



Blackfriars Newcastle Reception:  
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# Blackfriars Bulletin

Volume 7 Issue 5



On the 11th November, we held our Remembrance Day event. This year it had to be very different with only one class physically in attendance and the event held outside, but as one of the few people who could attend in person, I have to say that it was almost more moving. Bridgewater students all took key roles, reading poems and singing and the staff co-ordinated the ceremony so that students in classrooms could take part virtually. It was a cold, wintry day, as we heard Salma reading this poem, the wind caught the leaves above our heads and showered them down around us, and in the distance, we heard the church bells from St Giles' ringing as we kept the two minute silence. Well done Bridgewater for being so creative and helping us all to remember that our country has faced massive challenges in the past and has been resilient and overcome those difficulties.

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

**Why are they selling poppies, Mummy?  
Selling poppies in town today.  
The poppies, child, are flowers of love.  
For the men who marched away.**

**But why have they chosen a poppy, Mummy?  
Why not a beautiful rose?  
Because my child, men fought and died  
In the fields where the poppies grow.**

**But why are the poppies so red, Mummy?  
Why are the poppies so red?  
Red is the colour of blood, my child.  
The blood that our soldiers shed.**

**The heart of the poppy is black, Mummy.  
Why does it have to be black?  
Black, my child, is the symbol of grief.  
For the men who never came back.**

**But why, Mummy are you crying so?  
Your tears are giving you pain.  
My tears are my fears for you my child  
For the world is forgetting again.**



## Scholar of the Week

Not surprisingly, Bridgewater students have been nominated as Scholars of the week– Salma, Jake, Dan, Mariya, Paige and Jack. Well done

William from Gladstone has also been nominated for working so well. Middleport's Joshua has received a nomination for Scholar of the week for showing PRIDE and working very hard to complete all the work on Showbie during the school closure. We are also very proud of William in Wedgwood who has been doing brilliant home learning work

We were delighted this week to receive a most generous donation from Shannon's dad, his work colleagues at F Ball & Co and the Rotary Club of Leek have given us a cheque for £600, they took part in a series of fund raising activities including a swim-a-thon. We are going to put this money towards buying new iPads.



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We have a new company who are now managing our kitchen. Naomi is still our cook but Caterlink are the managers. For 4 days this week we have had a more restricted menu (all nutritionally balanced) because our new restrictions mean that some classes eat in classrooms and we did not have all of the equipment to get hot meals to so many different venues – but everyone is very relieved today because fish and chips are on the menu!! Full choices from next week.



### Dates to remember:

Christmas Holiday - Friday 18th December back in school Monday 4 January 2021



Monday 16th November is the start of Anti-bullying week and to mark the significance of the work that we will be doing about this important subject, it would be great if everyone could wear odd socks on Monday!!



Can I close by once again thanking you, the parents and carers of our students. Your response to both last week and this has been overwhelming. You all prepared your children really well for coming back into a changed school, their behaviour has been outstanding. As a staff there is a massive amount to cope with at the moment and knowing that we have your support and best wishes is heart warming

# THANK YOU!

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10 November 2020

Alison Parr  
Principal  
Blackfriars Academy  
Priory Road  
Newcastle-Under-Lyme  
Staffordshire  
ST5 2TF

Dear Mrs Parr

### **Ofsted visit to Blackfriars Academy**

Following my visit with Wayne Simner, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 15 October 2020, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the visit's findings. Thank you for the time you made available to discuss your actions since September 2020, when the government expected all schools to open fully to all pupils.

This visit was conducted under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 (as amended) and in accordance with Ofsted's published procedures for visiting schools while routine inspections are temporarily suspended.

Ofsted's visits to schools during the autumn term are not inspections. We are not giving graded judgements. We did not undertake the usual range of inspection activities and were unable to check other sources of evidence, such as visits to lessons or looking at pupils' work. The content of this letter gives an overview of our discussions about what has happened in your school this term.

During the visit, we spoke to you, in your role as principal and senior leader responsible for safeguarding, members of the senior leadership team and the deputy regional director of the trust. We did not speak to pupils because of the protective measures in place.

### **Context**

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills is leading Ofsted's work into how England's education system is managing the return to full

education for pupils, following an extended break in formal schooling due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

In undertaking this focused work, HMI are visiting a broad range of schools. HMI will visit a sample of:

- approximately 1,200 schools across all Ofsted grades (outstanding, good, requires improvement and inadequate)
- maintained schools, academies and free schools, special schools and centres of alternative provision, including those in cities, and coastal, town or rural communities.

The information from this visit will feed into Ofsted's national reporting so that the insights can be shared with the government and the education sector. We did not find any significant concerns during the visit. In such a case, an inspection report would be published on our website and available to parents and carers.

We did not consider your response to COVID-19 during the spring and summer terms 2020, when the school was not open to all pupils.

**From this visit, inspectors noted that:**

- The school opened to all pupils on 3 September 2020. All pupils are expected to attend full time.
- Attendance is currently below what it was at this time last year. Staff are supporting families who are anxious about sending their children to school.
- Pupils are studying the full range of subjects and units of work. However, some changes have been made to practical work in science and food technology. Planned swimming lessons and hydrotherapy have been temporarily replaced with activities, including yoga. You expect pupils to return to their usual curriculum by the summer term 2021.
- In the 'questioning' unit of work, teachers' checks have shown that pupils need extra work in aspects of reading, writing and mathematics. Consequently, staff are focusing on areas such as comprehension and spelling in English, and time and measurement in mathematics.
- Teachers' checks on pupils' learning in the 'exploratory' unit have shown that pupils need extra help with communication. Teachers are planning additional opportunities for pupils to interact with each other and with staff.
- In the 'immersive' unit, teachers' checks have shown that pupils need extra help with being independent. Leaders said that staff are encouraging and supporting pupils to do things for themselves.

- Currently you use remote learning to support pupils' learning when they are absent from school. You have a system in place that includes the use of online learning should there be a need for pupils to be taught remotely in the future. Leaders say learning will be in line with the usual curriculum.

Thank you again for contributing to this important national work. The views and experiences you have shared will help to inform future policy.

I am copying this letter to the chair of the academy council, the chair of the board of trustees, the chief executive officer of the Shaw Education multi-academy trust, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Staffordshire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Lesley Yates  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**