://instagram.com/nationalonlinesafety)

[@national_online_safety](https://tiktok.com/@national_online_safety)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 03.01.2024

Design a Christmas Jumper Competition

Well done to Hollie and Gabby for winning our design a Christmas jumper competition. This is part of our peer mentoring program whereby year 7's are mentored by year 8's. A massive thank you to Mrs Moffat for running the peer mentoring. The students love it! We will be back to mentoring in the new year.



Chester Zoo £1 Tickets Offer

Chester Zoo has reached out to inform us that they are offering £1 tickets this Christmas to people receiving Universal Credit (including Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, ESA, Income Support, JSA and Housing Benefit, as well as DLA and PIP), helping more families enjoy time together and make festive memories at a time of year that can be challenging for many.

This offer is part of their long-running Community Connections Scheme, which aims to make days out more accessible for individuals, families and community groups who may otherwise struggle to make a visit happen. The tickets:

- Are valid for visits **17th –31st December 2025**
- Admit up to six people per household (children under 12 months and carers go free)
- Must be booked online in advance – tickets are limited and not available at the gate
- Proof of eligibility and photo ID are required on arrival

For more details and booking, please visit: www.chesterzoo.org/universalcredit



Parental Advice—E-Bikes and E-Scooters



Dear Parents, Guardians and Father Christmas/Santa,

Has your little elf asked for an e-scooter or e-bike for Christmas?

The following is basic information on where e-bikes and e-scooters can be used within the law.

We want to make sure your Christmas presents end up in a pile like this...



...and not this



	E-Scooter *	E-Bike (pedals)	E-motorbike (no pedals)
What is it?	Any scooter powered by a battery.	A bicycle powered by a 250w max battery with pedals to propel (15.5mph)	A battery powered motorbike, moped or bike with no pedals to propel.
Under 16 in public	No *	14+ only	No
In a public area	No *	Yes, if compliant	Yes if taxed and insured
On private land - with the landowners permission	Yes	Yes	Yes
Can I use it on cycle paths?	No	Yes	No
Can I use it on the pavement?	No *	No	No
Can I use it on the road?	No	Yes	Yes
Is there a safety risk?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Is there a fire risk?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Would it be seized?	Yes *	Yes, if not compliant	Yes if not taxed and insured
What can I get instead that is legal for public use?	Commuter or stunt scooter. These can be used in public areas such as parks, skate parks and pump tracks. Always wear safety equipment.	Consider a mountain bike. A great way to commute, offering independence and exercise, use in forests and on pump tracks. Always wear safety equipment and use a bike lock.	Age dependent, if over 14 then look at an e-bike, following our guidance and doing your own research. Head to a local private track for more information
Where can I use the legal scooter or bike?	Search for pump tracks to test your skill levels and look at skills training.	Local councils offer information online for the area and clubs for mountain biking and BMX.	Motorcross Clubs.

*This does not include rental scheme e-scooters which are insured to be used by riders over 16 with a license. Refer to scheme

No one wants to seize anyone's presents!



Cheshire
Constabulary



Stay safe and legal

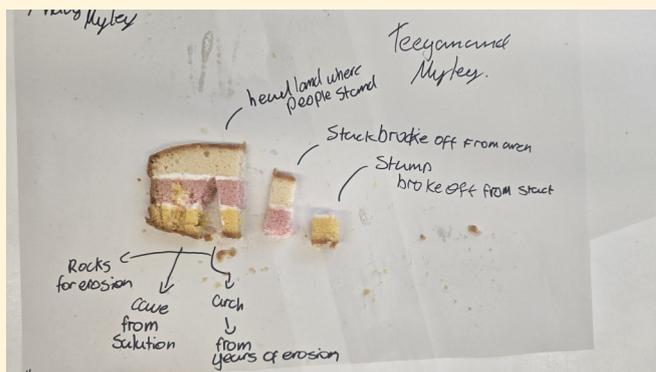


Artefact Donation

The History department is very grateful to the parent of Raylan D, Year 7, for gifting them three 19th Century coins. They will be used as an example of contemporary sources with our Year 7 students, to consider what we can learn from them as a piece of evidence. Thank you again - Miss Liddell will take good care of them!



Year 7 in Geography



This week, Year 7 used Angel Cake in Geography to model how waves reshape the British coastline. The cake's layers perfectly represented rock strata, helping students visualise the transition from solid cliffs to disappearing landforms.



For information on what your child is learning in Geography or any subject, please visit the curriculum area of our website.

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

Sports Report—December 2025

Basketball

The Year 10/11 Boys' Basketball team won the Chester West Division, making it three wins from three against King's High School with a convincing 42–19 victory. Alfie was outstanding, nailing his three-pointers, Leon dominated the rebounds, and Sonny was on fire once again. The team played their way to the Gold Medal Final against Chester East champions, Bishop's Bluecoat High School, after impressive wins against Catholic High School (57–21), Queen's Park High School (45–25) and King's High School (42–19). It was incredible to watch two unbeaten teams contest the final. Blacon led 16–10 at half-time but narrowly lost 43–33 in a high-quality, end-to-end game of basketball. The team finished as runners-up, taking home silver medals and making the school extremely proud with the effort, resilience and skill on show. Sonny was named MVP after a very successful season.



Football

The Year 7 boys' football team were too strong for Abbey Gate College, winning 11–2 in a dominant friendly performance. Charlie scored the goal of the game. This match provided good preparation for the Chester & District 7-a-side tournament. Despite strong efforts, the team narrowly missed out on the semi-finals after a couple of draws and two close defeats. We now look forward to the Chester Cup Quarter Final in the new year.



The Year 8 boys competed in the Chester & District 6-a-side tournament at Christleton. It was a challenging evening with two close defeats and two draws, meaning the team did not progress to the semi-finals. The squad is hoping to play a number of friendly fixtures in the new year.



Sports Report—December 2025

The Year 9 boys faced Heath School in Round 2 of the Cheshire Cup, managed by former trainee PE teacher Mr Burgess. Despite trailing 2–0, goals from Kayden and Cameron brought the team back into the game, and they were unlucky not to score again after hitting the post twice. The match went to penalties, with Blacon narrowly losing 5–4. The team showed tremendous character and effort and will look to bounce back in upcoming friendly games.



The Year 10 boys progressed to the Quarter Final of the Cheshire Cup with an outstanding 2–0 away victory against Culcheth High School. Goals from Archie and Ashton secured the win, while Tyler produced some excellent saves in a hard-working team performance..

In the ESFA Small Schools Cup, the team suffered their first defeat of the season, losing 1–0 to Merchant Taylors' School in Round 3. Reaching the last 32 nationally is a fantastic achievement, and although chances were limited in the final third, the effort and desire shown were outstanding.



The Year 11 boys are still awaiting the winners of St Gregory's and Sandymoor in their Last 16 Cheshire Cup fixture, which will be played in the new year

Sports Report—December 2025

Girls' Football

Girls' Football Club continues every Tuesday from 3:10–4:10pm on the 3G pitch, coached by Faye B from Chester SSP. The Year 7/8 girls have both the Chester Cup and ESFA Cup fixtures to look forward to in the new year.

The Year 8 girls' 5-a-side team competed in the district tournament, drawing two matches and narrowly losing two others. The games were close and competitive, with brilliant effort shown throughout — well done girls.



Badminton

There were excellent badminton matches and a victory against Upton High School, with competitive games and great sportsmanship on display. Jordan, Lucas and Jenson excelled for Year 11, while Kayden, Hector and Vesta impressed for Year 9. More fixtures and a potential tournament are planned for the new year.

Climbing

The Year 7 and 8 girls proudly represented Blacon High School at the Climbing Hut's Annual Bouldering Competition. Many were experiencing climbing for the first time but approached every challenge with confidence, determination and teamwork.

Staff at the Climbing Hut were extremely impressed by the girls' positive attitudes and raw talent. A special mention goes to Isabelle (Year 7), who won the Novice Female event with a perfect score of 150/150, and to Daisy (Year 8), whose fearlessness and natural ability stood out throughout the competition. Well done to all involved for their fantastic effort and exemplary behaviour.



Sports Report - December 2025

Enrichment

Year 7 boys enjoyed a reward trip to watch Everton U21 vs Real Madrid U21 at the historic Goodison Park. The match ended in a 2–0 win for Madrid and included a penalty save, a red card and goals during added time in both halves. A fantastic experience watching high-level academy football.



Extra-Curricular Clubs

Our extra-curricular programme continues to thrive, with excellent attendance across Boys' and Girls' Football, Dance, Netball, Volleyball and Badminton. It's great to see so many students staying active, developing their skills and representing the school. Check the timetable, bring a friend, and get involved in the new year!

Local Councillor's Christmas Wishes

We would like to share our thanks to Councillor Sheila Little for her kind words she sent to us this week:

I am sure you and your staff are all exhausted and looking forward to the holiday and probably more hard work with your families. On behalf of your Blacon Councillors I would like to thank you all for all that you do and wish you all a happy Christmas and good health and happiness for the coming year. I am still receiving compliments on your behalf for the singing and performing at the afternoon tea. Have a great holiday.

Thank you to Councillor Little, and to our wonderful band and choir for all the effort and hard work they put into making such a memorable performance.

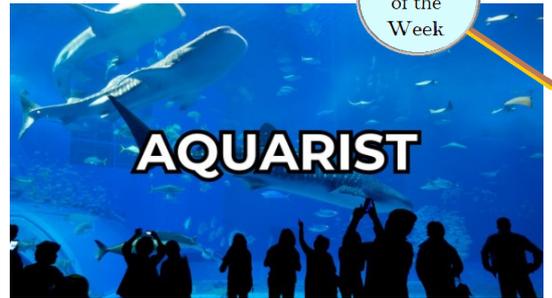
Job of the week

The job of the week this week is an Aquarist



Job
of the
Week

Aquarists look after fish and other marine animals in public aquariums, zoos, or research centres. Their job includes feeding the animals, cleaning tanks, checking water quality, and making sure the creatures stay healthy. They also help with breeding programs, animal transport, and sometimes talk to visitors about marine life. It's a hands-on role that requires care, patience, and a real interest in underwater animals.



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



To become an aquarist, most people start with a qualification in animal care, marine biology, or a related subject. Some begin with a college course, while others go on to get a degree in marine biology or zoology. Hands-on experience is really important, so volunteering or doing placements at aquariums or marine centres can be a big help. You'll need to be confident around water, happy working in a team, and comfortable handling live animals.



Year 11 Period 6 Timetable

Week 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 11	PERFORMING ARTS ENGLISH MUSIC	PERFORMING ARTS GEOGRAPHY (6.00pm Virtual lesson Google classroom) MARKETING FRENCH HISTORY	PERFORMING ARTS FURTHER MATHS ART/ GRAPHICS PRODUCT DESIGN FOOD/ CHILD DEVELOPMENT SCIENCE IT MEDIA STUDIES RELIGIOUS STUDIES	PERFORMING ARTS MATHS	
Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 11	PERFORMING ARTS ENGLISH MUSIC	PERFORMING ARTS GEOGRAPHY (6.00pm Virtual lesson Google classroom) MARKETING FRENCH HISTORY	PERFORMING ARTS ART/ GRAPHICS PRODUCT DESIGN FOOD/ CHILD DEVELOPMENT SCIENCE IMEDIA RELIGIOUS STUDIES	PERFORMING ARTS MATHS	

As part of our commitment to supporting Year 11 students with their revision towards the summer exams, the school has provided students with a Period 6 timetable. This identifies the additional support on offer across the curriculum for students.

All of Year 11 will be expected to attend period 6 for Maths and English from January until May.

Household Support Fund - December Holiday

We have been notified by Cheshire West and Chester Council that they 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**

In addition, the service will also be supporting schools during the February 2026 Half Term as follows:

- **February holiday - £17.50 per week for 1 week**

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 steve.fox@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk or by phone on 0151 337 6822.

The Council, working alongside Edsential, has also been working hard to deliver face-to-face programmes for the winter school holidays. Children and young people will be able to choose from 23 clubs across 43 location, delivered through their HAF programme. For more information, please follow the QR code below or visit their website at: <https://eequ.org/hafcheshirewestandchester>



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 Voluntary Action, Brio



Extra Curricular Activities, Lunch and After School Clubs

Week 2 Lunch Clubs	Day	Club	Years	Location	Staff member
	Monday	Football	All	MUGA	
	Monday	Dance	7	Studio	JOA
	Monday	Maths club	KS4	506	
	Tuesday	Dance	8	Studio	JOA
	Tuesday	Football	All	MUGA	
	Wednesday	Maths	KS3	502	PRR
	Wednesday	Games Club	KS3	315	HUS
	Wednesday	Football	All	MUGA	
	Thursday	Creative writing	All	Library	CAV
	Thursday	Volleyball	All	Sports hall	
	Thursday	Choreography club	KS3	Studio	JOA
	Thursday	Football	All	MUGA	
	Friday	Football	All	MUGA	

Week 2 After school clubs	Day	Club	Years	Location	Staff member
	Monday	Football	KS3	3G	
	Monday	Business studies P6	11		
	Monday	Cadets	All	Containers on field	JOJ
	Monday	Performing arts coursework club	KS4	Studio	SAJ
	Monday	Home learning club	All	202	LET
	Tuesday	Performing arts coursework club	KS4	Studio	SAJ
	Tuesday	Duke of Edinburgh Drop in	9 & 10	315	HUS
	Wednesday	Performing arts coursework club	KS4	Studio	SAJ
	Wednesday	Drama club	8, 9, 10, 11	Studio	SAJ
	Wednesday	Art Graphics Product Design	KS4	112	
	Wednesday	Netball	7 & 8	MUGA	
	Wednesday	Home learning club	All	202	LET
	Thursday	Performing arts coursework club	KS4	Studio	SAJ
	Thursday	Maths P6	11		
	Thursday	Dance club	9	Main hall	JOA
	Thursday	Basketball	All	Sports hall	
	Thursday	Sports Fixtures	All	TBC	
Thursday	Home learning club	All	202	LET	
Friday	Badminton	All	Sports hall		

Follow our twitter account @BlaconP

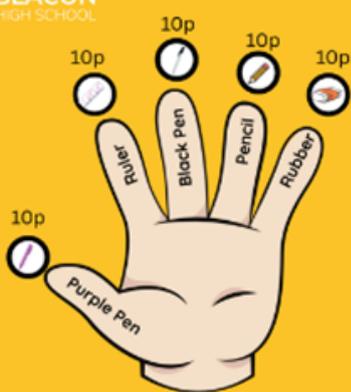


Menu for week beginning 15th December 2025

Area	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1- Week Commencing 15/12/25					
Hot Serve// Main: (£2.40) Drink: 80p Cake: 80p					
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</p>  <p>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

BLACON HIGH SCHOOL
ASPIRE BELIEVE ACHIEVE

"YOU HAVE THE POWER TO CREATE A MORE INCLUSIVE WORLD. CHOOSE KINDNESS, CHOOSE RESPECT, CHOOSE EQUALITY".