

# Monthly Newsletter

## August 2021



**Blackburn Central**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**

Aspire and achieve



Dear Parent/Carer,

We are approaching the end of another extremely busy academic year and despite the circumstances that we have experienced related to the pandemic, we have many aspects of school life that we need to celebrate. The resilience demonstrated by most of our students is to be commended, the commitment shown by staff is admirable and the support received from parents and carers is appreciated. I acknowledge that since the full reopening of school on the 8th March, there has been some disruption to school life. This was due to national rules around self-isolation; however, I am proud that we continued to keep any risk to your child to a minimum and prioritised health and safety throughout. Students who attended school, when they could, and engaged with remote learning when necessary have made massive strides in their learning and we are committed to continuing on the path to filling any gaps that may have occurred as a result of factors that were beyond our control.

### SEPTEMBER OPENING 2021

As I write, guidance from the Government (DfE) states: 'As part of Step 4, expected to take place on 19 July, 'bubbles' will end for all children under 18, social distancing will no longer be necessary, and schools will not need to stagger start and finish times'. 'Two on-site tests should be taken by each secondary school and college student on return, followed by twice weekly testing at home. The Government will review testing requirements by the end of September.'

Taking the above announcements into account, we are slightly adapting the return to school from what we had hoped, to allow Year 7s to settle in and Covid-19 testing to occur.

Remember, your children will only be tested for Covid-19 if we receive your consent.

Please see the adjacent for September 2021 staggered dates.

Wed 1 Sept	Staff Training Day	All Staff
Thurs 2 Sept	Year 7 return. Testing from 8.30-10.00	Year 7 in all day
Thurs 2 Sept	Year 10 testing from 10.00- 12.00	All year 10s who have consent will be given appointment times.
Thurs 2 Sept	Year 11 testing from 13.00- 15.00	All year 11s who have consent will be given appointment times.
Fri 3 Sept	All year 10 and 11 return	
Fri 3 Sept	Year 8 testing from 10.00- 12.00	All year 8s who have consent will be given appointment times.
Fri 3 Sept	Year 9 testing from 13.00 - 15.00	All year 9s who have consent will be given appointment times.
Mon 6 Sept	All years return to school	Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11

Expanded articles available on our [BCHS Website](#)

## UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

At Blackburn Central High School, we believe strongly that wearing our school uniform well and with pride contributes to the calm learning environment we all want for our children. In September we will reinforce our high standards of uniform.

Students will wear full school uniform every day and will change for PE using our changing facilities in school. This means that under no circumstances can a student attend school wearing trainers, black head scarves or black trousers. We will not be flexible on this and uniform violations will not be accepted. All students MUST have the correct uniform for September. We appreciate your support with this.

Further uniform rules that will be enforced from the start of the next academic year are:

Mobile phones are not allowed to be seen or used in school including outside of the main building at break and lunchtimes. If a student has a mobile phone, it must be switched off and out of sight at all times. Phones that are seen will be confiscated and stored safely and only returned when a parent/carer collects it from school.

Earrings, nose rings etc. are not allowed in school. Any jewellery seen will be confiscated and stored safely and only returned when a parent/carer collects them from school.

All the information regarding uniform can be found on the parents' section of the school website and I would encourage you to refer to this. Please see the link below:

<http://bchs.co.uk/parents-students/expectations/uniform>

I sincerely hope that you and your families enjoy the next few weeks and that our students take advantage of the break they will have from school. It is important that everyone returns with a fresh mind in September ready to learn and to achieve. I ask that you look closely at your child's attendance and punctuality record in their progress report. It is important that you discuss this with them and that they understand the importance of attending school and arriving on time.

Finally, I would like to thank of all my school community for their support during my first year of headship. It has certainly been a year to remember!

Eid Mubarak to all of our families celebrating. Have a wonderful break with your families.

Kind regards, stay safe and well.



**Mrs S Hussain**  
Headteacher

## Powering Transformation

**On Wednesday 30 June, year 7 pupils took part in a remote workshop from Powering Transformation along with Edge Hill University and Dell Technologies.**

50 pupils took part in a number of fantastic activities which initially included introductions to a number of students from Edge Hill who spoke to pupils about university life from the perspective of different courses.

Throughout the morning pupils discussed how technology has been developed to help with a range of social problems around the world. This including looking at how technology was used to land the Mars Rover, how technology is being used to try and solve issues with plastics in the sea and how drones are being used to plant trees in Australia to replace those destroyed in forest fires.

Pupils then worked collaboratively in teams to design a technology that could be around in 30 years' time to solve a social problem in the world. Pupils drew such creative design plans for their technology as well as making slogans for their new product. Pupils then confidently made a Dragons Den style pitch to representatives from Dell and Edge Hill University for their new technology.

The team of Dragons were very impressed with the work from all of the pupils and made special mention of the design and presentation from Maddox.



## SummerPod

**For the first time ever, GCSEPod are running SummerPod, 26 July to 14 August.**

Take control of your future and prepare for the next academic year with SummerPod. A fun programme packed with webinars, podcasts, interviews, competitions and much more.

Parents and guardians can get in on the fun too, with specially designed sessions for motivating your child and understanding what pressures they might be experiencing.

To register your interest, visit [gcsepod.com/summerpod](http://gcsepod.com/summerpod)



## Bridging the Gap

Sixteen students from Year 9 engineering have taken part in a research and development project that aims to bridge the gap between gaming and industry demand for real-time 3D skills. They have collaborated and used design skills that young people are developing through gaming to prepare them for jobs which, in many cases, may not yet exist.

They have worked with 4wardFutures and Cambridge University and funded by Epic Games, the US developer responsible for the Fortnite franchise, using the company's Unreal gaming engine, and its 3D creation tool, Twinmotion, to create a settlement within a virtual Mars environment.

Students have developed their knowledge and skills in this time to help enhance the relevance in the future careers market. For the next generation, all of these skills are likely to be essential. Many roles in fields such as engineering, manufacturing, or film and television already require experience with 3D computer-aided design, animation, or proficiency with gaming engines and VR. The project cultivated other competencies, such as the ability to engage in productive dialogue online, and collaborative problem-solving and working as part of a team.



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## 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.



## Outstanding Students

Two of our outstanding BCHS students have received awards for having 100% attendance and a shining behaviour record this year. It's been a tough year for us all, but these two students have brightened the classrooms of our school.





## Superstar of the Week

Every week, Y7 Progress Tutors select a student from their forms to have breakfast with Headteacher, Mrs Hussain.

Earlier this month was the last breakfast before we end the school year next week. Students are given a continental breakfast, every Friday with a choice of orange juice or hot chocolate, along with pain au chocolate croissants.

As well as breakfast - at which, their Head of Year, Pastoral manager and Assistant Head also attend, students are also sent a handwritten card from Mrs Hussain in the post.

Mrs Hussain explains, "It is so important to us as a school family, to celebrate every achievement of every pupil. Our Superstars of the week have shown real commitment to their learning in school. They are always in a high standard of uniform and excellent behaviour. Some previous winners have been selected as they have overcome a personal hurdle or made significant changes in their outlook as a student in BCHS. We are proud of all of the children in our BCHS family, and I look forward to spending quality time with them, and it is a wonderful way to end the week."



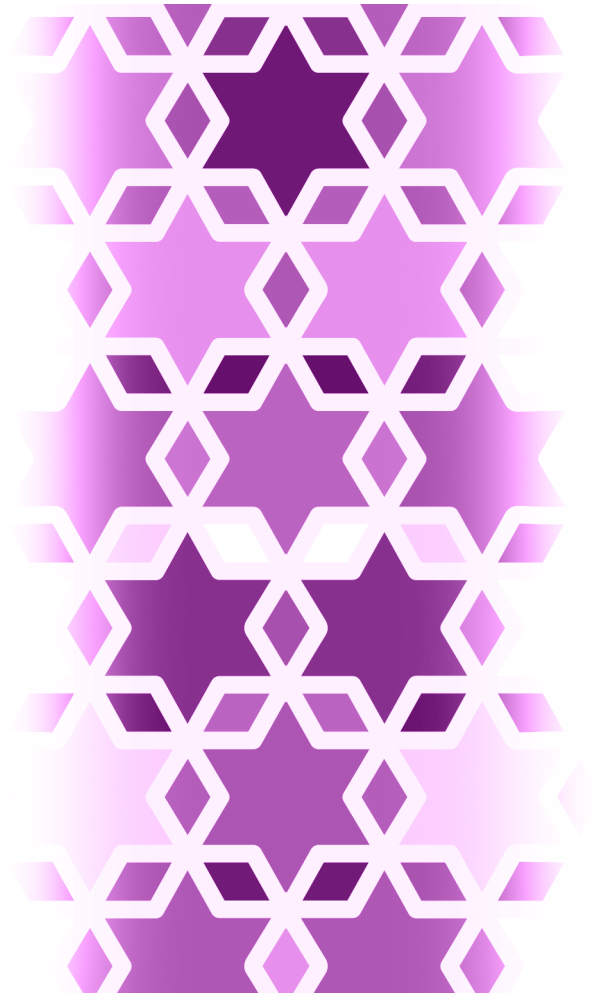
## GCSEPod's Top Users

Students from BCHS were awarded brand-new tablets for being GCSEPod's most active users.

GCSEPod is an online study and revision tool, available to all BCHS students. Parents can also access GCSEPod and download useful resources to help support their child through their GCSEs.

For more information on GCSEPod, please speak with Mr Farooq.

Congratulations to our winners!



# Eid Mubarak