

# 2021

at Blackburn Central High School



**Blackburn Central**  
HIGH SCHOOL

Aspire and achieve





# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We've taught thousands of lessons this year, from English to Engineering, Maths to Music, but above everything we've taught our students, one message is more important now than ever: ***"Self-care is not selfish"***.

Over the winter break we ask you to make time for yourself, to do things that make your heart dance and your soul illuminate.

Connect with your loved ones, your little ones, and the ones you lost along the way. ***"I'm here to listen"*** so often means more than you might realise.

Whilst in school, our Mental Health First Aiders are available to be a listening ear to our students at a moment's notice. Details of Mental Health First Aiders can be found in every classroom.

This year we've become one of Blackburn with Darwen's Digital Healthy Schools. We're able to signpost our students to apps and online resources that can help understand mental wellbeing. Click [here](#) to find out more about the service on the 'Student Wellbeing' page of our website.

***"There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind."*** - C.S. Lewis, author of The Chronicles of Narnia

As 2021 draws to an end, it's time to look back on the positive stories from the year which have brought our Blackburn Central family together.

We wish you and your family every happiness for 2022. If there is anything that our BCHS community can do to help you in the new year, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



## January

Staff and students have been working together, led by Mrs Rathore and Mrs Reeves to raise awareness of LGBT within the school community.

With the overall aim of being more open and honest about LGBT, the school community is working towards achieving the Rainbow Flag Award. There are six areas for consideration within the award and we have achieved the first part of the award, 'Skilled teacher'.



## February

### 3D MISSION TO MARS

A group of our students are taking part in the Gaming to Development (G2D) project; a unique and exciting opportunity in Engineering, Design and Technology where they use 3D real-time collaboration in gaming.

16 students have been selected to be part of a 6 week programme where they will be working with the CALOM Project, Epic Games and Frame store (The and Avengers VR designers) in collaboration with Cambridge University to understand and be skilled in 3D visualisation. They will engage in online-mediated 'challenge-based learning', working together remotely and in real time, using the Unreal Engine to build a virtual habitat on Mars. Immersive VR content (e.g. of the Mars landscape) will also be created.

After 6 weeks our students will have created a space on Mars, complete with buildings they can walk inside, plus space suits and other tools necessary for survival on Mars.

## March

As lockdown restrictions start to ease, and students return back to school, we wanted to recognise the hard work and diligence from our parents in ensuring their children are logging into their online lessons, we have sent 50 "Hug in a Mugs" to some of our parents.

The "Hug in a Mug" is to encourage parents to sit down with a hot chocolate and some biscuits for a little bit of "me" time. The treats were generously donated Natasha Beck, Community Champion at Morrisons in Great Harwood, who heard of our appeal and kindly offered to help.

We know that a lot more than 50 parents are doing everything they can to encourage students to access their virtual learning, so to make it fair we pulled 10 names per year group out of a hat.



## April

### FUNDRAISER IN MEMORIAL OF DYLAN WEIR

One of our happiest and most energetic students, Dylan Weir, was a very special part of our BCHS family, but he was suddenly and tragically taken from us on Tuesday 28th January 2020, at only 12 years old.

Dylan's loyal friendship and incredible personality have left wonderful lasting memories within our school. Students in Dylan's year group and others across school have helped to raise money by selling Easter eggs, organising raffles, and collecting donations.

Dylan's school friends raised a total of £160 for a special memorial bench, which will be located within the community by his family.

Thank you to everyone who contributed, we hope this will make a difference to Dylan's family.



## May

Earlier this year our colleague and dear friend Alison Turner, sadly passed away. Alison worked at Blackburn Central High School for 7 years and touched the heart of so many of our students.

The Alison Turner Memorial Trophy has been introduced to celebrate students who reflect Alison's natural culinary talent.

This week, one of our year 8 students has been awarded The Alison Turner Memorial Trophy, after receiving a nomination from Mr McCrone, for her creativity and organisation in the kitchen.

Congratulations!



## June

### CREATIVE TASTER DAYS

Year 8s took part in Creative and Tech taster days this month before choosing their GCSE options.

The Taster Days were especially useful for those who may not have had chance to explore all of their options due to lockdown.

Over the days students made Chicken Chow Mein in Food Technology, created keyrings in the style of 'Day of the Dead' in Resistant Materials and produced a whole year rainbow mural in Art that will be displayed within school.

As well as this, in Drama students devised and performed their own original piece, using lighting and sound design, costumes and props; and in Music students enjoyed composing music for film and television using a digital audio workstation.

The atmosphere during the day was really positive and the students really enjoyed their sessions.





# July

## STUDENTS RAISE OVER £500 FOR CHARITY

A group of year 10 students have raised an incredible total of £587.06 selling mocktails, cakes and sweets in aid of the Al-Imdaad Foundation UK.

The Al-Imdaad Foundation provides humanitarian services in crisis and non-crisis situations, nationally and globally, to the world's most in-need, irrespective of race, religion or culture.

Mr Chinery, Year 10 Pastoral Manager said "Once again, our students have made me incredibly proud. These are extraordinary students, with an extraordinary mindset."

Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, our students could not be there to present their gift to the Al-Imdaad Foundation, but the Foundation have kindly invited our students to their headquarters to celebrate their achievement.

# August

Everybody at Blackburn Central High School would like to say a massive 'Congratulations' to all of the students receiving their GCSE results today. We are so proud of the hard work and effort our students have put in, and we're glad to say it was reflected in their results.

This year, grades were determined by teachers, and then, following quality assurance, results are issued by the exam boards. Teachers take evidence-based decisions about the grade they recommend. Evidence can include, but is not limited to, mock exams, classwork and assignments.

Collectively, the school's grades this year have seen an increase, with a 6.6% increase in students achieving a grade 5 or above in English, and a 1.9% increase in students achieving a grade 5 or above in Maths. These are the highest results achieved at BCHS since the new numerical grade system was introduced.

Top achiever Saarah said "I am beyond happy and delighted. I want to thank all my teachers who have supported me through this and my family."

Saarah's Dad also commented "She's done so amazingly well, I'm so excited for her" Saarah achieved eight grade 9s and one grade 7.



## September

Star of 'Educating Yorkshire', Musharaf Asghar, gives inspiring speech to BCHS students.

Musharaf, AKA 'Mushy', joined BCHS on Thursday 23 September to give a keynote presentation about how he overcame his difficulties with a stammer which held him back in his school career.

Mushy talked us through the techniques he used to ground himself and help keep focused. One technique was to wear headphones whilst he spoke, an idea his teacher had seen on 'The King's Speech'. Mushy told us he would also call up call centres just to be able to chat to people, because they often weren't allowed to hang up.

Mushy reminded us that life is not a competition, he said  
"The only person you are in competition with is yourself."



## October

On Monday 4th October Art teacher, Mrs Sharkey accompanied 3 year 10 girls, Nelofar, Halima and Humeira to a hotel in Wigan where many Afghani families are being housed, having fled the recent conflict.

The families at the hotel fled Afghanistan with only the clothes they were wearing, they have literally left their whole life behind. People in Wigan and staff at BCHS have been extremely generous and have provided the families with more than enough clothes, toiletries and day to day items. However the one thing the children were missing were their toys, the girls particularly wanted dolls.

The 3 girls really wanted to help the children; they went out and bought dolls, jigsaws and crafts for the children. Mr Tyrie had also donated two huge bags of teddy bears, which we took along too. The children and parents were so happy with their new toys - especially the dolls!

Our 3 Y10 girls were wonderful, playing with the children and chatting to the parents, with Nelofar as our interpreter! It was a humbling and emotional afternoon for all of us, the girls were an absolute credit to BCHS.



# November

The Renee Black Integration Award has been awarded to the staff and students of Blackburn Central High School for their outstanding voluntary contribution to bringing together the different communities of Blackburn with Darwen and building a shared understanding between different sections of our community.

Renee Black was a founding member of the Blackburn with Darwen Interfaith Forum who devoted much of her time to helping people learn about different cultures and religions to foster a better understanding between people.

BCHS was a new school in 2012 and now serves one of the most deprived areas in the country. With intake from a wide range of local primary schools, we have a wonderfully diverse mix of nationalities in our school community. We are so proud of how well our school community works together, bringing together many different languages, faiths, nationalities, and cultures.

Since opening, we have had over 50 different nationalities join – from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, and 30+ languages spoken. We were mentioned in a HM Govt. Green Paper for our positive cohesion, and in 2020, we attained School of Sanctuary – the only school in BwD to do so, and now we are supporting other schools in the borough in reaching this status.



# December

December saw our first Awards Assemblies of the school year.

Over 150 of our top students received awards for effort and achievement from their subject teachers. Students were gifted a multitude of prizes, including gift cards, games and chocolates.

Our 5 best GCSEpod users were the lucky recipients of Smartwatches and our students with 100% attendance were entered into a draw to win a £25 gift card!

Congratulations to all of our winners!





Edge Hill Teaching Experience Day



Students Raise £500 for Al Imdaad



Junior Leadership Team President (R) and Vice President (L)



Sports Day



GCSE Results Day



Banking and Finance Guest Speaker - Mr Khan



# JANUARY

## AT A GLANCE

**Thursday 6  
January**

Year 11 Art trip to  
Manchester Gallery

**Wednesday 12  
January**

Year 10 Drama trip to  
Palace Theatre

**Monday  
17 January**

Year 11 Mock Exam  
week

**Wednesday 19  
January**

Year 7 Mother and  
Daughter group

**Friday 21  
January**

Community Forum

**Monday 24  
January**

Year 11 Mock Exam  
week