

# CENTRAL NEWS



**Blackburn Central  
HIGH SCHOOL**

Aspire and achieve

**FEBRUARY 2024**

## A WARM WELCOME

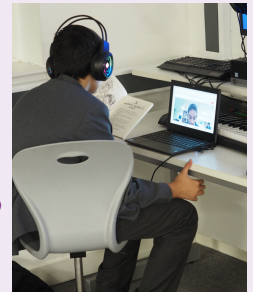
Hello and a warm welcome to the February edition of Central News. As our shortest term this year, the last few weeks have felt like a whirlwind but as always, our students have wowed me with their determination to succeed. I must pay particular reference to our year 11 students who have been sitting their mock exams over the last couple of weeks. I know that exams can be a stressful time for many, but mocks are a great way to not only give an indication of the level a student is working at, but also the practice run helps to alleviate anxiety for many of our pupils. Well done year 11s!

On behalf of school I wish you all a wonderful half term, I hope you're able to rest and students come back feeling refreshed.

**Mrs Hussain, Headteacher**

## READING BUDDIES

We are currently trialling a 'Reading Buddies' scheme with our year 8 students and year 6 Audley Juniors students, whereby the year 6 students read, whilst our year 8s monitor them and help them with their understanding of the book. The idea is that it will develop confidence, communication and leadership skills in our students, whilst also supporting the primary school students to develop their reading, comprehension and inference skills.



The sessions are run online through TEAMS and both students log on and enter break out rooms so that students can read and be given one to one support. If the trial is successful we aim to roll it out further in school.

## CHANGE TO PARENT COMMUNICATIONS

After February half term we will no longer be using ParentApp to communicate with parents and guardians. All communications will come via Arbor instead. The new system enables us to communicate with you all more efficiently and the parent portal facility provides a number of features for parents to keep up to date with their child's school life. You can see information such as your child's attendance rate, their timetables and key information about school trips, parents evenings etc.

You should have all received an email by now inviting you to register on the new portal. If you haven't, please check your spam folder and then email us at [info@bchs.co.uk](mailto:info@bchs.co.uk) if you still don't have it.

It is vital that your details are up to date as an incorrect or missing email will mean that you will miss out on emergency messages, key dates and updates from school. To amend your contact details please email us at [info@bchs.co.uk](mailto:info@bchs.co.uk).



**Arbor**

[www.bchs.co.uk](http://www.bchs.co.uk)



## NEW ADDITION TO OUR CANTEEN

Our new canopy service is now up and running at lunchtime. This runs alongside the main canteen and has been opened to help alleviate some of the queues in the main canteen, plus as a way to offer students a wider variety of food.

As part of the canopy's opening, we acted on student feedback and made the decision to stop offering grab bags. We had reports that some students were having issues with the grab bags, getting them mixed up with other students' bags and it was causing problems. The new canopy offers everything that grab bags did, plus much more, including hot baguettes, sandwiches, wraps, homemade cakes and cookies, drinks and lentil crisps. On Fridays we also serve chips and side sauces

There were a couple of teething problems with the till in the first week of opening but that is now resolved. However, we are still noticing that children are coming to the tills without their payment cards or with insufficient funds on their cards. Please could we ask that you ensure your child's card is loaded with funds should they wish to buy food at school. This will help us to clear the queues in a more timely way.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### YEAR 11 PARENTS EVENING - THURSDAY 22 FEBRUARY, 4.15PM-7PM

Letters have gone out this week with full details. Mock exam results will be available.

### YEAR 10 PARENTS EVENING - THURSDAY 7 MARCH

Letters will go out after half term with details of how to book and times.

### MUMS & DAUGHTERS - WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH, 3PM-4PM

IMO Charity will be hosting a mindfulness session, email [mrathore524@bchs.co.uk](mailto:mrathore524@bchs.co.uk) to book a place.

### YEAR 9 OPTIONS & PARENTS EVENING - THURSDAY 18 APRIL

Details will follow next term.



## CAREERS CORNER

In this addition of careers corner, we take a look at apprenticeships.

Apprenticeships are a post-16 choice for many young people and can begin at 16 or 18, or even after completing a degree; there are different levels of apprenticeship available. Apprenticeships are available across many sectors, including health and engineering. The advantages of doing an apprenticeship are many, including learning on the job from experts, earning money whilst you train and still gaining a valuable qualification. Follow the links below to find out more about:



<https://nationalapprenticeshipweek.co.uk/apprenticeships/>

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

<https://nationalapprenticeshipweek.co.uk/>

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are holding our annual careers networking event on Thursday 7 March from 8.30am–1.15pm. The aim of the event is to raise the aspirations of our students and give them insights into professions they may not have thought of before.

This is where you come in. Do you have a job that you would be happy to discuss with our year 8 students? If you do and you would be available on 7 March then please get in touch with Miss Reed on 01254 505707 or email [JReed311@bchs.co.uk](mailto:JReed311@bchs.co.uk). You won't be presenting, it'll just be talking to



individual students in 10 minute intervals, answering questions they may have about your profession. We would very much appreciate any support you can give us, whatever the profession!

## STUDENT REWARDS

The Hive was entrusted to create a magical Christmas wonderland for 360 specially chosen pupils on the last day of the winter term. The chosen students from each year got to take part in a variety of Christmas themed activities and games with a chance to win prizes. Games included Rudolph hoopla, face painting, a sensory room, snowball shovelling, photo booth props and snowman target practice. After a session filled with fun, the students who took part walked away with a bag full of edible goodies.

A student from Year 10 said: "It was wonderful to be picked for this event and to take part in such fun activities.

"My personal favourite was pin the nose on Rudolph. I was so dizzy by the end from being spun around, I missed his face by inches!"



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## STUDENTS PRESENT AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS

A group of our students were invited by the Inter Faith Forum to a Holocaust memorial event at Blackburn with Darwen Council. Whilst at the event, the students were given an amazing opportunity to present in the Council Chambers, in front of an audience. They did a fantastic job in delivering their presentation, which was entitled 'Fragility of Life - The Freedom to Give Birth'.

We couldn't have been more proud of them. Getting up to present in front of a room full of people can be daunting but they all took it in their stride and presented with such confidence.



## 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](mailto: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.

## VALUABLE REVISION RESOURCES

As exams are fast approaching, we wanted to let you know that we have once again invested into GCSE Pod, an extremely valuable revision resource that is proven to help students achieve at least one grade higher when used correctly. All our students have access to the website and are actively encouraged to use it during one of their progress time lessons in a school IT suite. Students can also use this resource at home, they simply need to use their Google login to access the site.

GCSE Pod covers 30 subjects across all exam boards and is loaded with a range of videos, assessments, podcasts, flashcards, worksheets, practice exams and much more.

The bitesize content within GCSEPod is designed to be engaging and accessible and the variety of resources enables students to conduct targeted revision and track their progress.

So far this year BCHS students have streamed 12,397 videos! You can find the website at [www.gcsepod.com](http://www.gcsepod.com).

