

CENTRAL NEWS



**Blackburn Central
HIGH SCHOOL**

Aspire and achieve

SUMMER 2024

GREETINGS TO YOU ALL

Hello and a warm welcome to the summer edition of Central News. I can't quite believe we're at the end of the school year already, it was very emotional saying goodbye to our year 11s, I will truly miss them all but feel confident that we have given them the foundations they need to excel in the next stage of their education. We also brought our new year 7s into school this month when they visited for transition day and we can't wait to welcome them into the BCHS family in September.

I'd like to say a huge thank you to all of our students for not only abiding by our new mobile phone policy, but in many cases, embracing it. It has been lovely to see students reading, attending more clubs and having lots of laughs with their friends at break and lunch, instead of being on their phones.

Next term will see BCHS become part of Oak Learning Partnership, a multi academy trust with a number of mainstream and special schools.. The merger will see us become a much stronger trust with a wealth of skills and experience to share. As part of that merger students will start to see new faces in school and Mr Greenhalgh from Oak Learning Partnership, has provided an update on page two.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer and I look forward to welcoming you all back in September. Please see page two for start dates and times when we return in September.

Mrs Hussain, Headteacher



PROM CELEBRATIONS

Our year 11s marked the end of their time at BCHS with a prom night, which was held at Foxfields Hotel.

The evening saw students get dressed up to the nines in some beautiful outfits - they all looked amazing. They then sat down with staff to enjoy a meal before dancing the evening away.

All of our students did us proud with their exemplary behaviour - they really will be truly missed by us all.

Thank you to all the staff who helped to organise the event.



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WELCOME FROM OAK

Dear parents and carers,

I'm Paul Greenhalgh and I am thrilled to be able to introduce myself to your school community. I am very excited to start working with BCHS as the Executive Headteacher of Secondary Schools within Oak Learning Partnership. My role is predominantly secondary school based and I work directly with high schools in supporting the headteacher, senior leadership team and staff as they continue to drive school improvement to ensure they provide an outstanding education in a happy and safe environment for all our students.

For this coming academic year, I am also very excited to be taking more of an operational role at BCHS as I support Mrs Hussain as she moves to four days per week next term and I look forward to working with staff and students, parents, carers and all stakeholders.

I have enjoyed my visits to the school in this summer term and I look forward to working with the students and you, their parents and carers, more closely in September. I will be in school at least two days a week and in the first few weeks I will be leading student assemblies and working with staff as they introduce new initiatives and procedures designed to improve what they already do. I will also be in touch in the new academic year as I would like to hold an evening for parents where you can come into school to meet me in an informal setting. I am very excited that BCHS will be part of Oak Learning Partnership, and I am looking forward to a really bright future for the school and the trust.

Thank you,
Paul



CAR PARK REMINDER

Traffic congestion is becoming an issue again at drop off and pick up time. Please can we remind all parents who are bringing students in a car that they should drop off in the middle section of the car park where the turning circle is, not at the bottom where the disabled spaces are.



Should the congestion problems persist, we will have to review car access to the school grounds. Thank you for your co-operation.

SEPTEMBER RETURN DATES

WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

- Year 7 pupils start at 8.30am
- Year 10 & 11 pupils start at 10am
- Year 8 & 9 pupils not in school**

THURSDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

- All year groups start at 8.30am
- Year 8 pupils go straight to assembly in the heart space, all other years go to progress time



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Attendance Rewards

At BCHS we place a lot of emphasis on good attendance because it underpins a child's future achievement, self-confidence and aspiration. As a reward for 100% attendance over a six-week period last term, 30 children were selected at random to go on a fully funded trip to visit Manchester Science and Industry Museum, which included a visit to the highly anticipated Power Up exhibition. The experience was not only enriching but also incredibly fun, making it a memorable day for everyone involved.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Community Rail for funding the train travel for this trip. Their support made it possible for the children to enjoy an enriching experience. The trip was a perfect example of how community support and educational institutions can work together to create impactful learning experiences.

Attendance Concerns

We have set up a new email address specifically for attendance concerns. Parents and carers can use this email as a platform to raise any concerns about their child's attendance or alert us to any potential issues leading to absence.

The email address is heretohelp@bchs.co.uk.

Attendance Fines

From 19 August 2024 the Department for Education will introduce national changes to fixed penalty notices for non-attendance at school. If your child is absent from school for more than five days in a rolling 10-week period then the fine will increase to £160 per parent per child.



FLAG RAISING CEREMONY



Students from our junior leadership team represented BCHS at a flag raising ceremony on Monday 24 June. The event was held at Blackburn Town Hall to mark the start of Armed Forces Week.

They're pictured here with Councillor Phil Riley, Leader of Blackburn with Darwen Council. The group did us proud in representing BCHS and raising our profile in the local community.



NEW HEAD STUDENTS

Our new Head and Deputy Head Girls and Boys have been chosen for the next school year.

As part of the application process, students undergo an interview process where they have to present to a panel at school and then be interviewed as to why they should represent the school.

Our new head students blew us away with their professionalism and commitment to representing BCHS, both in school and in the wider community.

A big thank you to all of the students who applied, the competition was very stiff and it was so difficult choosing the best candidates for the job. Well done everybody.



PEACE PRIZE

We were delighted to welcome Richard Anstey, President of Blackburn Lions, into school to meet with our year seven student, Fatima. He presented her with £50 and a certificate for her prizewinning poster for peace. She used different mediums such as fibre tip, crayon and pencil. Well done Fatima!



'OUR HEALTH' OPEN DAY

East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust is hosting a free open day for people with learning disabilities or autism. Families and carers are also welcome.

'Our Health Day' will take place on 28 August from 10am-12 noon and 1pm-3pm at the Learning Centre at Royal Blackburn Hospital. There'll be lots of information and activities and the staff would love to hear about your patient experiences.

Tickets are required for the free event. Please contact Julie or Rachel on 01253 734307 to book yours.



SCHOOL TO BE CASHLESS

Next term school will become cashless, meaning students can't top their dinner cards up with cash. Instead, parents need to load money onto their cards using our school payment app, Scopay.

Those who aren't registered with Scopay will receive a letter during the holidays with login details. Please ensure cards are topped up before children return. Thank you.



FREE SUMMER LUNCHES

Blackburn with Darwen Council will be giving free summer lunches from Monday 29 July to Friday 23 August between the times of 11.30am-1pm at the following family hubs:

- Family Hub Livesey
- Family Hub Darwen
- Family Hub Shadsworth
- Family Hub Little Harwood
- Hancock Street Children's Centre



To register call 01254 585000 or drop in to a centre.

IMMUNISATION CLINICS

Intrahealth Ltd is holding immunisation clinics over the summer holidays for students that have missed their vaccinations at school. There are various dates across the county but those closest are:

- 30 July, 9.30am-3.30pm at Shadsworth Children's Centre
- 6 August, 9.30am-3.30pm at Darwen Family Hub
- 13 August, 9.30am-3.30pm at Livesey Family Hub

If you would like to book an appointment at any of these clinics please call 0333 358 3397, option 2 and then option 2 again.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you have something that 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. 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 that follow button.

TOWN SPORTS

A huge well done to all of our students who represented BCHS at the Town Sports Athletics competition. Their resilience on a very hot day was inspiring and we were delighted to see them bringing back some medals.



UNIFORM STANDARDS

When we return after the summer, we will be reinforcing our uniform expectations. Uniform checks will be carried out each morning and those students not in correct uniform or without the correct equipment will be issued a 30-minute detention.

To ensure that students have every opportunity to be in the correct uniform and have the right equipment, school will run a student store before progress time, where they can buy equipment and uniform such as ties and tights, as well as borrow bigger pieces of uniform for the day. It will be clear to all that there is no reason for any student to receive a detention for uniform or equipment issues. Full details of our uniform requirements can be found on our website.

