NEWSLETTER

October 2026

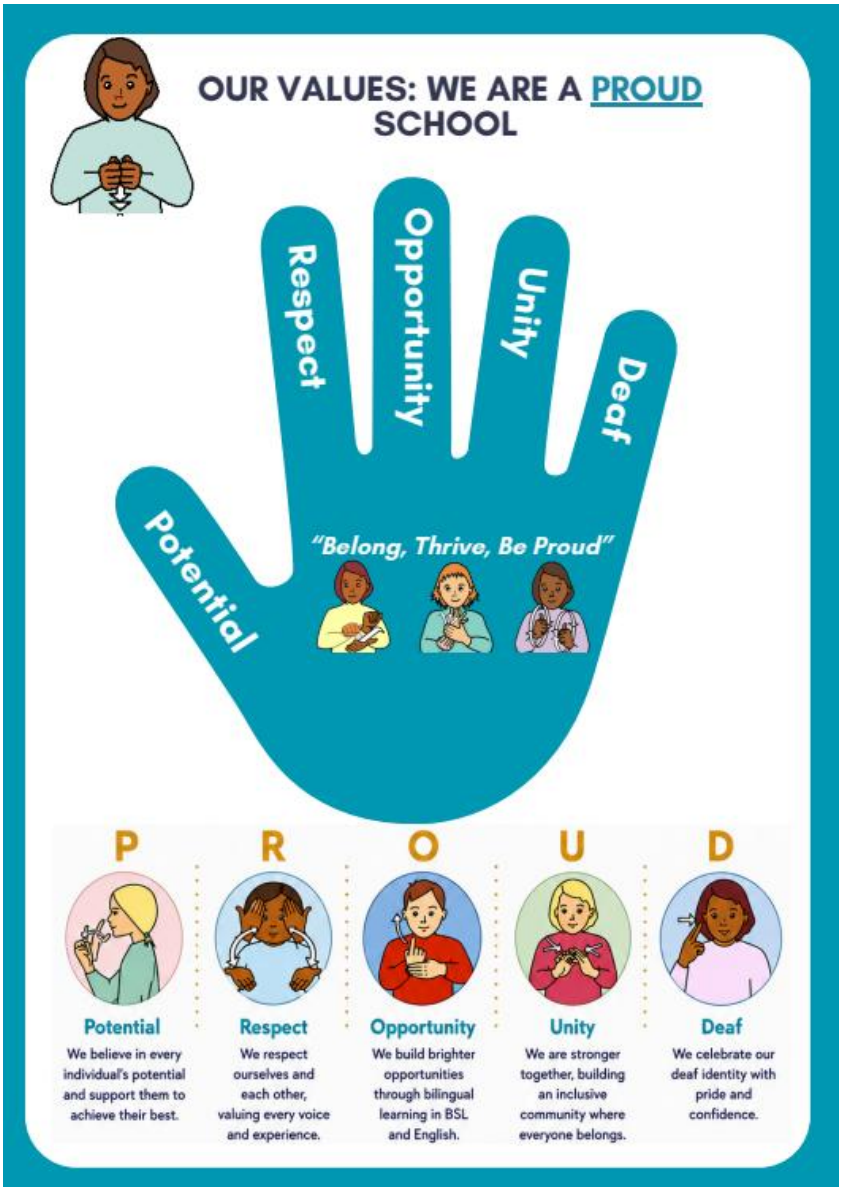
Blanche Nevile Secondary School

admin@blanchenevile.org.uk

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Students,

As we come to the end of our first half term, I want to say a huge thank you to all our staff for their hard work, care and commitment. Our Year 7s are settling in really nicely, and it has been wonderful to see pupils growing in confidence, embracing new learning and making the most of the opportunities available to them. From our Black History Month celebrations and careers workshops to trips and experiences celebrating Deaf culture, there has been so much to be proud of.

The school feels warm and positive, and seeing our new vision and PROUD values come to life in everyday practice is fantastic. Our visits to RAD and from the BDA have been particular highlights, and it makes me incredibly proud to see us building relationships and working alongside long-standing Deaf organisations with such a rich history connected to the community. We have so much to celebrate about our Deaf identity, heritage and place within the wider Deaf community, and it is wonderful to be bringing this history to life for our pupils and helping them feel part of something bigger.



I am also incredibly pleased and grateful for the generosity, donations and hard work of our community in helping us secure our new minibus! We will be collecting 'her' in Autumn 2, and I am so excited about the opportunities this will bring, enabling our pupils to enjoy even more amazing trips, experiences and opportunities beyond the classroom.

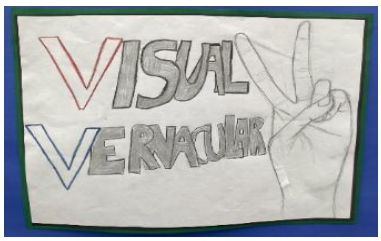
Thank you for everything you do to make Blanche Nevile such a special place. Enjoy a well-deserved rest, recharge your batteries, and let's crack on with Autumn 2!

Laila Doobeh - Co Headteacher, Secondary



English

Ms Wallis writes:





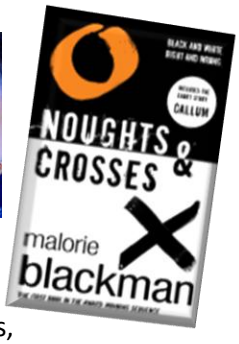
On September 24th, some of our students travelled to the RAD in Islington for a workshop with Visual Vernacular (VV) artist Zoe McWhinney. The workshop was organised to coincide with the International Week of Deaf People.

VV is a storytelling art form that uses body language, gestures, facial expressions, and mime to communicate stories visually without words. It has strong connection to deaf culture and originated in the deaf community in the 1960s.

We all watched Zoe's beautiful VV skills, then Blanche Nevile staff watched our students in amazement as they used **their** VV skills to tell their own stories. The students' feedback was really positive and we hope that this will be the first of many trips to the RAD who are keen to promote deaf culture.

Well done 8B, 9B and 10B! (FW)





English and Life Skills

Ms Willis writes:

Year 10B English -This half term, Year 10B has been exploring *Dystopian Fiction* through the novel *Noughts and Crosses* by Malorie Blackman. Alongside studying the text, students have been developing their Functional Skills in English**,** learning how to write notes, forms, emails, and articles**.** The themes within the novel have also supported discussions linked to Black History Month**,** where students reflected on the lives and contributions of significant Black figures. All students will receive a Unit Award on completion of this unit.



Year 9a English – This half term students been introduced their topic Gothic Horror. Students have written descriptions of the word Gothic and looked at what gothic entails. Students have also started reading a famous Gothic story called Dracula by Bram Stoker. Students have also designed their own gothic villain and building and have been introduced to key Gothic vocabulary.

Skills For Life - This half term, Year KS3 students have been learning about their new school environment, developing confidence in navigating the site, and getting to know their new teachers. They have also been introduced to new school rules and expectations.

This terms topic for Year KS3 is called "Myself".

Students have been learning a variety of topics across KS3 like:
Personal Identity and Self Awareness, strengths & interests, emotions & self -regulation, confidence building and setting personal goals. Well done to all KS3 students. Keep up the good work.



KS4 10/11A

This half term, all Key Stage 4 students have been introduced to Preparation for Work – Learning about the Work Place. This is part of their WJEC pathway. Students have identified work places, roles within work places as well as researching different types of workplaces in their community. Well done KS4. Keep up the good work.

English

Ms Burke writes:

English has got off to a brilliant start this academic year, with students working incredibly hard from the very first day back. It has been fantastic to see the school's Proud values reflected in students' attitudes, approach to learning and progress.

7/8C have made a fantastic start to secondary English, exploring creative writing and fantasy. They have really impressed me with their focus and enthusiasm, taking part in discussions, writing independently and annotating extracts using the visualiser. They have absorbed so much already and should be proud of their progress.



8B have been studying Greek mythology through independent writing, role play, interactive activities and discussion. They have been brilliant, showing respect for each other, working in unity and making the most of every opportunity to develop their ideas and understanding. I can't wait to see how they continue to develop.

9C have returned with a focused and positive attitude. They have been developing their creative writing skills through a Gothic unit, while also consolidating their analytical writing skills. They have begun familiarising themselves with the GCSE assessment objectives, and their work on the Gothic genre is providing a strong foundation for Frankenstein next half term and Jekyll and Hyde as they move into Year 10. They have shown great potential – keep up the good work, Year 9!

11B have made a brilliant start to their final year. They have been studying The Hunger Games, building on their understanding of dystopia from Noughts & Crosses last year, while developing the skills needed for their English Functional Skills qualifications. They have also completed independent exam work, demonstrating increasing independence and making the most of the opportunities available to them.

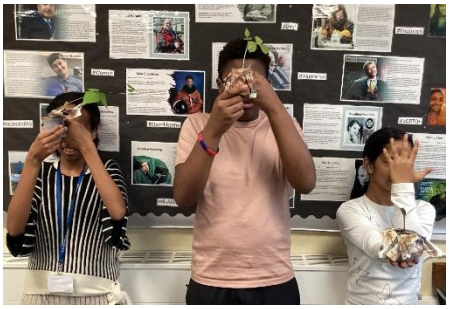
Humanities – 9A

9A Humanities have also made an excellent start, studying World War Two, with a focus on the Blitz and evacuation. They have developed their understanding through discussion, role play, film and interactive activities. They have been highly engaged, showing respect, working in unity and demonstrating real potential in their learning. I have been extremely impressed with the start they have made.

It has been a fantastic start to the year!

Science

Ms Donovan writes:



In Science, Year 8 have been exploring the world of plants by growing their own runner beans. Students have been learning about what plants need to grow and observing the changes as their beans develop. This hands-on project has given everyone the opportunity to get involved, care for their plants and see science in action. It has been fantastic to watch their beans grow and bring our learning to life!

Art & Design

Ms Christian writes:

Jeans for Genes Day 2026

Every year BNS supports the Jeans for Genes Charity by raising awareness through our assembly, showing our support by wearing blue and denim clothes and by collecting money for the charity.

This year, on Friday 18th September, together with BNS Primary, we raised a fantastic £120 as a school.

Huge thank you to everyone for your support.

https://www.jeansforgenes.org





Careers

Mrs Demirci writes:

On October 8th, the CEO of the British Deaf Association came to Blanche Nevile for a careers workshop about the charity sector. Rebecca explained to Years 9 and 10 the advocacy role of the BDA and how they raise awareness of deaf culture and BSL. The students made their own flyers to raise awareness and shared them with the group. It was a really fun and interactive workshop and we thank the BDA for joining us! Next half term we look forward to the Met Police visiting Years 7 and 8 to talk about their role in the community.



Humanities

Mrs Demirci writes:

The theme for Black History Month this year is 'Honouring Our Communities'. We reached out to two members of the Black Deaf community, Ahmed Mudawi and Nicole Campbell, to share their own family histories with students in assembly. The students were really engaged and asked some great questions! Thanks to them both for offering their time and sharing their knowledge with us.



Ms Wallis writes:

Humanities Trip to the Cutty Sark in Greenwich

The Cutty Sark was the fastest ship in Victorian times but it still took three months to bring tea back to Britain from China! 8A had a special tour of this magnificent ship and learnt about the life of a sailor on board. They cleaned the decks, painted the wood, steered the boat and visited the smart captain's quarters. 8A asked so many interesting questions and the next day said they wanted to go back again. (HD and FW)



Maths

Ms Antoniewicz writes:

In KS3 Maths we're focusing on Place Value and the 4 maths operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. In order to boost recall of times tables we have signed up each student to TTRS [Times Tables Rock Stars] and the feedback is very positive.

KS4 are busy starting their new courses and Year 11 are preparing for their Entry Level Certificate and Functional Skills exams in the Spring and Summer.

We are trialing a new Maths Intervention with Puffin Maths: an award-winning, evidence-based platform designed specifically to support children who struggle with dyscalculia or developmental math delays. Using an Oxford-validated framework, it assesses a child's unique needs and delivers a personalised, multi-sensory blended learning program. We will report back at the end of term on the progress students have made.

Some Blanche Nevile students now have a Sparx Maths login. Sparks Maths is a highly effective, data-driven online learning platform designed to improve mathematical confidence and grades for students aged 11–16. Evaluated by Cambridge University it uses an advanced adaptive algorithm to support students. This is an excellent program and the feedback from students is very positive.

https://www.ixl.com

https://ttrockstars.com/

https://sparxmaths.com/

Parents and Guardians!! Please encourage your child to spend time on the above websites to help them progress in maths.

Wishing you a relaxing half term break.

New Minibus!



Julia Chalfen, School Business Manager writes:

We are very excited to announce that we have been able to secure a new minibus, which will be presented to us at the Hilton Park Hotel, London on 11th December 2026.

A huge thank you to Friends of Blanche Nevile (FoBN) for fund-raising an incredible £10,000 towards the cost of the bus, and to all those who donated towards this.

We are also hugely grateful to Variety Golf, who have donated about 60% of the full cost of the bus - secured for us through Sunshine Variety. The school contributes the 40% balance – around £21,000. So the £10,000 raised by FoBN is of huge benefit in the purchase of the bus.

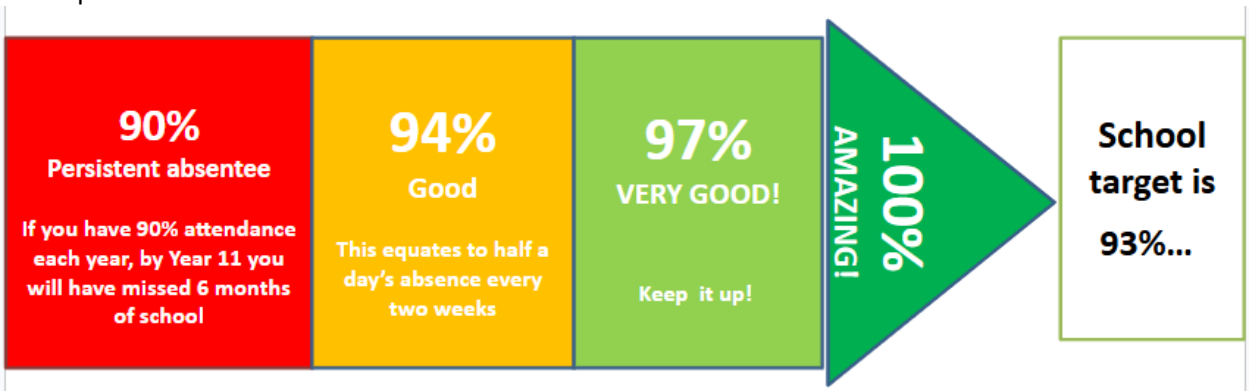
Our minibuses fulfil a really important role at the school – enabling our students to attend swimming lessons, sporting events and numerous educational visits through the academic year, that would otherwise be impossible to access.

Our old bus Bert has done sterling work for Blanche Nevile students over the last 18 years, but it is now time for him to take a well-earned retirement!

ATTENDANCE NEWS

Ms Dada (Deputy Headteacher) writes:

As a school, we believe that good attendance is essential to support our students' progress, wellbeing and communication skills.
We are ambitious and have high expectations and beside unavoidable absences we want all students to be in school, as much as possible.



We strongly encourage parents to book medical appointments outside of school hours and ask that only the necessary time off is taken. For example, if your child's appointment is at 9am, we would expect parents living within reasonable distance to bring their child to school for the afternoon session. Only the necessary time will be authorised, though individual circumstances will be taken into consideration.

Please note that Blanche Nevile School does not authorise holidays during term time. We strongly encourage families to plan all holidays and travel within the 13 weeks of school holidays each year.
Under the Education Penalty Notices England Regulations 2013, as amended by the Education Penalty Notices England Amendment Regulations 2024, local authorities **must** issue a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) to parents or carers where a child accumulates 10 or more sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school-week period. This includes absence taken immediately before or after a holiday period, which will be treated as unauthorised if leave has not been granted.

Any absence taken either side of the school holidays will be considered unauthorised unless supporting evidence is provided.

Our term dates can be found here https://blanchenevile.org.uk/Term-Dates/

BLANCHE NEVILE SCHOOL
The Best of Both Worlds for Deaf children

Parent/Carer Drop In

Come and talk to us about any questions or concerns you have.

Wednesday 11th November 2026

1.30pm – 3.00pm

Online or face to face appointments available

Abi Oakham

Secondary Site

Burlington Road
Muswell Hill
London N10 1NJ

Abi will be available to discuss any queries or concerns around your child's:

- SEN
- Audiology
- Annual review
- Additional support
- External agencies

Jude Mann

Primary Site

Storey Road
Highgate
London N6 4ED

Jude will be available for support around:

- Support from other services / what's available in your local community
- DLA & PIP signposting
- BSL courses available Free of charge
- Routines and support at home
- Online safety
- Children and YP's wellbeing online parent support and what is available for your children
- Remark! play schemes and mentoring.

Parents and carers from both the primary and secondary school are welcome at both sites.

You are welcome to book an appointment at the site and with the person who may be more able to help with your question or enquiry.

Appointments must be pre booked.

To book an appointment with Abi:

Aoakham@blanchenevile.org.uk
07561 297 038

To book an appointment with Jude:

Jmann@blanchenevile.org.uk
07436 274 174

IMPORTANT DATES

Second half of the Autumn Term runs from Monday 2nd November until Friday 18th December 2026 (early closure at 12.30)

Year 7 and 11 Parents Evening (to meet subject teachers): Tuesday 24th November 2026, 4-6pm

Winter Holidays: Monday 21st December 2026 to 4th January 2027

Spring Term 2027 runs from Tuesday 5th January 2027 until Thursday March 25th 2027 (early closure) with Half Term holiday: February 15th -19th 2027

Spring Holidays: Friday 26th March to Monday 12th April 2027

Summer Term 2027 runs from Tuesday 13th April 2027 until Thursday 22nd July 2027 with no school Monday 3rd May (bank holiday) and Half Term holiday: 31st May to Friday 4th June 2027