

CENTRAL NEWS



Blackburn Central
High School
Aspire and achieve

WINTER 2024

A FESTIVE WELCOME

Hello and a very warm welcome to the winter edition of Central News. As children and staff start to wind down for the Christmas break, I want to reflect on the last term and thank all of our BCHS family for everything that we have achieved by working together.

Our year 11s have been busy doing their mock exams and made me particularly proud in the way they conducted themselves. We have also had lots of students achieve various different accolades and we have featured as many as we can in this edition. I'm so proud to be headteacher of BCHS!

On behalf of school I wish you all a wonderful Christmas. I hope it's restful and enjoyable and I look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 6 January 2025. Please note that school closes at 12.30pm on Friday 20 December 2024.

Mrs Hussain, Headteacher



ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

In November, we came together to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our 2024 leavers. The event was a wonderful opportunity to recognise the hard work, progress, resilience and determination of our students, as teachers nominated those who had excelled in these areas.

A range of awards were presented to honour the efforts and successes of as many students as possible. As always, it was incredibly difficult for teachers to make their choices, as we would have loved to celebrate everyone's achievements. However, we managed to keep the event moving and focused on highlighting the most outstanding contributions.

We were thrilled to see many of our former students, who shared exciting stories of their new adventures. It was heartening to hear about their next steps and the successes they've already achieved. We are incredibly proud of all our students and cherish the opportunity to stay connected with them.

A special highlight of the event was the speech by James Franklin Smith, CEO of Oak Learning Partnership, who shared his insights on success and how it varies for different people. He offered valuable tips and advice for those embarking on new journeys, providing inspiration for the next chapter in their lives.





PSHE & RSE DATES

Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) lessons will take place on the following dates:

- Friday 10 January 2025 - PSHE
- Monday 3 February 2025 - RSE
- Tuesday 18 March 2025 - PSHE
- Wednesday 30 April - PSHE
- Thursday 12 June - RSE

RSE is compulsory for all secondary school pupils. The subject is taught sensitively at BCHS and provides students with the knowledge to make informed decisions about their wellbeing.

ENTERPRISE CHALLENGE

Year 8 students took part in the M&G Skills for Life Enterprise Challenge workshop, which gives students the opportunity to act as large-scale event organisers in charge of arranging a pop concert for 10,000 young people. Using maths 'by stealth', students analyse the information available to help them make informed decisions about which artists they can afford to hire for the concert and how to arrange the respective stage layouts. As well as the concert, students are also asked to consider the event's catering and much more! The students thoroughly enjoyed it and were able to put their maths skills to the test in a real-life scenario.



CAREERS CORNER

In this edition of Careers Corner, we are putting out a plea for local employers to volunteer a 'virtual visit' at their place of work during the week commencing 20 January 2025. What we are looking for is someone to walk around their workplace, doing a live stream to students, showing them what they do and answering questions from students. It doesn't matter what your occupation is, we want them to experience a wide variety of jobs.



Anyone interested in taking part can email TReeves402@bchs.co.uk.

PTA UPDATE

We are delighted to welcome Zaqera and Saimha as co-chairs of BCHS's Parent Teacher Association (PTA).

The pair said: "We are thrilled to be a part of the team working alongside parents and staff at the school, planning and bringing to life exciting opportunities for students during the academic year. We are planning a relaxed coffee morning in the new year. Keep an eye out in emails for details, we would love to see you there."

If you would like to join the PTA, please email TReeves402@bchs.co.uk.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Clitheroe Royal Grammar School sixth form open evening

Date: 23 January 2025 from 4pm-5.30pm

Venue: York Street, Clitheroe, BB7 2DJ

To register please phone 01200 423118.

SCIENCE CHALLENGE

Students in years 7, 8 and 9 were invited to take part in a national science challenge by Century. The students completed online lessons and answered questions.

We are very proud to announce that our students won the award for chemistry, winning a £100 Amazon voucher for school.

Well done to all involved, winners will be awarded prizes for first, second and third place in school at our Christmas achievement assemblies.



LIFE SKILLS PRACTICE

As part of a life skills education programme, some of our students recently got to put their knowledge to the test when they went on a trip.

The students visited Blackburn town centre, where they practised important life skills such as budgeting, ordering food and navigating public transport without getting lost.

These activities were chosen because they are essential skills for everyday independence and the trip provided students with an opportunity to apply what they've learnt in a real-world setting.

CYBER FIRST GIRLS

16 of our female year 8 students took part in a team event for Cyber First Girls, run by the National Cyber Security Centre.

They were put into teams of four and had to tackle challenges from cryptography and logic to artificial intelligence and networking, for the chance to be crowned cyber security champions.

They worked amazingly as part of a team and we are so proud to announce that the girls qualified in the top ten in the North West.



STARS IN OUR SCHOOLS

Support staff at BCHS were given postcards with thank you messages on to celebrate Stars in Our Schools Day. The day is a UNISON initiative, backed by teaching unions, and was started in a bid to raise awareness of the importance of support staff roles in schools.

Support staff fulfil a wide range of roles in school from administrative jobs, catering, estates and much more. To recognise the many different roles that support staff do, every student at BCHS was given a postcard and they could choose who to send it to. It was a joy to read the messages, which were very touching and all of them sincere and heartfelt.

A big thank you to Lisa Macari and the access staff - without their help it would have been impossible to send all the cards out and then have them delivered to staff.



FREE LUNCHES

If, like many people, you are struggling with rising food costs, then there are a number of initiatives across the borough that you can access for help.

From Monday 30 December to Friday 3 January the family hubs in Blackburn with Darwen are offering free children's winter lunches from 11.30am-1pm. You just need to phone 01254 585000 to register for them. The hub locations are: Family Hub Little Harwood, Family Hub Shadsworth, Family Hub Darwen and Family Hub Livesey.

The 'BeWell BwD' website also has a whole host of information about where you can access support if you are struggling to buy food. Their website is: <https://bewellbwd.com/emergency-food/>.





ATTENDANCE MATTERS



As we approach the end of term, our attendance lead, Mrs Martin, wants to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support in ensuring your child attends school regularly. We cannot underestimate the importance of good attendance, as even small amounts of missed school can have a significant impact over time. We are delighted to report that whole school attendance has risen significantly in the current academic year.

BENEFITS OF GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Good school attendance is crucial to academic success, social development and overall wellbeing. Students who attend school regularly are more likely to:

- Achieve better academic results
- Build positive relationships with peers and teachers
- Develop essential life skills, such as responsibility and time management
- Gain confidence in their abilities and feel part of the school community



To reward students for their excellent attendance, we regularly acknowledge their efforts during school special mentions and other exciting rewards. It's our way of saying "thank you" for being a part of our vibrant school community and for showing dedication to learning. All students with 100% attendance are rewarded with chocolate treats in assembly on a Friday. There is a reward trip planned in the new year and our dedicated attendance noticeboard also recognises student efforts.

DEDICATED EMAIL FOR ATTENDANCE CONCERNS

We understand that sometimes you may have questions or concerns about your child's attendance. To support you, we have set up a dedicated email address: heretohelp@bchs.co.uk. If you have any concerns or would like to discuss your child's attendance, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We're here to help!

GUIDANCE ON ABSENCE DUE TO ILLNESS

We know that many parents sometimes wonder if their child is too ill to attend school. To support you in making the best decision for your child, we encourage you to read the government's guidance on whether your child is too ill to attend school. You can find this valuable resource here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>.

The end of the year is a time when expectations are raised for us to share an enjoyable time with friends and family, take part in special events and celebrations or perhaps just have a good rest. There are the big events of Christmas and New Year that fill our screens and our streets. For some though, this is a difficult time when routines are disrupted, friends are missed, trusted adults are not available and help is not necessarily easy to reach. During this time away from school if you need to reach out for support or advice please email: safeguarding@bchs.co.uk. We hope you all have a safe and enjoyable time during the holidays but we are contactable should you need us.