



Blackfriars Newcastle Reception:
01782 987150

Blackfriars Bulletin

Volume 7 Issue 1



A very warm welcome to all of our new families, and welcome back to those of you that have been with us prior to this year. We are so very delighted to have a school full of young people again – there was so much excitement and lively chatter and signing going on yesterday, it was a joy to see and hear.

This term's 'anchor' that underpins all of the learning that takes place in our curriculum is 'Belonging'. Students were busy on Wednesday (for the new starters) and Thursday (everyone) finding out what it means to 'belong' to Blackfriars.

We have 19 new students who now officially belong to the Blackfriars community, we would like to officially welcome Roma and Harry in Dudson; Freya, Joseph and Kyle in Spode; Archie in Wedgwood; Lawrence in Moorcroft; Aisha, Caitlyn, Daniel, Joshua, Max, Abdullah and Noah in Middleport and finally, Royal Doulton has been joined by Poppy, Telsa, James, Callum and Marshall. We hope that you will all be very happy at Blackfriars.

It is not just new students that we have to welcome into the Blackfriars' community, we also have new staff, we are delighted to be joined by eight new TAs who are with us for the year to train: Jaymee, Helena, Leah, Imogen, Lea, Emily, Lucy and Hannah. We have a new Personal Care Assistant Rebecca and we also have a new cook, Naomi. In case you do not recognise the name, Eloise Palmer is now Mrs Eloise Wright, she got married in the summer.

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



Despite everything that happened last year, we have some incredibly exciting news – Blackfriars' Year 11s have produced some of our best results ever. We had outstanding success in examinations: in total 100% of our students achieved or exceeded expectations including 100% who were entered for GCSE gaining a level 4 or 5 pass in English and maths. When we compare these results with the targets that we set our students, 97% achieved or exceeded expectations. Across the rest of the school in all age and ability groups, pupil progress is high: in English 99.5% pupils are on or above target, Mathematics 99% pupils are on or above target and Science 83% pupils are on or above target. You hear a great deal in the press about disadvantaged children not performing as well as they should but in Blackfriars, because of our personalised approach, disadvantaged students' progress exceeds non-disadvantaged across the school. In the core subjects 79% pupil premium students exceeded their target compared to 65% non-pupil premium. Well done to all of our students for working so hard and a huge thanks to the staff who, throughout the lock down months, persisted in working with sometimes reluctant students, to get the work to enable us to put them in for these qualifications.

We would like to thank parents and carers for their patience and understanding as we built up to re-opening, these are such uncertain times that it is vitally important that we get things right. Just a few reminders ready for the start of the new week:

- No lunch-boxes, please send packed lunches in plastic bags that can be thrown away
- PE kit is NOT needed this term, PE will take place in school uniform
- The pool is closed for a re-furbishment, so no swimming kit is needed
- Do not send in unnecessary items in school bags please, keep it to a minimum
- If face masks are worn on transport, please send in a sealed bag that can be used to store it during the day. If your child dribbles, please send a spare mask in a second bag so that they can wear a dry mask to go home in.

Your support is very much appreciated. If you have any concerns at all about procedures in school, please ring us on 01782 987150

← goodbye →

It is always with a twinge of sadness

that we have to say goodbye to students, but we are also incredibly proud that they are moving on to the next stage of their education. Our students go to a range of post 16 providers, some transition into mainstream education and others progress into specialised provision – Kor (who wrote the music for our school song) has gone on to study music at South Cheshire; Hazel has demonstrated enormous resilience and is taking up a place at Stoke College to study IT; Arjun is venturing out to Strathmore; Meg and Chelsey are following their passion for working with animals and are attending Reaseheath and Ciaran, Declan, George, Cullynn, Lewis, Eisa and Kieron have all gone to Newfriars College where they will have the chance to follow a number of different courses and then the possibility of joining Project Search (a pre-employment programme with the NHS). Maisie-Lou is transitioning back into mainstream.

Well done all of you, we are incredibly proud of you all and wish you every success.

As many of you know, throughout the Lock-down and during the summer holidays, we continued to deliver food parcels. At the end of term, we received a further delivery of non-perishable food items, thanks to the Shaw Education Trust's grant application to the National Lottery. Please do get in touch if you are finding times hard, so many families are moving into difficult times as furlough ends and working hours are cut. We need to



be moving all of this food out to families. If you received any food parcels, we will be ringing you over the next few weeks to arrange how you can receive a further box, but if ANYONE needs some food before then, please ring school and we can sort something to help you.

I talked before about pupils who are 'Pupil Premium' – this is a Government name for students who have free school meals. Every school receives extra funding to support pupil premium students, can I make a plea therefore that if you think that you might be eligible for free school meals, that you ring school to chat it through with Tina Davies, even if your child cannot / will not eat school dinners, we can claim to get the extra funding.