



*“Providing every student with a caring, inclusive and safe learning environment and promoting a culture of academic excellence and outstanding achievement.”*



**Blackburn Central**  
High School

Aspire and achieve

Part of the:



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*“Pupils are proud to attend this school. They have warm and trusting relationships with staff. Pupils told inspectors that they appreciate the family atmosphere of the school, where everyone is equally valued.”*

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# Welcome

**We are a popular, thriving school based in the heart of our community. We have been recognised by the Department of Education for our inclusive approach to education and Ofsted has congratulated our staff for being 'determined and successful in improving teaching and students' achievement'.**

There are no secrets to an excellent education: it entails good teaching and learning, strong support and hard work. We pride ourselves on knowing and caring for all of our students, whilst having high expectations and ambitions for them all.

We want the best for all our students, we want them to stretch themselves and reach further than they ever thought possible. Our students aspire and achieve in both their academic and personal development. Blackburn Central High School is a place where dreams come true.

We are very proud of our students at Blackburn Central High School. They are smart, accomplished, polite, well behaved and keen to learn. Positive relationships between staff and students are key to our success as we know young people are inspired to learn from the people they trust and respect.

Experience our outstanding school at one of our open evenings or during a normal school day. I welcome any parent or carer who would like to sample our vibrant caring community.

Please phone **01254 505700** or email: **[enquiries@bchs.oaklp.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bchs.oaklp.co.uk)** to make an appointment.

**Mrs Shanaz Hussain**  
Headteacher

*"Leaders and governors have high expectations of what pupils can achieve. Pupils respond positively to the challenges set for them. They enjoy learning and achieve well."*

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# Ethos and Values

**We provide every student with a caring, inclusive and safe learning environment to encourage a culture of academic excellence and outstanding achievement in all aspects of life. We encourage our students to become thriving members of our community, who demonstrate respect and tolerance for all, alongside fundamental British values.**

We serve our community both on an individual level and in a broader sense; recognising the multi-cultural, multi-faith, diverse and ever-changing nature of society.

We encourage all of our students to fulfil their spiritual, moral, social and cultural potential during their journey through high school. We take advantage of any opportunity to develop links within our local community and motivate our students to get involved by supporting local charities or by being active within their community.

Our success comes from putting students at the heart of everything we do and providing them with

the best opportunities. We pride ourselves on the quality education we provide and the development of young people who are safe, knowledgeable, respectful and responsible members of British and global society.

We promise to:

- **Inspire and transform the learning of young people and their community.**
- **Meet the learning, social, emotional and physical needs of young people.**
- **Provide personalised learning to support full social inclusion and integration.**
- **Promote and work by the ideas of British Values.**
- **Ensure we have respect for everyone's protected characteristics.**
- **Provide a safe, happy and innovative learning environment where change is embraced and learning is continuous.**

*“Leaders have identified a wealth of opportunities for pupils to develop important skills, such as resilience and communication.”*

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# Student Wellbeing

*Our students feel healthy and safe, plus enjoy all aspects of school life. We have been recognised for our high quality care and support and pride ourselves on having a welcoming, inclusive learning environment where students are cared for and nurtured to do their best.*





# Pastoral Care

**Students start each day in their progress groups, where their progress tutor ensures high standards of appearance, attendance, punctuality and behaviour.**

Each year group is supported by a pastoral manager, who maintains close ties between school and home, and are the first point of contact for parents and carers.

A head of year is linked to each year group and monitors the academic progress of each student to ensure that they fulfil their potential.

# Counselling Service

**Our Pathways counselling service offers mental health support for our students, who can either refer themselves, or be referred through the pastoral or safeguarding team.**

The school counsellor provides 1:1 counselling and/or group support to help students with anxiety, low mood, substance misuse, relationship issues and any other mental health issues they may need support with. Our counsellor is very experienced at supporting young people.

Counselling sessions are available throughout the school day with either English or Urdu spoken.

# Careers Advice

**Our Careers Education, Information and Guidance (CEIAG) service offers a comprehensive package of events, visits and guest speakers to raise the aspirations of students from all years.**

We have a dedicated careers advisor to provide impartial advice for all students, prioritising those with special educational needs and those from disadvantaged backgrounds.



# Assessment and Reporting

**We set all students challenging yet achievable targets and send reports home every term. Parents are encouraged to monitor their child's progress and are invited to attend parents' evenings throughout the year, where they can meet teachers on a one-to-one basis.**

Heads of Year track the progress of every student, which enables us to respond very quickly to any issues relating to attainment. Additional in-class support is available for any student who has particular needs and intervention can be put in place to aid a student in danger of not achieving their potential. Students achieve more when we work in close partnership with their families.

*“Our students shape their journey by the decisions they make and the opportunities they take. Our job as teachers, parents and family is to prepare them for their next steps, to support, help and encourage them along the way.”*







# Facilities

Our state of the art building provides a stimulating environment for learning and boasts an array of facilities, which also benefit the community through a diverse extra-curricular programme. Computer technology is integral to school life, where it enhances learning opportunities in our exciting and innovative curriculum.

Blackburn Central High School has well maintained, high quality facilities, which include:

- Interactive white boards in all teaching rooms.
- Music, drama and media facilities.
- Excellent sports facilities, including a dance studio, sports hall, fitness suite and AstroTurf.

Our trust, Oak Learning Partnership, supports continued investment in modern facilities to create inspiring teaching and recreational spaces.

# Uniform

*“Pupils told inspectors that behaviour in the school is good, that teachers are supportive and guide them well and that they feel like they all get along like one family, with one voice.”*

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## High expectations of uniform and personal appearance help to create a greater sense of equality and personal high standards amongst our student body.

We expect all students to wear their full uniform, be smart and presentable, both when in school and when representing Blackburn Central High School off site.

### SCHOOL UNIFORM

- Blazer – Grey blazer with purple piping. Logo on the left chest. Flaps on the pockets. Branded item only.
- Jumper – Purple jumper with a grey stripe around the neck. Logo on the left chest. Branded or unbranded but must have grey stripe.
- Tie – Clip on purple and grey tie with white stripe. Branded item only.
- Trousers – Grey formal school trousers. Fashion belts are not permitted.
- Skirt – Purple and grey tartan, knee length, stitched down box pleated skirt. Worn with either opaque black tights (minimum 80 denier) or plain black ankle socks. Must be correct pattern.
- Shirt – Long or short sleeve plain, white formal school shirt with collar.
- Shoes – Plain black, flat formal shoes. No boots or trainers allowed. Worn with plain black or grey socks.
- Hijab (head scarf) – Optional two-piece purple head scarf, plus year badge worn on left lapel, in addition to school tie.
- Bag – Sensible school bag to fit A4 folders.
- Outdoor clothing – Plain dark-coloured coat. Scarf, hat and gloves are recommended for outdoor use and can be any dark colour.

### FASHION

- Hairstyle – Should be sensible and a natural colour. No lines shaved in hair or eyebrows.
- Makeup – No makeup may be worn in years 7, 8 and 9. Year 10 and 11 are allowed to wear minimal eye-liner. No other makeup, foundation, or fake tan is allowed. Nail extensions, acrylic nails, and nail varnish are not permitted. The use of fashion contact lenses in school is also not permitted.
- Jewellery – Students may wear one pair of small earrings (studs or sleepers) in ear lobes and a wristwatch. No other jewellery is allowed. Nose, tongue, eyebrow or other piercings are not allowed.
- Tattoos – No tattoos allowed.

### PE KIT

- Rugby top – Half sleeved purple and grey quarter rugby top with black collar and black logo on left hand side. Branded item only.
- Sports socks – Purple football socks with black hoops.
- Shorts/skort – Compulsory plain, black shorts/skort.
- Tracksuit bottoms – Optional plain, black tracksuit bottoms.
- Hooded tracksuit top – Optional plain, black hooded tracksuit top.
- Suitable footwear – Trainers to be worn for indoor use, pumps are not allowed. Football boots required for outside lessons on grass.

See our website for details of where to buy uniform, both new and preloved.

# Junior Leadership

**We encourage our students to demonstrate their leadership skills and be positive role models for the rest of the school.**

Students from all years select which of their peers compose our Junior Leadership Team. The team meets regularly to represent students' interests, contribute to our school ethos and communicate with the staff leadership team.

Year 11 students have the opportunity to become lead students and also head boy/girl or deputy head boy/girl and take on roles of responsibility.

Other positions available to students within school include digital ambassadors, sports leaders, restorative justice facilitators and anti-bullying ambassadors.

*“Lead students play an integral part in making decisions that impact all of our school community, for instance they were recently instrumental in changing the catering options and recruiting key staff roles in school.”*

**Mr S Archer, Deputy Headteacher**





# Learning and Enjoying Success

**We provide an environment where all of our students feel safe, valued and are inspired and encouraged to do their best and more.**

Lessons focus on learning and progress, specifically learning without barriers. We place a strong emphasis on supporting individuals, from the most able to those with special educational needs.

Our teachers provide inspiring and challenging learning opportunities to develop each and every one of our students. They encourage and support all students to work beyond their limits and aspire to the highest level of personal achievement.

## Extra-Curricular Activities

**We offer a wide range of activities beyond the academic curriculum and our enrichment programmes engage students outside of school.**

The wealth of extra-curricular activities we offer give every student the opportunity to discover and enjoy the interests and talents that give their life balance and promote happiness and motivation.



*“Leaders have designed a broad and ambitious curriculum for all pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities. They have identified the knowledge that is most important for pupils to learn and arranged the curriculum so that it extends and deepens pupils’ learning over time.”*

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# Curriculum

*“Teachers have a high level of subject knowledge. They present information with clarity and in a way which is accessible to all pupils.”*

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**Our students experience a modern, world-class curriculum that inspires, challenges and prepares them for their future as adults in the 21st century.**

Our students acquire the skills, understanding and attitude necessary to achieve and develop into successful, confident individuals and responsible citizens who will make a positive contribution to society.

All students are offered a challenging curriculum appropriate to their abilities and needs. Every student has the opportunity to take part in learning outside the classroom by taking part in field work, residential or vocational visits.

## **ART**

Art provides many creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities for students, which help them form a real appreciation of art in their everyday lives.

Students learn a variety of techniques and methods through experimentation and refinement of materials. They research and form opinions on both traditional as well as contemporary artists, from a wide range of cultures.

Art helps students to be able to express themselves and think creatively and through specially designed programmes. It also challenges them to consider complex issues, thoughts and feelings.

## **DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY: DIGITAL LITERACY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, COMPUTER SCIENCE, ENTERPRISE AND MARKETING**

Our digital technology curriculum equips students with the skills and knowledge to thrive in an increasingly digital world. We emphasise the importance of digital literacy, ensuring students can navigate, evaluate and create information across various digital



platforms safely and ethically. We instil a strong sense of responsibility and awareness regarding their digital footprint, online safety and ethical considerations, preparing them to be conscientious users of technology. Students develop problem-solving skills, logical reasoning and the ability to think algorithmically. We provide opportunities for students to express their creativity through technology, whether it's coding, digital design or multimedia projects, fostering an environment of innovation. By exposing students to various career pathways within the tech industry, including software development, data analysis and cybersecurity, we aim to inspire and prepare them for future employment in a rapidly evolving job market.

## **DRAMA**

Drama develops creativity, self-awareness, self-esteem and teamwork as well as providing our students with opportunities to perform. It is a unique tool to explore and express human feelings and assist in the development of imagination, self-expression and confidence.

Drama is the enactment of real and imagined events through role-play and performance. It enables individuals and groups to explore, shape and represent ideas, feelings and their consequences in symbolic or dramatic form.

## ENGLISH

English provides many opportunities to enrich the lives of our students. We teach students to speak and write fluently so that they can communicate their ideas and feelings to others. We develop their reading and listening skills so others can communicate with them.

Reading in particular enhances the cultural, emotional, intellectual, social and spiritual development of every student. Reading also enables students to acquire new knowledge and to build on what they already know, developing as learners, curious to explore the world. We make it a priority that students become life-long readers and writers.

Students experience learning opportunities at Blackburn Central that challenge them to develop their language abilities to the highest possible level, enabling them to participate as valued and valuable members of society.

## GEOGRAPHY

Our world is more interconnected than ever before, yet even as the global community becomes increasingly more complex and competitive, the world is changing at a rapid pace. Did you know that the world is likely to change more in the next 50 years than ever before?

Geography helps students understand the world around them, and how it will change, enabling them to prepare for the future.

Geography involves multiple disciplines such as science, climate, and world affairs.

## HISTORY

History deals with the past but informs the present and the future. Full of interesting facts, stories and people, it helps students to reflect on their own lives by showing them the lives of others.

Students develop research, study, analysis and interpretation skills, providing them with an opportunity to look at how our past has influenced the way we live today.

## LANGUAGES: SPANISH AND URDU

People with foreign language skills and knowledge stand out as talented and successful individuals with broad and exciting horizons. Studying a modern foreign language puts graduates in a strong position to secure employment in a company with international links, work abroad or enter university.

Students develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of Spanish or Urdu, linking different activities through the main communication skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing.

Literacy and problem solving skills are enhanced, aiding the development of the social skills which help our students grow into confident, valued members of a global community.

British values are promoted through intercultural awareness projects and international educational visits, all of which contribute to a greater appreciation of the wider world.



## MATHEMATICS

Mathematics is a wonderful subject underpinning many other disciplines. We give the strongest mathematical grounding to our students, whilst showing them just how useful, fascinating and interesting it can be.

Students learn to apply mathematics to other areas of the curriculum and real life. They learn to solve problems, present solutions and interpret results.

We teach students to think and communicate precisely, logically, creatively and independently. They gain a confidence in the use of numbers, algebra, shapes, measurement and data handling.

Every student reaches their full potential in mathematics and learns the skills to make informed financial and data decisions and positively contribute to society.

## MUSIC

Music plays an important part of our individual and cultural identity. It brings together intellect and feelings, it can change how people think, feel and act. Music also encourages self-expression, self-esteem, reflection and emotional development.

Students immerse themselves in a variety of musical activities, from singing and instrumental skills, to music technology. Our dedicated suite of computers enables students to record, edit and manipulate music using professional software.

As well as classroom lessons we also welcome a team of instrumental specialists into school to offer one-to-one tutoring on a range of instruments.

We encourage students to take part in performances and display their talents, with concerts and choir recitals taking place both in school and at larger public venues.



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We offer an inclusive physical education curriculum, with lessons tailored specifically to students' needs and abilities, plus an extensive extra-curricular programme.

Sport develops students' competence and confidence. It gives them the opportunity to showcase invaluable practical skills that will allow them to flourish in any environment in the future.

Physical education inspires students to express themselves by communicating ideas, concepts and emotions, whilst problem solving and participating in competitive sports.

We teach students that no matter how difficult it is, giving up is not an option. Resilience is the key to success and there are no limits to what can be achieved with hard work.

## PHSE AND RSE

Personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education develops the qualities and attributes students need to thrive as individuals, family members and members of society.

Our whole school approach prepares students to manage many of the most critical opportunities, challenges and responsibilities they will face growing up in such rapidly changing and challenging times.

It helps them to apply the knowledge they learn in all subjects to practical, real-life situations, while helping them to feel safe and secure.

PSHE contributes to personal development by helping students to build their personal identities, confidence and self-esteem, make career choices and understand what influences their decisions.

In 2020 the Government made Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) compulsory for all secondary school pupils. The subject is taught sensitively and provides students with the knowledge to make informed decisions about their wellbeing.





## RELIGIOUS STUDIES

In religious studies students explore the impact of religion on individuals, families and communities. Students consider their own and others' views on questions of morality, ethics and faith.

Religious studies offer opportunities for discussion, debate and personal reflection; as well as giving students the chance to understand, reflect on and respect the complex world around them. Students develop tolerance through awareness, understanding and appreciation of our diverse, multicultural community.

## SCIENCE: BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS

Science lessons are a journey of discovery of the natural world that can feed our students' enquiring minds, helping to satisfy the natural curiosity with which children are born.

Our students view science as both a body of knowledge and a process for better understanding the world. They leave lessons with a sense of awe and wonder at the natural world, wanting to learn more.

As a practical subject, experimentation and investigation are at the heart of science learning.

## SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

With the right intervention and support every child can succeed. With that in mind we offer specialist support to students on the SEND register. Specially trained staff support in lessons, work one-to-one, and in small groups with those students who could benefit from a little extra support.

Some of our students follow bespoke timetables which place extra emphasis on English and maths, as well as improving social skills, self-esteem and



mental wellbeing. We monitor their progress and offer additional lessons to help them close the gap with their peers.

## TECHNOLOGY: FOOD TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND TEXTILES

Technology is developing rapidly and impacts directly on our society, daily lives, culture and experiences.

Students gain the confidence and experience to design and make high quality products.

Technology subjects encourage self-expression, creativity and design appreciation, plus the skills developed provide students with an excellent knowledge base for further study.

Our award winning engineering department provides an opportunity for students to create and develop innovative products and work with leaders in the industry. As a school we're at the forefront of engaging with engineering organisations, both on a national and international level. Our pupils have already achieved national recognition for their project work and continue to do so. We pride ourselves on creating the engineers of the future.

# Community Links

**Blackburn Central High School is at the heart of the Blackburn community.**

We serve the needs of the local community and by working in collaboration with all of our neighbours we successfully strengthen these relationships.

We host and organise an annual community programme, which features special events like Grandparents' Day, fairs and bazaars, adult literacy lessons, cooking sessions, a range of fabulous clubs, Christmas and Eid community lunches and more.

You can play an active role by joining our Parent and Teacher Association (PTA). Members meet three times a year to discuss how to improve school for students and organise fundraising events.

*"Pupils are particularly proud of the charity work they do and display genuine care and compassion to those less fortunate than themselves."*

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# Oak Learning Partnership

**We form part of Oak Learning Partnership, an established trust of schools based in Bury, Greater Manchester and Blackburn with Darwen.**

Our trust is committed to improving the life chances of children and young people through the delivery of a well-rounded, world class education.

Inclusion is at the heart of our trust, it's a constant consideration in all of our schools as we strive to ensure that everyone is accepted, supported and challenged to be the best possible version of themselves. Our motivation is to help all pupils make exceptional progress at school, regardless of barriers and we aim to make sure that nobody is left behind.

We understand that lives and communities can be transformed through high quality teaching and strong support within a framework of the best, bespoke curriculum. As a group of schools, we work collaboratively on a number of projects, which are utilised and developed in schools.

For more information about our trust, please visit: **[www.oaklp.co.uk](http://www.oaklp.co.uk)**.





*“Diversity is not just tolerated at this school, it is celebrated. Pupils and staff have won national recognition for the work that they have done to promote inclusion. There is a well established culture of respect and pupils are happy and safe.”*

**OFSTED**

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