



Blackfriars Newcastle Reception:  
01782 987150

# Blackfriars Bulletin

Volume 6 Issue 10



The 'Which way now?' Job Carousel was very well attended by local employers and training agencies, students from the Questioning Pathway had a chance to talk to representatives from apprenticeship providers, a dog handler, the police force, the NHS, library service, caring organisations, builders, an outward bound instructor, an IT professional and a fitness instructor. The event certainly opened our students' eyes to the range of jobs that are available in the wider world and it gave them the perfect opportunity to practise the skill of questioning that they have been developing all year.



## Blackfriars Academy Clubs

A new club is starting on Tuesday lunch-times: 'Express Yourself' is an opportunity for students to come along to the club to demonstrate their talent and be willing to perform. Ms Turner and Mrs Fallows are running it, Kate has already promised to recite a poem, Harry and Kor are jamming together, Keanu and Rhys dancing and I think Michael Jackson (our very own Harry) might be making an appearance again! Their rehearsals will, I hope, culminate in a performance in the last week of term where each class illustrates what they have celebrated this term when we have been concentrating on 'Celebration' as our term's anchor.

### 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:

### Adult Safeguarding referral numbers

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

[blackfriarsacademy.org.uk](http://blackfriarsacademy.org.uk)

Blackfriars Academy Parents & Carers

## Digital Identity Workshop

COMING SOON. A FREE workshop for parents on managing your child's online activities and keeping them safe.

### Key dates:

Easter Holidays – School closed on Friday 3 April until Friday 17 April  
May Bank Holiday – Friday 8 May  
Finish for Summer Holidays on Friday 17 July at 1.30

Don't forget that the school calendar is available on our website:  
<http://www.blackfriarsacademy.org.uk/>

In the first week of term, I held two **Consultation Meetings** to discuss the timings for the end of the school day. The proposal being put before parents and carers is that we **change the time of the school day to end at 3pm, rather than 3:25pm**. The time gained each week will be used for the direct benefit of our students; we will be undertaking staff training to enable us to personalise the school curriculum further. **Should the changes be approved, they will come into force from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020**. Whilst understanding the challenge posed for working parents, I stated in the meeting I believe that these changes will be beneficial to our school community, and will have a positive effect on your child's education: the benefits will include a shorter day for our most vulnerable students who are exhausted in the afternoon; an earlier pick-up for students who travel long distances – some of our students leave their home at 7.30am and do not return home until 5pm; greater opportunities for staff to work together on a weekly basis – currently, staff can only meet together once a fortnight to discuss their classes because of the very complicated pattern of working hours that we have to operate to ensure we have enough cover during the school day for break and lunch-times and finally, Staff training events will be scheduled weekly – this will enable us to personalise the learning experience for your children further, will ensure that we are kept up to date with developments and have greater opportunities to communicate with other professionals who only remain on site until 4pm.

What many parents do not appreciate is that we work a longer day than some of our neighbouring High Schools – Wolstanton - our students are on site for 25 minutes longer and Newcastle Academy - our students are on site for 10 minutes longer. When we compare the times of our school day with other special schools in the Shaw Education Trust, we are also working a longer day than them – **Brookfields** by an extra 30 minutes; **Ivy House** by an extra 20 minutes; **Walton Hall** – our students work for 25 minutes longer and the **Coppice** - our students are on site for 10 minutes longer.

We would not be proposing this change if we did not feel that it was absolutely necessary. The time lost comes at the end of the school day when we traditionally have the Big Read. We are currently reviewing our curriculum, timetable timings, any accreditation changes and the needs of our current students and the new cohort for 2020-21. We guarantee that we will not reduce lesson time, we currently have 4 hours of 'subject teaching' a day with the remaining time used for reading, Lexia and Maths programmes, news, EHCP activities, social interaction time, fitness and PSHE follow-ups. These activities will be re-structured ensuring the 4 hours remains sacrosanct.

Can I please ask parents and carers to respond to the proposal – positive comments are as important as negative ones. The closing date is 4pm Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Responses can be sent by post to Alison Parr, Principal, Blackfriars Academy, Priory Road, Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 2TF or email [admin@blackfriars.shaw-education.org.uk](mailto:admin@blackfriars.shaw-education.org.uk) with 'Consultation' in the subject bar. You will be notified of the results of the Consultation and the decision made by the Trust by the end of the Spring term.

### Scholars of the week:

**Sienna** from Spode has been nominated because she signed back to an adult 'Sienna is here' during their morning greeting.

**Tyra** has been nominated because in Portmeirion class, they have been promoting 'Acts of Kindness' and Tyra shared a scrapbook that her cheerleading team had made for her. It held many memories and kind things that Tyra had done for others.

Gladstone's **Harry** has been nominated for showing great confidence and bravery when performing a solo in our PSHE themed assembly this week. Fantastic musicality!

**Ethan** in Moorcroft has made brilliant progress in his swimming lessons and thus receives a nomination.

**Olivia** (Wedgwood) for making her family proud by using her ipad to communicate at home

Finally, all of the students in Portmeirion have been nominated for Scholar of The Week for using transferable skills taken from their Workskills lessons in the Job Carousel. We have awarded everyone 10 house points for having such fantastic questions, engaging with all the 'visitors', overcoming social barriers and working together, altogether, it was a fantastic morning! We are all so very proud of them. Well done Aaron, Alex, Alfie, Arwen, Bradley, Dylan, Eleanor, Jim, Keanu, Maisie, Owen, Rhys, Shannon, Steven, Tyraleigh and William.