



Blacon's Blog

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

ISSUE 23—Friday 6th March 2026

BLACON
HIGH SCHOOL

Headlines - Message from the Head

I have been incredibly proud and humbled to have the opportunity to speak at Chester Town Hall today, at an event hosted by the Lord Mayor of Chester, Councillor Sherin Akhtar, for International Women's Day. It was an honour to be able to share my reflections on leadership and education and all that makes Blacon High School so special. I had the pleasure of meeting Esther Ghey, who spoke about her campaign to change the law on social media and phones, following the tragic loss of her daughter, Brianna and Dee Denton, the CEO of KidsBank. As Maya Angelou reminds us,

"Each time a woman stands up for herself, she stands up for all women."

And when she leads, she doesn't just change her own future, she expands what is possible for everyone who follows and if there is one truth I have learned in 30 years in education, it is this. There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish. The future belongs to those who believe.

Believe in the beauty of their dreams.

Believe in their right to lead.

Believe in their power to change the world.

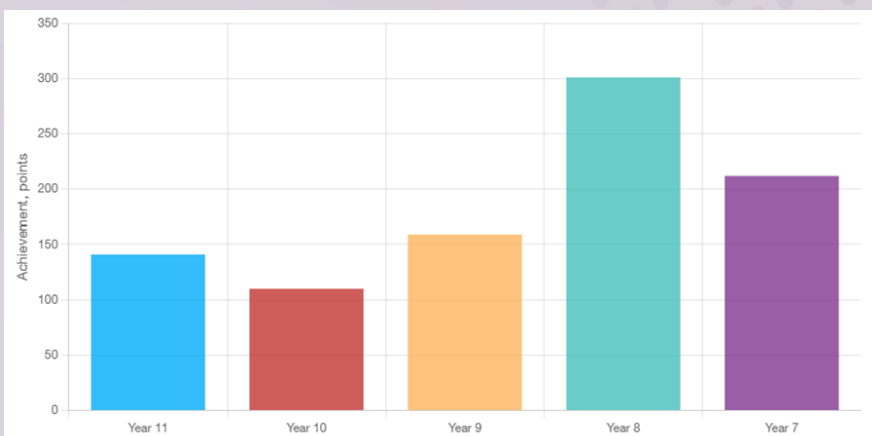
To aspire. To believe. To achieve.

Rachel Hudson

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 23:



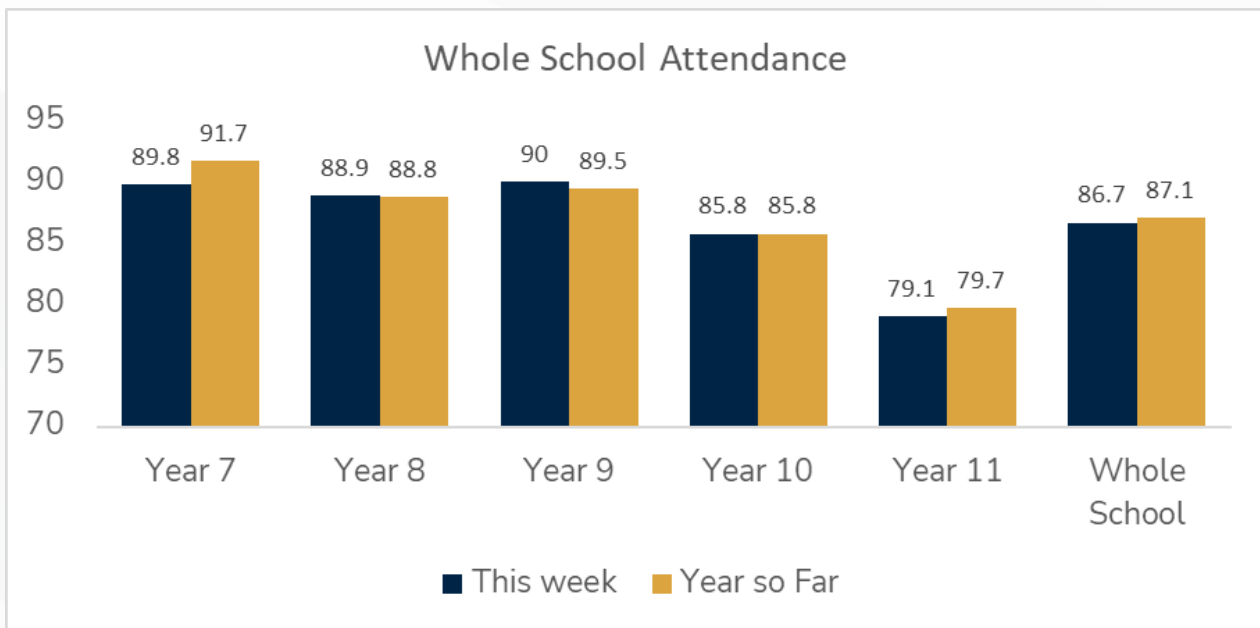
Year	Total Points
7	246
8	307
9	210
10	116
11	150

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

The attendance for the whole school so far is 87.1% with attendance for this week being at 86.7%. **We have improved attendance overall by 0.9% so far.**

Aim to be in the 100% club next term to be entered into our end of term prize draw!

Days off cost grades and affect next steps so please work with us to ensure your child attends.



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



Maths Study Day at Chester University



This week a group of our students took part in another Higher Level Maths Achievement Programme (HLMAP) Student Study Day at the University of Chester.

During the day, students worked on a range of challenging mathematical problems designed to stretch their thinking beyond the GCSE curriculum. The sessions focused on developing logical reasoning, problem solving strategies and resilience when tackling unfamiliar questions.

It was great to see students discussing different approaches, explaining their thinking, and showing real determination when working through some very demanding problems. Experiences like this help to build confidence with higher level mathematics while also giving students an insight into studying maths in a university environment.

Well done to all of the students who attended today. They represented the school brilliantly and showed a fantastic attitude towards developing their mathematical thinking.

Department Report — English

Students have been working hard on in the English department this week.

- Years 7 and 8 have just concluded their scheme of work looking at Shakespeare's **A Midsummer Night's Dream**. Students have been challenged with the different language used in Shakespeare's works and have been engaged with learning about the fairy world he created.
- Year 7 are now beginning an exciting adventure into the world of **Sherlock Holmes**, while year 8 will be diving into the dingy streets of Victorian London with **Oliver Twist**.
- Year 9s have been exploring moral dilemmas and early 20th century values in **An Inspector Calls**. They have been working hard to pick apart the story of Eva Smith and discussing J.B. Priestley's message of social responsibility.
- Year 9 will next be using the knowledge they learned during their Gothic Writing work to help them understand the twisted tale of **The Yellow Wallpaper**.
- Years 10 and 11 have been hard at work securing their knowledge of their GCSE texts.
- Year 10 are duelling with the Montagues and Capulets in **Romeo and Juliet** before getting stuck into understanding their second Language paper, where they will focus on non-fiction texts and transactional writing.
- Year 11, meanwhile, are brushing up on their public speaking skills by finishing off their Speaking and Listening assessments before they turn to guided and supported revision to prepare for their upcoming exams.



International Women's Day Celebrations

For schools across the country, International Women's Day marks an occasion to look back and reflect on the successes and achievements made by all women, both students and staff, across the education sector. At Blacon High, our vision is to be a safe and caring place at the heart of our community, where everyone is valued and supported to aspire, believe and achieve beyond their potential, and this Friday we celebrated what this vision has meant to the women and girls of our school.

Mrs Hudson was honoured to be invited as a key guest speaker at the Lord Mayor's International Women's Day celebration. In her speech, Mrs Hudson celebrated the successes of our female members of staff, who are strong and positive role models to all our students, male and female. When students walk through our school corridors, who they see influences who they believe they can become, and the women of our school represent strong and resilient women, respected leaders and champions of inclusion.

Mrs Hudson is humbled and grateful for the opportunity to stand alongside the other key speakers, including Dee Denton, CEO of the charity KidsBank, and Esther Ghey, the mother of Brianna Ghey who has been championing changes in law relating to social media.



Also on Friday, 30 students were selected to attend the Women in Schools Day event at Chester Storyhouse. The event celebrated the achievements of women across a range of industries and aimed to inspire young people to think ambitiously about their future.

Students heard from successful female professionals, engaged in thought provoking discussions, and took part in activities designed to build confidence, raise aspirations and broaden awareness of future career pathways.

International Women's Day Celebrations

The students who were chosen to attend this event were selected for their enthusiasm, commitment and readiness to embrace new challenges beyond the classroom. We hope this event provided a valuable opportunity to broaden their horizons, raise aspirations and further inspired them to pursue their ambitions with confidence.

Staff Spotlight

We are delighted to share that **Mrs Hughes** has successfully completed her National Professional Qualification (NPQ) in Leading Behaviour and Culture after a year of dedicated study and professional development.

The NPQ is a nationally recognised qualification designed to develop leadership expertise, with a strong focus on creating positive behaviour systems, shaping school culture and leading sustainable change.

Throughout the programme, Mrs Hughes has engaged with research-informed practice, explored effective behaviour strategies and developed approaches to embedding consistent, high expectations across the school.

The learning from the programme will directly support our ongoing work in strengthening behaviour systems and fostering a positive, inclusive school culture. Congratulations to Mrs Hughes!

Motivational Quote of the Week

"If you are working on something that you really care about, you don't have to be pushed. The vision pulls you."

Steve Jobs



Steve Jobs was an American entrepreneur and co-founder of Apple Inc., who revolutionised personal computing, music, and mobile communications. He was the driving force behind the design and marketing of many iconic Apple products, and is remembered for his intense work ethic and leadership skills that helped push his teams to do the impossible.

Letters Home to Parents

Clear communication with our parents and carers is vital to our school's delivery of effective learning, both inside and outside of the classroom.

We keep a digital archive of all letters that we have sent to parents and carers on our school website. These can be found under News and Events - Letters, or at the link [here](#).

Letters are often sent home via Edulink One and Parentpay - it may be of benefit to register for these services if you haven't already. Paper copies are always available where necessary.

A guide to registering to Edulink One can be found on our website [here](#). To sign up to Parentpay, please get in touch at admin@blaconhigh.cheshire.sch.uk



Year 9 Vaccinations

A letter went home earlier this week to parents and carers of Year 9 students, informing them that Intrahealth will be visiting school on **Wednesday 1st April** to deliver the MenACWY and 3-in-1 teenage booster vaccine to Year 9 students.

Intrahealth ask that if you would like your child to receive these vaccines, protecting against meningitis, sepsis, tetanus, diphtheria, and polio, that you give your consent digitally by **Wednesday 25th March 2026** at the link below:

<https://nhslmms.azurewebsites.net/session/5e2fb0b8>

Information regarding these vaccines is available on the NHS website:

[MenACWY vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

[3-in-1 teenage booster overview - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

If you have any queries or wish to withdraw consent, please do not hesitate to contact the Intrahealth Immunisation Team:

Telephone: **03333 583 397 option 7, Option 2**

Email: Imms.W-Chester-CW@intrahealth.co.uk



Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral
School Aged Immunisation Service

Dates for the Diary 2026



Monday 16th March - Year 10 Assessments begin for two weeks



Thursday 19th March - Year 11 Progress Evening



Thursday 26th March - Year 9 Progress and Options Evening



Wednesday 1st April - Year 9 Vaccinations



Thursday 2nd April - School closes for Easter Break

World Book Day



We had some truly excellent costumes worn by students in school this World Book Day. Students across the school studied in style—from witches and wizards to pirate and evil queens, it was wonderful to see our corridors so colourful, and our students so lively and engaged. A special mention must go to Charlie, who reigned supreme in his dinosaur costume!

Thank you to all those who took part - whether by dressing up, competing in Ms Redmond's World Book Day quiz, or signing up for our 6 in '26 reading competition, you helped make this day a celebration of reading.



Year 7 Visit to Chester Zoo

Our Year 7 students enjoyed an exciting and inspiring trip to Chester Zoo as part of our ongoing work with the zoo's Greener Futures programme. The visit provided a fantastic opportunity to bring classroom learning to life while exploring important environmental themes.

During the day, students took part in educational workshops led by the zoo's expert staff. They learnt about the difference between native and non-native species, exploring how animals and plants that naturally belong in the UK ecosystem differ from those introduced from other parts of the world. Students considered the impact that non-native species can have on biodiversity and why protecting native wildlife is so important.



A key focus of the visit was understanding different habitats and how animals are specially adapted to survive within them. From tropical environments to UK woodland ecosystems, students were able to see

first-hand how conservation efforts help protect endangered species and restore fragile habitats. The message was that everyone can play a role in protecting our planet.

As part of the Greener Futures programme, students also explored how small actions at home can make a significant difference. They discussed practical ways to support wildlife in their own gardens and local areas, such as:

- Creating wild areas or leaving sections of grass uncut
- Planting pollinator-friendly flowers
- Installing bird feeders or bug hotels
- Providing water sources for wildlife
- Reducing plastic use and litter



Year 7 Visit to Chester Zoo



In addition to the workshops, students had time to explore the zoo and observe a wide range of animals from around the world. This gave them valuable opportunities to make links between their learning and real-life conservation projects in action. There was also time to enjoy the play areas, giving students the chance to relax and socialise after their learning sessions.

We were extremely proud of how engaged, curious and well behaved our Year 7 students were throughout the day. They represented the school brilliantly, asked thoughtful questions and showed genuine interest in the important environmental issues discussed.



Year 7 Visit to Chester Zoo

Continuing the Journey – Wildlife Club Launch

Students now have the exciting opportunity to continue their work with the zoo by joining our new **Wildlife Club**, which will begin on **Friday 24th April** and run every Friday thereafter from **15:20 – 16:20**.

The club will be led by **Mrs Hughes**, working alongside zoo staff, and will build on the themes explored during our visit. The Wildlife Club will give students the chance to take part in hands-on conservation projects, develop practical skills, and deepen their understanding of biodiversity and sustainability.

Students can sign up directly with **Mrs Hughes**. We encourage anyone with an interest in wildlife, conservation or the environment to get involved.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with Chester Zoo and building on this learning as part of our wider commitment to environmental education.

KS3 History Time Capsule Trip

A selection of KS3 pupils visited the Grosvenor Museum this week as part of a Time Capsule project, delivered in partnership with Chester Cathedral and the National Lottery.

Joined by Mr Scoltock and Mrs Kennedy, pupils had a tour of the museum and took part in a Time Capsule workshop as part of our ongoing project.



Job of the week

The job of the week this week is a CNC Machinist

CNC machinists operate computer-controlled machines that cut and shape materials like metal, plastic, or wood into precise parts. These parts are often used in things like cars, planes and medical equipment. CNC stands for 'computer numerical control'.

Machinists set up the machine, load materials, check measurements, and make sure everything runs smoothly.

They also spot and fix any problems to keep production accurate and efficient.

To become a CNC machinist, it's useful to take a college course in engineering, manufacturing, or machining. Many machinists start through apprenticeships, which combine training with real work. Employers often look for good maths and IT skills, as well as good attention to detail. Knowing how to read technical designs is important too, as it helps the machinist understand exactly what part they need to make.



[Job of the Week - Youtube](#)

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 are expected to attend period 6 for Maths and English from January until May each Monday and Thursday and this is on student timetables.

Extra Curricular Activities, Lunch and After School Clubs

Lunch Clubs



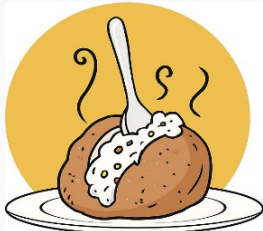
Day	Club	Years	Location	Staff member
Monday	Football	All	MUGA	
Monday	Dance	7	Studio	Miss Joynson
Monday	Maths	KS4	506	Mr Pedder
Tuesday	Book club	All	Library	Ms Redmond
Tuesday	Dance	8	Studio	Miss Joynson
Tuesday	Football	All	MUGA	
Wednesday	Football	All	MUGA	
Wednesday	Maths	KS3	502	Mrs Prime
Wednesday	Art	KS3	112	Week 1 only
Wednesday	Games Club	KS3	315	Mrs Hughes
Wednesday	History Hot Scholars	All	318	Mrs Liddell
Thursday	Creative writing	All	Library	Ms Cary
Thursday	Football	All	MUGA	
Thursday	Choreography club	KS3	Studio	Miss Joynson
Thursday	Volleyball	All	Sports hall	
Friday	Silent reading	All	Library	Ms Redmond
Friday	Football	All	MUGA	
Friday	Chess	All		Mr Green

After school clubs

Day	Club	Years	Location	Staff member
Monday	Performing arts coursework club	KS4	Studio	Dr Salisbury
Monday	Science club	7	316	Mrs Edwards
Monday	Football	KS3	3G	
Monday	Cadets	All	Containers on field	Mr Jones
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, 11	315	Mrs Hughes
Wednesday	Netball	7 & 8	MUGA	
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	Newspaper Club	All	Library	Ms Redmond
Wednesday	Home learning club	All	202	Mrs Lewis
Thursday	Performing arts coursework club	KS4	Studio	Dr Salisbury
Thursday	Basketball	All	Sports hall	
Thursday	Sports Fixtures	All	TBC	
Thursday	Home learning club	All	202	Mrs Lewis
Thursday	Dance club	9	Main hall	Miss Joynson
Friday	Badminton	All	Sports hall	

We encourage all our students to take part in at least one extra-curricular activity, to help them make the most of their time in school. Extra-curricular activities provide spaces for students to socialise, to make new friends and to try something new.

Menu for week beginning 23rd February 2026

Area	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 2- Week Commencing 23/022026					
Hot Serve// Main: (£2.40) Drink: 80p Cake: 80p	Tex Mex	Curry and Rice and Naan	Stir Fry Chicken or Veg	Mac and Cheese	Pizza
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

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