

# CENTRAL NEWS



**Blackburn Central**  
High School

Aspire and achieve

**FEBRUARY 2026**

## A WARM WELCOME

Dear BCHS Community

As we reach the end of another busy half term, it is a perfect moment to reflect on all we have accomplished since returning in January. It has been a great pleasure and a privilege to start my journey as Headteacher here at BCHS and I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know our students, staff and families over the past few weeks.

I have been genuinely touched by the warm welcome I have received from every corner of the school community. BCHS is a school filled with ambition, kindness and determination and I am incredibly proud to be part of its ongoing journey.

Together, we will continue to build on our strengths, celebrate our successes and strive for excellence in all that we do. I look forward to working alongside you all in the months and years ahead as we shape an even brighter future for BCHS.

A special mention must go to our Year 11 students, who are working diligently as they prepare for the next round of mock examinations. Their commitment to attending intervention sessions and taking advantage of the after-school revision opportunities on offer is commendable and we are incredibly proud of the focus and determination they continue to show. Please encourage them to continue with their revision over the half term break.

I was also privileged to be invited to give the introduction at our most recent achievement assembly, where parents joined us to celebrate learners receiving certificates and accolades for their exceptional attitudes, progress and attainment. Well done to all of our students involved!

Please take a moment to read this newsletter with pride, celebrating all the wonderful achievements our young people at BCHS have accomplished this half term. As we head into the break, I hope you enjoy time together, find moments to relax and stay safe.

Wishing you all a calm and restful half-term holiday.

Warmest wishes

**Nicola Power**  
Headteacher





## **ATTENDANCE MATTERS**

At BCBS we are changing the way we talk about attendance and from now on, we will be placing students into attendance bands, which can be seen in this table.

Expected school attendance for all students is 97% or above (band 1). If your child is currently below this, we would encourage them, and you as parents, to make every effort to improve this. The benefits of good attendance include:

- Better academic performance - students who attend school regularly perform better in class and in assessments.
- Consistent learning - regular attendance helps students stay on track with lessons and reduces the stress of catching up.
- Stronger social connections - being present helps students build stronger relationships with classmates and teachers.
- Life skills for the future - punctuality and commitment are key traits that will benefit students throughout life.

<b>BAND</b>	<b>% ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>SCHOOL DAYS MISSED SO FAR THIS YEAR</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>97-100%</b>	<b>97% = 3 full days</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>95-96.9%</b>	<b>95% = 5 full days</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>93-94.9%</b>	<b>93% = 7 full days</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>90-92.9%</b>	<b>90% = 10 full days</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>50-89.9%</b>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Below 50%</b>	

If your child is currently below 90% (band 5), this is classed as persistently absent by the Department for Education (DfE). This is the equivalent of missing one full school day every two weeks and over the course of a full year this adds up to around 100 hours of missed lessons. Not only does this cause gaps in knowledge and understanding, but it can also lead to a lack of confidence and cause low self-esteem, stress and anxiety. Let's all work together and aim for excellent attendance next term.

## **UNIVERSITY VISITS**

Students in year 9 have attended the University of Lancashire (ULan) to find out more about what it is like to study at university and the pathways to careers. On 28 January our students visited the new Young Creative Centre and on 2 February a different group took part in a veterinary sciences workshop. It was fun to be able to work with the 'animals' for the session!



The visits to the university are funded by ULan and we thank them for their support and hospitality.

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## **COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS**

We still have a number of parents who have yet to download our communication app, Arbor.

Arbor is our main method of communication with parents, plus a portal where you can find more information about your child's time at school, for instance, to see their timetable, attendance, behaviour and progress.

If you haven't yet signed up please go to: <https://login.arbor.sc/> and enter the email address that you have provided to school and click on 'Forgot your password'. This should then enable you to sign up.

If you have any problems please email [info@bchs.co.uk](mailto:info@bchs.co.uk).



## **ASPIRE MONTHLY OUT NOW**

The latest edition of our student-led magazine, Aspire Monthly, is out now and can be read at the link below or in the news section of our website.

<https://aspiremonthly.wordpress.com/category/issues/issue-seven-february-2026/>

In this issue, the resident agony aunt offers some loving advice to one of our students. Student Haleemah has written an anti-bullying poem, as well as contributing a fabulous travel blog, which we hope will become part of a series and in the run up to Ramadan, we have re-shared a poem, which we believe will strike a chord for many. Finally, investigated and penned by the wonderful Sarah Q, there's some playground gossip at BCHS - read all about it!

The vision for this magazine is to spark meaningful discussions and help students develop a genuine love for reading. The pieces are written by students and staff and are about life at school so it's a great way to learn more about each other and should help students better engage.

## **MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE**

Students from our junior leadership team represented BCHS at the recent Holocaust Memorial Day service at Blackburn Cathedral on Tuesday 28 January.

Local dignitaries, including the Mayor of Blackburn with Darwen, members of the Interfaith Forum and Blackburn with Darwen Council, gave speeches and spoke movingly of the Holocaust. Reflections gathered from secondary schools across the borough - including BCHS - were shared by BwD Deputy Youth MP and there was a candle lighting ceremony, in memory of all people lost to genocide around the world. Thanks to our students who represented us in a polite and courteous manner.



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



## **YEAR 11 PRE-PUBLIC EXAMS**

Our Year 11 students will begin their Pre-Public Exams (PPEs) on Monday 23 February, marking an important milestone in their preparation for the summer GCSE exams.

In support of this, all students have been provided with detailed revision topic lists for every subject. These should guide their study throughout the half-term holidays, ensuring they return fully prepared and confident. This period of independent revision is crucial - not only for securing strong PPE results, but for building the habits and resilience needed for success in the real exams.

**Results and parents' evening: Thursday 26 March** - Students and parents will receive PPE results on Thursday 26 March, which also coincides with our final year 11 parents' evening. This is the last opportunity for parents to meet with subject teachers before GCSE exams begin. It is vital that parents attend so we can work together to make sure every child is receiving the right support at home and at school.

## **INDEPENDENT REVISION: A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY**

During the PPE period, intervention sessions have been paused to place full emphasis on independent study. While school will always provide guidance, structure and resources, students must now take increasing responsibility for their own learning and progress. In the exam hall, it is ultimately their preparation and effort that will make the difference. We ask our parents and carers to work in partnership with us by:

- Supervising and encouraging revision at home
- Helping students create and stick to a realistic revision timetable
- Promoting focus, routine and healthy study habits

Together, we can help students develop the independence they need to achieve their full potential.

## **SUPPORT AT SCHOOL**

We recognise that exam periods can bring pressure. Support is always available in school for any student who is feeling overwhelmed or struggling with their workload.

Intervention sessions will resume on Monday 9 March and if any changes are made to the usual timetable, both students and parents will be notified.

Once PPEs are complete, students will be just **nine weeks away** from their GCSEs. This next phase requires determination, consistency and well-planned revision. With focused effort - both at home and in school - our students can achieve the results they truly deserve.

Let's work together to make this a successful and empowering stage in their journey.