



Blackfriars Newcastle Reception:
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Blackfriars Bulletin

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Safeguarding Contact Information

Staffordshire

First Response :
0800 1313 126
Outside office hours:
0845 6042886

Stoke-on-Trent

Advice and Referral Team:
01782 235100
Outside office hours:
01782 234234

Cheshire East

Referral Team :
0300 123 5012 Option 2
Outside office hours:
0300 123 5022

Shropshire

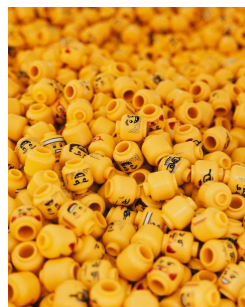
Referral Team:
01743 254 259
Initial Contact Team:
0345 678 9021
Outside office hours:
0345 678 9040

Adult Safeguarding referral numbers

Staffordshire: First Response –
0845 604 2719
Stoke on Trent: Adult Social Care –
0800 561 0015

blackfriarsacademy.org.uk

‘What is the point?’ is the question that I am always asking our staff – what are you doing in your lessons? Why? How does it support our students’ learning and how is it preparing them for life beyond school? These discussions went to a higher level last term when we decided as staff to organise our curriculum around some key themes. But what themes do you choose that are appropriate in a school for young people with varying needs and abilities. Our starting point had to be ‘What is the point?’ – why would we choose ‘this’ as a theme. In order to answer this question, we went back to our core moral purpose as a school - we believe that education has the power to transform lives. By educating our young people, we can help them to be more independent, for some it may mean helping them to use their ‘Voice’ to ensure that their views, needs and wants are heard and for others that they can become critical consumers of information.



This rationale drove our choice of themes, the first of which is ‘IDENTITY’ No matter what pathway our students are working in, exploring the notion of identity is vital to all of them. There is a clear link between knowing one’s identity and developing positive self-esteem. Our thinking led us to question what does it mean to have an identity? What are the different aspects of Identity? What is civic identity? and what is a collective or group identity? Each pathway will explore the theme in their own way and this is explained in the curriculum plan that is being sent home

with your child shortly. We hope that you find the plan for the rest of the term helpful – any feedback is gratefully received.

Yeah! Blackfriars students are one of the named winners in the National RE Spirited Arts Competition.



In July Blackfriars students in the Exploring and Questioning pathways made a collective entry to the National RE Spirited Arts

Competition. I’m delighted that we are one of the winning schools and a mystery prize and certificates are heading our way. On the theme of Journey’s and Pilgrimage, students considered spiritual places where pilgrims gather, as well as special places in their lives. We considered what guides people on life’s journey, where we want to go and why. Each student made a footprint of their own foot which was the template for their creative collage exploring these themes. Our footprints then formed a path leading to the school entrance with the title: ‘Where will we go?’ A photo of the footprint path was our competition entry. Well done everyone who took part! Jill Rawlinson, RE Teacher.

Scholars of the week:

Maddie in Wedgwood has been nominated. Maddie was able to independently use her Ipad to tell us she went bowling with her dad at the weekend, we are thrilled that she has been so independent!

Daniel in Gladstone for helping with students at break times and lunch times, you are developing a lovely, caring attitude and being a very good friend

Rian in Bridgewater because of his exceptional work in class

Bradley for excelling in his sportsmanship skills with Portmeirion Class

Mental Health Awareness Day was incredibly successful. Many of our students wore yellow and we raised a massive £231. Lots of students and staff wore yellow and we all thoroughly enjoyed the cake sale. Most importantly, the day gave us a chance to stop and think about the importance of prioritising our mental health.

Additional Inset Day 6th January 2020

A pressing national issue is the mental health of school staff – the teaching profession is at crisis point because many staff across the country are resigning because of workload. Leaders have to take this into account when planning training for their staff. When urgent priorities arise, the difficult decision sometimes has to be taken to close the school for the day to enable staff to receive the training. The Shaw Education Trust have requested that all staff (across all of the Trust's schools) are available for very important training on **Monday 6th January 2020**. This will be added to the school calendar as an extra INSET day *and school will be closed to all students*



25th October – 1st November – ½ term October holiday

13th November - 1:30 –2:30pm - Parents Forum

19th November – Grandparents' Lunch - an invitation for grandparents (or that someone special in your child's life) to join us for lunch

6th December is an INSET day – chosen specifically because the students are exhausted by this time in the term and this will give them an opportunity to have a long weekend and re-charge their batteries .

Friday 20th December 2019– Monday 6th January 2020 - Christmas Holiday

SCHOOL OPENS - Tuesday 7th January 2020

Please note : Early closure – 1.30pm Friday 20th December

Don't forget that the school calendar is available on our website:

<http://www.blackfriarsacademy.org.uk/>