



NEWSFLASH!

We interrupt this newsletter with an important newsflash! Mrs Hussain sadly leaves us this week as she retires from her role as headteacher. Therefore, unbeknown to her, we wanted to use the newsletter to pay testament to the wonderful work she has done in leading the school for the last five years.

Mrs Hussain's unwavering dedication to students is what she is known for most. She always refers to students as 'her children' and that is genuinely the way she thinks about them all. Kindness and love are at the forefront of everything she does and the way she leads her staff. Her compassion, drive and unwavering focus on doing what is best for 'her children' is what we will all remember her for. We are going to miss her terribly.



MRS HUSSAIN'S CAREER AT A GLANCE

Mrs Hussain started her career as an interpreter, providing a voice to those in need who couldn't speak English.

From there, she qualified as an English teacher and started her teaching career at Rhyddings High School in Oswaldtwistle in 2003. In 2010 she moved to Witton Park High School as the curriculum lead for English, before being made assistant head in 2013.

In 2014 Mrs Hussain moved to BCHS as deputy head. Her first challenge was to overhaul the English department, which she did with great success. She then became associate headteacher in 2018 and headteacher in 2020, when she had to lead the school through an incredibly challenging time because of Covid-19. The rest is history, she has spent her remaining time transforming the school into the success it is today.

STUDENT WELL WISHES

Thank you for making BCHS more better all these years:

Memories
I hope you'll have a great life
So responsible
So loving

Hearts all day
U are amazing
So mature
So kind
Astonishing English teacher
I will miss you
No one can compare to you

by Maryam, year 8

Dear Mrs Hussain

Thank you for being such an amazing headteacher in our school and looking after us all, all day and every day. You're an amazing and lovely woman of many talents and have never failed to take care of this school. You are wonderous and so caring and have been here for a long time being amazing and very kind and considerate person towards us. We hope you have a lovely retirement and have a nice time off. May you be blessed heavily and looked after well by God. We wish you all the best and good luck.

by Hasina, year 10

Mrs Hussain

My days in the school have been a joy due to having a great headteacher. To Miss Hussain, thank you for being a great and happy headteacher that has created opportunities and joy for all students.

Your history in BCHS will not be forgotten as we all hope you live a great rest of your life and wish you the best!

by Muhammed, year 8

DECEMBER 2025

A FOND FAREWELL

Dear BCHS Community

As this Christmas approaches, I prepare to close a chapter that has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. After 11 incredible years leading BCHS - and many more in education - it feels surreal to say goodbye. This journey has been filled with purpose, passion and people who have changed me forever.

When I first stepped into this role, I knew it wouldn't be easy. Our community faces challenges that many never see. But what I have witnessed every single day is resilience, determination and hope. Together, we have raised aspirations, broken barriers and created opportunities that will echo for generations. That is the power of education, and that is the power of this school. As Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." That belief has guided everything we've done here at BCHS - because we know education doesn't just change lives, it changes communities and futures.



There have been moments of great joy and moments of deep sadness. The most difficult time came during COVID, when we tragically lost five of our children and one member of staff. Those were heartbreakng days that none of us will ever forget. Yet even in the darkest moments, what shone through was the light of our BCHS family. We stood together, lifted each other up and showed the world what true community looks like.

To our staff - you are the heartbeat of this school. Your dedication and creativity have inspired me every single day. Rita Pierson once said, "Every child deserves a champion - an adult who will never give up on them." Every one of you has been that champion. To our parents and local community - thank you for your trust, support, and partnership. You have played a vital role in shaping the success of our young people and I am deeply grateful.

As I step away, my message is simple: keep putting children at the heart of everything we do. When we do that, there is no limit to what we can achieve. Our mission has always been clear - to improve outcomes for every young person, regardless of their starting point or background. That vision does not retire with me. It lives on in each of you.

This isn't goodbye - it's see you soon. Merry Christmas, have a restful break and thank you for being part of this extraordinary journey.

Warmest wishes
Shanaz Hussain
Headteacher

CHAPTERS & CHUTNEYS

Our most recent Mums and Daughters Club was hosted by Mrs Hussain and was packed to the rafters - so many wanted to share and make memories with Shanaz before she leaves.

The theme was 'Chapters and Chutney' where attendees shared life-changing or affirming stories about themselves, cooked samosas together, made chutney and had a wonderful time.

Towards the end of the session, everyone summed up their personalities using one word. Beautiful, resilient and strong were among the inspirational responses from mums and their daughters.

So many people wanted their photo taken with Mrs Hussain, she must have felt like a celebrity! As it was her last session, we all agreed she was exempt from doing the washing up!



PARKING IN THE SCHOOL CAR PARK

We are pleased to provide parents with access to the school car park as part of our commitment to making drop-off and pick-up times as convenient as possible. Recently, however, we have noticed some instances of parking that could compromise the safety of our students. While we have explored options such as raising the barriers, this would present challenges in safeguarding staff property, so we are keen to find a more collaborative solution.

We kindly ask all parents to park considerately and drive with care to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone on site. By working together, we can maintain this privilege and create a safe environment for our children. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM MENTORING

15 students in years 10 and 11 have been taking part in a long-term mentoring project with IMO, a charity based in Blackburn. The students meet with their mentor, Safa Rehman for 30 minutes - 1 hour each week. Safa helps the students to discover more about themselves and what they would like to do when they leave school. Safa also uses techniques that allow the students to be self-reflective and build resilience towards learning.

The aim of the project is to ensure that more South Asian young people have a stable future career path and become more successful over time. Our students greatly appreciate the mentoring and look forward to seeing Safa each week, having built a positive relationship with her over time. We look forward to the project being extended over the coming years.



APPRENTICESHIP EVENT

Training 2000 is holding two apprenticeship open evenings on Wednesday 28 January and Thursday 29 January 2026 at the Blackburn site on Harwood Road, Blackburn, BB1 3BD.

At the events you'll have the opportunity to:

- Find out more about their apprenticeships and apprenticeship preparation training.
- Speak to their expert subject tutors and ask all your questions.
- Have a tour of the site and training facilities.
- Talk to employers about their apprenticeship opportunities.

To register, head to www.training2000.co.uk/events.



University of Lancashire
Training 2000

WELL DONE EESAH!

Everyone at BCHS is very proud of our year 10 student, Eesah, who has secured a week of work experience with BAE Systems in January 2026.

Places are very much sought after and Eesah has been incredibly fortunate to have been awarded a placement. Well done!



YEAR 11 MOCK INTERVIEWS

Thank you to all the employers and providers who supported year 11 mock interviews at school on 11 December 2025.

Representatives from EG, Chubb, Teaching Personnel, Gossip Beauty Salon, Anord Mardix, T2000, Get Set Academy, Newground and local primary schools and colleges came to interview our students. Our guests were impressed with the questions students asked and the conduct of the students throughout the morning.

The employers said that our students were confident, polite and well presented. The employers were also impressed that students had a clear plan about their futures. Well done year 11.



TECH WORKSHOP

Mrs Ibrahim and Miss Umer took students in Year 7 to a robotics, cybersecurity and AI workshop at Blackburn University as part of the Mega Programme In partnership with IN4 Group.

They took part in lots of tech challenges and were a credit to the school. They all worked amazingly well and were able to gain an insight into future careers in AI and cyber.



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Thank you to all of those students and staff who took part in Christmas Jumper Day.

Thanks to your generosity we managed to raise over £80 for Save the Children charity.

