

# CENTRAL NEWS



**Blackburn Central**  
High School  
Aspire and achieve

**APRIL 2025**

## HELLO & WELCOME

Dear BCHS Community

As we approach the end of term, I want to take a moment to wish all those celebrating, a joyful and peaceful Easter. Easter is a time of renewal, hope and togetherness, and I hope you are able to enjoy this special occasion with family and loved ones.

I also want to take this opportunity to share some personal news. After much consideration, I have decided to retire as Headteacher of Blackburn Central High School at the end of this year, with my final day being 31 December 2025. This has been a deeply personal decision, as my time at BCHS has been incredibly fulfilling. However, I feel that now is the right time to focus on my family, particularly spending more time with my husband, parents and granddaughter.

That said, it is very much business as usual. My priority remains ensuring that every student at BCHS continues to receive the highest quality education and support. This is especially true for our year 11 students, who are preparing for the final stage of their journey with us. As they approach their summer exams, we are committed to providing them with the guidance, encouragement and resources they need to succeed.

Our CEO, James Franklin-Smith, will begin the recruitment process in the summer term, and I will work closely with the leadership team to ensure a smooth transition. There will be plenty of time later in the year to reflect on my journey at BCHS and express my thanks. For now, I look forward to the months ahead and continuing to serve my wonderful school community.

Wishing you all a restful break and a happy Easter. We will welcome students back on Wednesday 23 April.

Best wishes,

**Mrs Shanaz Hussain, Headteacher**



## CAN YOU HELP WITH WORK EXPERIENCE?

All students in year 10 are preparing to embark on a one-week work experience programme, commencing 23 June 2025.

Work experience provides an invaluable insight into the world of work and helps to prepare our young people for life in a more adult environment. It often helps some young people to discover more about themselves and it helps to build their confidence. Some young people find out what they would like to do as a future career (or not!).

If you or the company you work for is able to offer a week of work experience to any of our students please get in touch via email at [treeves402@bchs.co.uk](mailto:treeves402@bchs.co.uk).



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## **ATTENDANCE UPDATES**

### **UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE - INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

Thursday 1 May 5.15pm (refreshments from 5pm)

We would like to invite parents to this valuable presentation, which will include:

- Advice on booking holidays
- How absence is recorded, monitored and reported at school
- Department for Education (DfE) expectations and updates, including a summary of the Government publication in March 2025 on the effects of student absence
- Working together to sustain and improve attendance

We look forward to seeing parents and answering any questions you may have relating to attendance. No need to book, you can just turn up.

### **REWARDING GOOD ATTENDANCE**

This term we have awarded over 150 takeaway meal vouchers to a selection of students with 100% attendance. We want to thank parents for your continued support. If you have any queries about school attendance you can use the dedicated email address: [heretohelp@bchs.co.uk](mailto:heretohelp@bchs.co.uk).



## **YOUNG CHEFS MAKE IT TO FINAL**

Year eight students from BCHS took part in the North West Young Chefs competition at Blackburn College.

All teams had to apply with a recipe based on a chicken dish, using sustainable products. We had 12 teams apply and two got through.

On the day both teams were up against year nine students and had to produce their dishes within two hours. We are delighted to announce that one team received the 'Best Teamwork' award and the other team made it to the regional finals. They beat off stiff competition, making it to the final alongside year nine Clitheroe Grammar students.

Both teams were fantastic on the day and made us so proud, they were a credit to BCHS. The winning students are now busy refining their butter chicken recipes in the hope that they can go on to win the competition. We'll be rooting for them!



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

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## **EID LUNCH**

A huge thank you to our catering team at school for making us a magnificent lunch to celebrate Eid.

Students and staff alike relished the opportunity to come together to celebrate Eid and tuck into butter chicken, vegetable biryani and samosas, followed by scrumptious Eid cake pops.

We are very lucky to have such talented chefs at school, making high quality, homemade food!



## **SPRING FAIR**

Our PTA would like to invite you to their Spring Fair, being held on Sunday 27 April from 12-3pm at school.

With free entry, there'll be lots of fun for the whole family with crafts, market stalls, delicious food and much more.

If you are a local business and would like a stall at the fair, please email [treeves402@bchs.co.uk](mailto:treeves402@bchs.co.uk).

All funds raised at the fair will go towards enrichment activities for students at school.



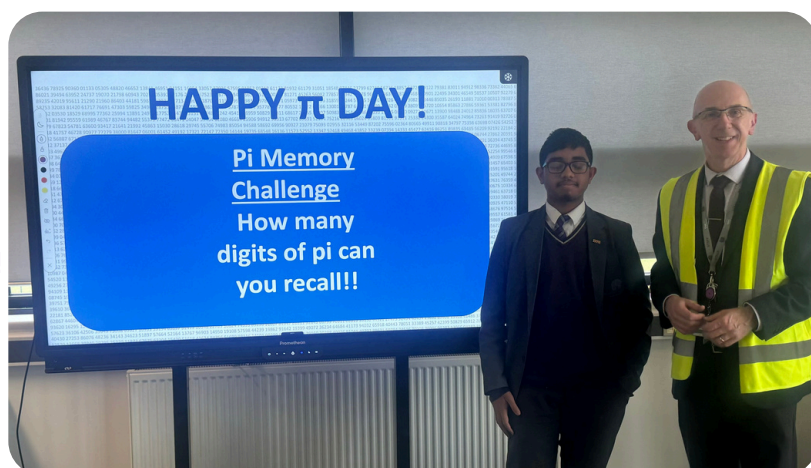
## **PI DAY RECITATION**

To celebrate Pi Day this year, the maths department held an exciting recitation competition across both key stages, brilliantly organised and run by Mr Clarkson.

The challenge was simple yet demanding: memorise and recite as many digits of Pi as possible. The event drew fantastic interest, with over 30 students taking part and demonstrating their impressive recall skills and passion for mathematics.

In key stage three, the competition was won by Hibba in year seven, who amazed the audience by reciting 214 digits of Pi. The key stage four winner was Aqib, who recited an incredible 301 digits — though he was slightly disappointed, having memorised over 600 digits in preparation!

A huge well done to all participants for their enthusiasm and effort. It was a brilliant way to celebrate the wonder of Pi and the power of perseverance.







## BORROWING SCHOOL UNIFORM

At Blackburn Central High School we believe that starting the day in the right way includes wearing the correct school uniform. To support students who may occasionally be missing an item, we provide a uniform loan service for essential items such as ties and shoes. These items are to be returned at the end of each day so they remain available for other students in need.

Unfortunately, a significant number of borrowed items have not been returned, resulting in an unsustainable cost to the school. Therefore, from the start of the new term after the Easter holidays, any loaned uniform items that are not returned will incur a charge, which will be added to the student's SCOPAY account. We kindly ask for your support in ensuring that any borrowed items are returned promptly to help maintain this service for all students. Thank you for your cooperation.



## 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.

## PSHE & RSE DATES

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

- Wednesday 30 April - PSHE
- Thursday 12 June - RSE

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



## CHANGE TO TIES

We are making a change to our school uniform to ensure consistency and affordability for all families. Previously, each year group had a different coloured stripe on their tie. Going forward we are phasing out the coloured stripe on the ties so that all students will wear the same tie, which will have the WHITE stripe.

This change is being introduced to help reduce costs and make uniform more accessible for everyone. We appreciate your support in implementing this update and ensuring all students adhere to the new uniform policy. This change will affect all students who need to buy a new tie from our uniform suppliers as they will also be phasing out the coloured stripes.

If you require a new tie or plan to buy a new tie before the end of the academic year please purchase a white stripe tie. If you have any questions please contact your year team and they will be happy to help.