

# CENTRAL NEWS



**Blackburn Central  
HIGH SCHOOL**

Aspire and achieve

**WINTER 2023**

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Hello and a very warm welcome to the winter edition of Central News. As children and staff start to wind down for the Christmas break, we want to reflect on the last term and everything that we have achieved.

We've seen some amazing work take place in class, as well as achievements outside of school. You continuously make me proud to be the Headteacher at BCHS.

On behalf of school I wish you all a wonderful Christmas. I hope it's restful and enjoyable and I look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 8 January 2024. Please note that school closes at 12.30pm on Friday 22 December 2023.

**Mrs Hussain, Headteacher**

## A HAT-TRICK FOR BILLY!

We were delighted to hear this term that Billy, one of our year seven students at BCHS, has been chosen to represent his country in the under 12s GB roller hockey team.



Despite only learning to roller skate during lockdown, this is the third year running that Billy has been chosen for the team.

We are super proud of you Billy and you are a fine example of how hard work can pay off if you are really focused on achieving your goals.

## ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

What an amazing time we had in November at our Annual Achievement Awards, where we came together to celebrate our former Year 11 students, who left us this summer.

The awards ceremony brought together the whole year, as well as their families, to celebrate their achievements and recognise the hard work they put in during their time at school.

We gave out a number of awards to various students from Year 11 but found it very difficult choosing the winners as there were so many students who went the extra mile at school.

Well done guys. We are so proud of you all and can't wait to see what you go on to achieve next.





## TREE OF LIFE WINS JUDGES' APPROVAL

We are super proud of a group of our students after winning the SMILE award at the Community CVS volunteer awards.

Local schools were invited to create centre pieces out of recycled materials for the event at King George's Hall. With a move to a more sustainable event, the decision was made to move away from balloons and glitter and look for something that would be more environmentally friendly. Our students won after creating an amazing table centre piece, which they entitled the 'Tree of Life'.



## CAREERS CORNER

In this edition we are introducing Careers Corner, a new feature that will appear in every issue. Careers is a subject that is covered in every year at BCHS and we have a dedicated Careers Advisor, Kelley Ansbro, on hand to offer impartial advice and guidance to all students. Kelley is currently working on a one-to-one basis with students in Year 11 by helping them to complete applications for their future options. Kelley works in school on a Thursday and is available at lunch and break for drop in sessions for students from years 7-11. Parents are also welcome to attend these meetings should they wish, please just email school to arrange this in advance.



## T-LEVELS

T-levels are new two-year courses taken after GCSEs and are broadly equivalent in size to three A Levels. Launched in September 2020, these courses were developed in collaboration with employers and education providers so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for entry into skilled employment, an apprenticeship or related technical study through further or higher education.

T-levels offer students practical and knowledge-based learning at a school or college and on-the-job experience through an industry placement of at least 315 hours – approximately 45 days. Many of our local colleges offer T-levels, including Blackburn College, Burnley College and Runshaw college among others. For further information about T-levels click [HERE](#).

## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Training 2000 apprenticeship open evenings

**Date:** Wed 31 Jan & Thur 1 Feb from 4.30pm-7.30pm

**Venue:** Training 2000, Furthergate Business Park, Blackburn, BB1 3BD

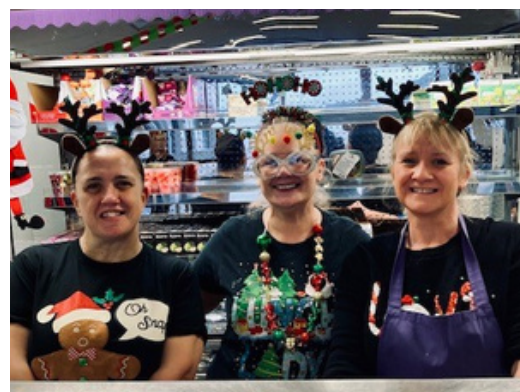
To register click [HERE](#).



## CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

A big thank you to all those who took part in our Christmas Jumper Day to help raise funds for Save the Children. The day was an amazing success and lots of staff and students took part.

The catering staff also put on a splendid Christmas dinner, complete with crackers and cakes. It was a great hit with everyone and a lovely treat to end the week.



## MAYORS PAY A VISIT

Some of our students got the opportunity to quiz the Mayor of Blackburn, Parwaiz Akhtar, and the Mayor of Ribble Valley, Mark Hindle, when they both paid a visit to school earlier this month.

Councillor Hindle is also a trustee of the board that governs school so he was particularly interested in hearing the views of students.

The pair also got the opportunity to chat with our Junior Leadership Team about their influence at school. Thank you so much for coming in, the students had a great time.

## CHRISTMAS CAROL TRIP

A group of our year 11 students had a great time last month when they went to Blackburn Cathedral to watch a performance of 'A Christmas Carol'.

The students are studying the story as part of their English GCSE so being able to watch the play really helped with their comprehension skills. They all thoroughly enjoyed the performance too.



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## AMAZON VISIT



We were delighted to welcome Stuart Davis into our computer science class last month. He came from Amazon Web Services to work with our year eight and nine BIT club members in their competition, where they are designing and making a prototype smartphone app to solve a problem in the real world. The students were thankful for Stuart's visit as they found it extremely useful.



## CHANGE TO SCHOOL DAY



Letters went out with all students last week to inform parents of a change to the school day, following a recommendation from the Government to have a 32.5 hour school week. At present, BCHS is 10 minutes short of that each day so from September 2024, we are proposing to change the finish time of school from 2.50pm to 3pm.

To have your say on the change please click [HERE](#) to complete the form. Feedback needs to be received by 12 January 2024.

## HELP WITH FOOD COSTS



If, like many people, you are struggling with rising food costs, then there are a number of initiatives across the borough that you can access for help.

From Tuesday 2 Jan to Friday 5 Jan the family hubs in Blackburn with Darwen are offering free lunches from 11.30am-1pm. You just need to phone 01254 585000 to register for them. The hub locations are: Audley Children's Centre, Family Hub Little Harwood, Family Hub Shadsworth, Family Hub Darwen, Highcroft Children's Centre, Hancock Street Children's Centre and Family Hub Livesey.

The BwD food club also provides highly subsidised food boxes available to Blackburn with Darwen residents, delivered weekly to your local community hub. You can get £4 or £6 boxes that contain £30-£40 worth of food. To order a box call 01254 291271 or email [sams@cbpartners.org](mailto:sams@cbpartners.org). There is also the [Blackburn Foodbank](#) and [Darwen Food Larder](#) to help with emergency food needs.



## FESTIVE BAKES ON THE MENU

Festive cakes and cookies were on the menu at our latest free cookery class. Participants had a great time making their cakes, learning how to temper chocolate and then rustling up Christmas cookies. A big thanks to our catering manager, Amanda, for hosting the class. If you would like to attend a future class with your child please email [mrathore524@bchs.co.uk](mailto:mrathore524@bchs.co.uk). All ingredients are provided and are halal. All you need to bring is a container to take your food home.



The end of the year is a time when expectations are raised for us to share an enjoyable time with friends and family, take part in special events and celebrations or perhaps just have a good rest. There are the big events of Christmas and New Year that fill our screens and our streets. For some though, this is a difficult time when routines are disrupted, friends are missed, trusted adults are not available and help is not necessarily easy to reach.

During this time away from school if you need to reach out for support or advice please email: [safeguarding@bchs.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@bchs.co.uk). We hope you all have a safe and enjoyable time during the holidays but we are contactable if you need us.

## MAYOR'S PARLOUR VISIT

Students were delighted to be invited to the Mayor of Ribble Valley's parlour last week to enjoy a tour around the building and a bite to eat. They also performed as a choir to staff at the parlour.

Councillor Mark Hindle became the Mayor of Ribble Valley earlier this year and is also a trustee of our school.

Our pupils had a great time and set a shining example for our school with their courteous manner and inquisitive minds.



## REVISION RESOURCES

We have developed a range of resources to help our year 11 students with their exam preparation. Each Monday a suggested revision timetable is posted on social media, as well as in school bulletins. We also have a dedicated revision help email: [revisionhelp@bchs.co.uk](mailto:revisionhelp@bchs.co.uk) where students will get a reply within 24 hours, even over the Christmas holidays.

During school time, room COM9 is available at lunchtime should students want a quiet space to revise. We also have a range of revision guides available to buy from the finance office.

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## BCHS HAS GOT TALENT



We hosted our 'Blackburn Central High School's Got Talent' contest earlier this month, where lots of our students took to the stage to show off their incredible talents.

A big thank you to all those who took part, you were all amazing. Also, thank you to all the parents that came to watch and the staff who helped to organise the event. We are definitely not short of talent at BCHS!



## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you have something you would like to see featured in the next edition? Maybe your child is doing something in the community or has achieved something that you want us to recognise? If so, please send an email to [sobrien@championtrust.co.uk](mailto:sobrien@championtrust.co.uk). You can also keep up to date with our latest news on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter - simply search for Blackburn Central High School and hit the follow button.

## STUDENT OF THE TERM TREATS



Our students of the term will be presented with a hamper on the final day of term as recognition for all the hard work they have put in this term. There'll be one hamper per year.



## CHRISTMAS COMPETITION



Thank you to all the students who entered our 'Design a Christmas Card Competition' - we were blown away by the entries and found it so hard choosing the winners!



## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT



In the new year we are switching to a new parental contact system and we need to ensure your contact details are up to date, especially those who are not currently getting emails from school.

We know there are many parents with outdated or incomplete email addresses on our system and you could be missing out on vital information about your child's education if one of these is you. Please can you email [info@bchs.co.uk](mailto:info@bchs.co.uk) with the correct email and contact number for your child's guardian by 31 December 2023 so that we can ensure you are kept up to date with school information.