

Monthly Newsletter

December 2021



Blackburn Central
HIGH SCHOOL

Aspire and achieve

OUR AUTUMNAL UPDATE

Awards Evening is a special occasion in the school year. It was more special than ever before especially as our year 12s had faced significant disruption to the end of their 5 years here at BCHS. It's one of a number of milestones in the lives of our students that brings them together with friends and families in celebration. It was an absolute pleasure to join our graduates in celebrating their success. There were some phenomenal results and we look forward to hearing about our children as they embark on the next stages of their journey.

The cold winter weather is definitely starting to set in. I urge parents and carers to ensure that your children bring coats, hats and gloves to school. These will be needed not just for the journey to and from school, but also for use during break and lunch, as we encourage our students to spend time outside in the fresh air.

Re: Face Masks and Coverings to be reintroduced from Monday 29th November 2021

As you are aware, I have received an email from The Department of Education saying that: "Face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and pupils or students in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt.

"Pupils or students (in year 7 or above) should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt."

Thank you, in advance for your support and I am sure you understand that we have made this decision so that we can continue to keep staff and students as safe as possible.

As we are already past the half way point of this half term it seems that so much has happened in such a short period of time. If one thing is constant within a school it is the pace at which time passes. I hope that this newsletter has provided some useful information to help you understand a little of the busyness of life in school; though with over 2500 lessons taking place each week in the school it is hard, I know, to truly communicate everything as we would wish all of the time. There is always much going on in school, and I would encourage you to regularly check the school website and social media accounts to see these in greater detail.

Finally, I would like to make you aware that school will close for pupils at 11am on the 17th December. This will enable staff to participate in CPD for the remainder of the day. There will be a range of exciting activities taking place on the morning of the 17th December. All pupils in school will have the opportunity

to win raffle prizes and take part in all the SPECIAL events we have planned.

Thank you for your continued support during these unusual times. Please rest assured that our staff are working tirelessly to minimise the disruptions to your child's education. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any queries.



Mrs S Hussain
Headteacher

THE MONTH AHEAD

Thursday 2 December
Years 8, 9 and 10 Virtual Raising
Achievement Evening

Tuesday 14 December
Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 15 December
Cinema Experience

Thursday 16 December
Y7 & Y8 Pantomime

Friday 17 December
Half-term (School closes at 11am)

MEMORIAL FOR OUR BCHS FAMILY

Families, friends and staff gathered at Blackburn Central High School's Memorial Garden to remember Dylan Weir, Alison Turner, Aya Hachem and Maryam Ishtiaq.

The service opened with words from Headteacher, Shanaz Hussain, with contributions from Father Bob Hayes and Imam Mawlana Tayyab and Alison's colleague, David Woodhouse.

Also in attendance was Mayor of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, Councillor Derek Hardman, Councillor Tony Humphreys Chair of the Board of Governors and Derek Elliott, Vice Chair of the Board of Governors.

Dylan Weir was described as 'a very special part of the school family' when he was suddenly taken at home aged only 12. His peers remember him as 'bright, kind and funny.'

Alison Turner was a colleague and friend who worked at Blackburn Central High School for 7 years. Alison was said to have 'touched the heart of so many students' and her colleagues described her as 'a natural in the kitchen, who would brighten any room.'

Aya Hachem left Blackburn Central High School in 2016 with a very bright future ahead of her. Aya was studying Law at Salford University. Her family described her as a 'beautiful girl with a warm laugh.'

Maryam was a respected member of the Blackburn Central High School family. Many saw Maryam as more than just a friend, Maryam was often described as a loyal sister.

Headteacher Mrs Shanaz Hussain said: "It was a beautiful service that celebrated and remembered the lives of four very special members of our Blackburn Central family. It warmed my heart to hear our students and staff share so many wonderful stories."



"Sometimes, only one person is missing, and the whole world seems depopulated."

Alphonse de Lamartine

THE RENEE BLACK INTEGRATION AWARD

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.

Renee Black embodied all of the beliefs that Blackburn Central High School hold dear about diversity and inclusion, about learning about each other, sharing our beliefs and coming together in unity.

Headteacher, Shanaz Hussain, said: "It is a real privilege and a real honour to accept this award on behalf of the Blackburn Central High School family. I'm proud to work in such a richly diverse school and I'm so proud of the staff and students who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to bring our communities together and to find a way to support those in need."



REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

During the week of Remembrance our assemblies were dedicated to The Royal British Legion and their Poppy Appeal.

12 of our students joined The Mayor of Blackburn, Cllr Derek Hardman at Blackburn Town Hall on Thursday 11 November to mark Remembrance Day.

Pupils, Lily and Anna, joined the gathering proudly displaying their fathers' military service medals.

On remembrance Sunday, four of our lead students joined by Mrs Hussain and Mr Chinery laid a wreath at Blackburn Cathedral.



THE POWER OF BEING PRESENT

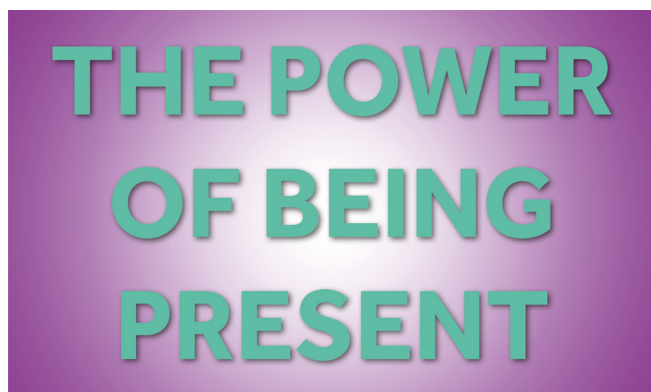
Earlier this month we held our event 'The Power of Being Present' in partnership with Audley Junior School.

The event offered strategies that our parents could employ to support their children in achieving outstanding school attendance.

Good attendance is important because:

- Statistics show a direct link between underachievement and attendance below 95%
- Regular attenders make better progress both socially and academically
- Regular attenders are more successful in transferring between secondary school and higher education, employment or training.

The winner of our £50 Love2Shop raffle was Mrs G.



PODDING OUR WAY TO THE TOP

We very excited to share that Blackburn Central High School currently stands at #3 of 153 schools competing in the GCSEPod North Heavyweight league!

As a school we've already watched over 10,000 Pods this academic year!



INSPIRATION FROM A GEOPHYSICIST

Royal Geographical Society Geophysicist, James Boyd, spoke to our Y11 GCSE Geography students this month to help to inspire them to think about the many exciting and ambitious careers that can be pursued through studying Geography.

He spoke about many careers which directly linked to their classroom learning. James spoke about his own experiences, including the pathways he took in education, as well as about the vast array of places he's been able to visit as part of his vocation.

James has inspired some of our BCHS students to become the town planners and environmental consultants of the future!



CHANGETALKS

This month Sam from NHS service, ChangeTalks, gave weekly presentations to groups of Year 10 and 11 girls.

ChangeTalks encourages young people to have open conversations about the issues facing young people, from anxiety and depression, to eating disorders and bullying.

The aim is to reduce the stigma of talking about mental health, increase awareness and to promote leading a healthier and happier mind.



MATHS IN ACTION

A group of our Year 11s had the opportunity of meeting Mr Khan who shared his life experiences and gave an insight into how Maths is used in the world of work.

Mr Khan who has a wealth of experience of working in different industries that range from Banking and Finance to the E-commerce sector to running his own businesses.

He was able to inspire and enthuse students by telling interesting stories of how Maths was used in each of these industries.

By the end our students understood more about how Maths is used in everyday life and some even had opened their minds to new careers and ideas for their own futures.



LEAVERS' AWARDS EVENING

The night of Thursday 25 November saw our annual Leavers' Awards Evening.

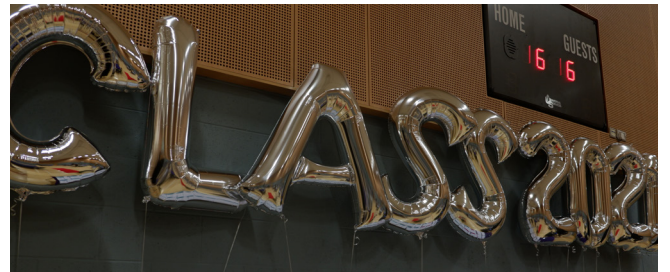
This year a massive 19 awards were presented to students who went above and beyond academically.

A further 3 awards were presented to students with the best overall attendance, and 4 special awards were presented: Special Endeavour, Pastoral Award, Headteacher's Award and Student of the Year.

The evening saw over 200 welcomed guests from the Class of 2021 and their families. We were also joined by Mayor of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, Councillor Derek Hardman.

Pastoral Manager and event organiser, Mrs Allen said: "Despite a global pandemic and the disruptions to their school and social life, our students showed resiliency and maturity and adapted to the changes we all had to make. I am delighted to see how well they have done since leaving, and wish them all the best for the future. We are all so proud of everyone. Keep in touch Class of 2021!"

A one-minute silence was also held in honour of Maryam Ishtiaq, a beloved member of the year group who sadly passed away in 2020.



Keep up to date
with us on
social media.



@BCHS_UK



/BlackburnSchool



@BCHS_UK

YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMS

Our Year 11 students will be sitting Pre-Public Exams (Mocks) after the Christmas holidays.

They will run from Monday 17th January 2022 to Friday 28th January. These exams are a good chance for our students to practice a full series of GCSE exams. In school we have been doing some preparation for the exams in Progress Time, looking at making revision timetables and practising revision techniques.

It is now time for them to use this learning at home. In addition, subject teachers will be providing revision lists in the next week so that students know what to focus on. Please could you support your child at home by checking on their revision and making sure they have no distractions.

We would like to stress the importance of these exams and encourage Year 11 to treat them as seriously as they would the real exams. This gives them a chance to reflect on their preparation and make necessary changes before the summer exams. Although the plan at the moment is that GCSE exams will go ahead as normal, the last two years have taught us that there are no guarantees and that things can change very quickly.

This is another reason to take these exams seriously as if the worst comes to the worst, we may use the grades as part of a final Teacher Assessed Grade. If we are using Teacher Assessed Grades there will still be a series of summer exams but this data will also be taken into account.

If there are any issues or questions about the PPE's, please do not hesitate to contact the Year 11 team who will support in any way they can.



UPDATE FROM LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY

Happy December everyone.

November was a busy month for your local Neighbourhood Policing Team. Unfortunately bonfire night brought some disorder which as a result has required a significant amount of time being spent making enquiries in to this incident. This has led to 5 persons being arrested in relation to this incident.

On another note officers have been in school this month delivering an input on Knife Crime. This is an input that has been delivered across the High Schools of Blackburn and Darwen.

The feedback from this was positive and hopefully the message has hit home with all the pupils.

Finally here are some crime statistics that may interest you for the area of Audley and Queens Park from November 2021.

Burglary dwelling - 4
Burglary other than in a dwelling - 6
Theft not including businesses - 6
Damage not including vehicles - 9
All vehicle crime - 14

Take care and stay safe,

Police Community Support Officer 7712 Baldwin



Lancashire Constabulary

police and communities together

Contact Lancashire Constabulary

Emergencies - **999**

Non-Emergency - **101**

Crimestoppers - **0800 555 111**

Lancashire Victim Services - **0300 323 0085**

Online - [lancashire.police.uk](https://www.lancashire.police.uk)