

Monthly Newsletter

November 2021



Blackburn Central
HIGH SCHOOL

Aspire and achieve

AUTUMN IS IN THE AIR

Over the past few weeks school life has become increasingly busy after school as more and more of our extra-curricular clubs get going and lots of our children are staying behind to get involved. In addition, there have been an exciting range of additional activities taking place from enrichment activities to whole school events. It is great to see our children enjoying themselves, and to experience the vibrant, lively atmosphere which pervades the building.

Please see below for some of our highlights:

- We have been shortlisted for the Renee Black Award. Please see the LET article: Blackburn Central High School nominated for interfaith award in memory of Renee Black | Lancashire Telegraph
- Star of 'Educating Yorkshire', Musharaf Asghar, aka 'Mushy' gave an inspiring speech to BCHS students.
- Our Open Evening and Open mornings were very well-attended and we received very complimentary feedback. We look forward to welcoming these children in September 2022.
- We have had fabulous attendance at our Year 7 Settling in Evening and Year 11 Raising Achievement Evening. Thank you for your support.
- Year 7 student went to Waddow Hall 7th and 8th October and had an amazing experience! Read all about their experience in this newsletter.
- Our Grandparents Day helped create lots of precious and everlasting memories for our children. Some quotes from our grandparents are shared below.
- BCHS have been congratulated on adopting The Halo Code - read more at halocollective.co.uk
- BCHS has been successful in securing a £350 bid to spend on books with A New Chapter; this was a competition open to schools who would benefit from books that promote diversity and inclusivity. New Chapter reported that they were inundated with excellent applications, ours included, and it was extremely difficult to choose a winner. That said, they found that there was no question that our setting is extremely deserving of receiving the books we are thrilled our application has been successful. We will now have the chance to spend the funding on choosing from 1000s of exciting diverse titles.

- We are so excited to have received 100 free books as part of Penguin Books 'Lit in Colour' programme. The programme has been devised to shine a light on Black, Asian and minority ethnic writers.

Please remember that 22 October is a staff training day and so children will finish for their half term break at the end of Thursday 21 October. Some of our year 11 children will be in school over half-term for personalised interventions. On that note I will wish you all a very restful half term and thank you for your continued support.



Mrs S Hussain
Headteacher

THE MONTH AHEAD

Friday 12 November
Community Forum

Wednesday 24 November
Year 11 Drama Trip

Thursday 25 November
Awards Evening

Thursday 30 November
Years 8, 9 & 10 Raising
Achievement Evening

GRANDPARENTS' DAY

BCHS celebrated Grandparents' Day for the first time since COVID restrictions eased.

Students in Y7 were asked to bring their grandparents to school on Saturday 2nd October. The school opened our doors for grandparents and students with tea, coffee and cakes for everyone. A tour of the school gave an opportunity to share memories of schooling and discussions about how different it is now.

"I'm so glad I came - I want to support my granddaughter as much as I can during her time at "big school". We saw so much! I'm pleased she comes to BCHS."

"I can now imagine my grandson in his lessons - I've actually stood in his classrooms."

"Nothing was too much for the staff - we were made to feel so welcome. I loved the tour"

"School is so much nicer than when we were at school, the classes are so full of light. It's a beautiful school."

Headteacher Mrs Hussain said: "All members of our BCHS family are special to us. We look to our grandparents for their experience and wisdom. We celebrate Grandparents' day to give them their time in the spotlight."

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Year 9 students visit UCLan's School of Medicine.

On Wednesday 6 October a group of Year 9 students were invited to UCLan's School of Medicine to take a tour around their Clinical Skills suite, learn some practical life-saving tips, and to find out more about the route into the world of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.



TOYS FOR AFGHANI FAMILIES

On Monday 4th October Art teacher, Mrs Sharkey accompanied 3 year 10 girls, Nelopar, 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 Nelopar as our interpreter! It was a humbling and emotional afternoon for all of us, the girls were an absolute credit to BCHS.



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WADDOW HALL

Our new Year 7 cohort have attended their first ever BCHS Residential Trip to Waddow Hall.

On Thursday 7 October over 60 of our new Year 7 cohort set off on their first ever BCHS Residential Trip to outdoor activity centre, Waddow Hall, on the outskirts of Clitheroe.

On the two-day trip students took part in many exciting activities from Archery, to Canoeing to Crate Stacking. For many of our students this was the first time they'd had chance to experience the 'real' outdoors.

Mr Robertson said :

"The children loved their time at Waddow Hall, they are still talking about it now. It was quite literally a breath of fresh air to get out of the classroom and to see our children get involved in so many activities that they otherwise may never have had the chance to."



CAREERS FAIR

Year 10 and 11 students chat with education providers and employers.

On Wednesday 20 October, we held our annual Careers Fair. We were joined by colleges, sixth forms, apprenticeship providers and employers from Lancashire and further afield.

Students and parents discovered the exciting career pathways available to them in their futures.

BRIDGEWATER HALL

Students experience the Hallé Orchestra at Bridgewater Hall.

On Tuesday 5 October a group of GCSE Music students visited the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester to watch a performance by the award winning Hallé Orchestra.



DERREN BROWN: SHOWMAN

Students visit Blackpool Opera House to watch Derren Brown: Showman.

On Friday 1 October a group of BCHS students visited Blackpool Opera House to watch the master of psychological illusion, Derren Brown, as part of BCHS's role to provide our Most Able students with a range of opportunities.

Whilst a rewards trip, the performance put the students' critical thinking skills to the test and made the audience think about the concept of illusion, delusion and human behaviour.

BLOOD BROTHERS

Year 11 students visit the theatre.

On Thursday 21 October, 63 Year 11 pupils visited the Alhambra Theatre in Bradford to see a performance of Willy Russell's 'Blood Brothers'.

The show tells the captivating and moving tale of twins who, separated at birth, grow up on opposite sides of the tracks, only to meet again with fateful consequences.

Students are studying Blood Brothers as part of their GCSE English qualifications, and the performance helped them to visualise the text.

ALLIED HEALTHCARE

Applications for work experience with Allied Healthcare are now open.

Applications for this programme are now open, and they will be open throughout this academic year, with the next virtual work experience day taking place on the 7th November. Please forward these details to your interested students so they can participate in the monthly virtual work experience days. It is suitable for students in 10 and 11, interested in Nursing, Midwifery, Paramedicine, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Dietetics, Radiography, Prosthetics and Orthotics, Speech and language therapy, and Pharmacy!

If you're interested in signing up, please chat to Mrs Jowett in the Main Office.



WINTER SNOW-CASE

This half-term we have held the auditions for our winter showcase. They were very well attended, and Miss Baillie & Mr Bridges were very impressed with the high standard of talent from all those who presented an act.

We're really excited to get going with our rehearsals after half term, ready to perform for pupils and parents on 9th December. If any pupils want to perform or to help out on the day, please speak to Miss Baillie or Mr Bridges.



LIT IN COLOUR

We are so excited to have received 100 free books as part of the Penguin Books 'Lit in Colour' programme.

The programme has been devised to shine a light on Black, Asian and minority ethnic writers.

New titles include 'A Rising Man' by Abir Mukherjee, 'Living While Black' by Guilaine Kinouani, and 'The Friend' by Dorothy Koomson.

Our students are already getting stuck in to their new books!



CARVING OUT SOME TIME

Mr George and Mr McCrone were back with their annual 'Pumpkin Carving Evening'.

Students from years 7-10 got their hands dirty, and learned how to use professional sculpting tools to create some traditional, and some more modern, pumpkin carvings.



JOB VACANCY - COOK

We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic and flexible Cook for a permanent, term-time position. The successful candidate will be a friendly and reliable team member with an interest in working with children in the busy kitchen of a large school

Closing Date: 4th November 2021 at 12pm

Click [here](#), or visit BCHS.co.uk for more information.

JUDO

Mr Burns' Judo club will be continuing after half term on Mondays after school.

New members are always welcome!

Those wanting further details should speak with Mr Burns, or show up to the club on a Monday evening.



MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Mental Health Week was celebrated at BCHS from Monday 11 October to Friday 15 October.

Students took part in activities, conversations and debates about understanding mental health within our BCHS and Blackburn community.

At the end of the week Year 7 students ran a very successful cake sale to raise money for our schools' Enrichment Fund, which goes towards helping our most in-need families.



PATHWAYS DROP-INS

Drop-ins with our internal Student Support service, Pathways, are available to all of our students during lunchtime every Monday - Thursday.

No appointment needed!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Throughout October our students have celebrated Black History Month.

Students have learned about key figures in Black history and how they have helped to shape the community that we live in, as well as the important contributions that are made by black people in our society today.



RISING STAR AWARD

2020 Leaver, Jordan wins Rising Star Award

Jordan Murchie of Sporting NRG won Rising Star Award at the Hive Awards earlier this month.

At the age of just 17, Jordan really impressed the judges and they wanted to acknowledge the journey she has been on to where she is today.

Towards the end of her school career Claire Allen, Jordan's Pastoral Manager at the time, put Jordan in touch with Gareth Davis, Company Director of Sporting NRG, Gareth saw Jordan's ability and strong work ethic and offered her an Apprenticeship role once she left Blackburn Central High School.

At first Jordan was very nervous and had little confidence in her own abilities. Over time her confidence has grown to the point that she is now able to deliver both PE and Adventure Activities on her own to small groups with little, if any, support and supervision and to an extremely high standard.

One headteacher recently commented that they wanted Jordan in their school every day as she is head and shoulders above most staff in working with and building relationships with their pupils.

Gareth said "Jordan is a huge credit to the team here at Sporting NRG, we are immensely proud of Jordan, and the rest of our wonderful team."

Claire said "I'm really proud of Jordan, I knew that she'd take this opportunity with both hands and run with it. I can't wait to see what Jordan goes on to do next."