



Blackfriars Newcastle Reception:
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Blackfriars Bulletin



Volume 8 Issue 4

What a couple of weeks we've had since being back at school in January. Students have coped extremely well with the Covid restrictions which we are delighted to now be starting to lift slightly. We have been concentrating on evaluating the quality of teaching and learning across the school and our amazing Academy Council have helped us in this process. Each pathway has a lead Academy Counsellor and we have asked them to come into school to review the work that we are doing. Their reports are below:

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

Logo of Exploratory Pathway

Neil Harrison, Academy Councillor with Lead Responsibility for The Exploratory Pathway recently concluded the 'Learning Conference' for the Exploratory Pathway (070122). During his visit he was asked to review whether the rhetoric written about the way that the three classes – Wedgwood, Moorcroft and Bridgewater, work is actually happening in practice.

Neil spent the day observing classes, meeting students, parents and staff, reviewing the Pathway Curriculum Booklet and talking to Acting Pathway Lead, Sarah Johnson.

Having observed classes, Neil stated that: "The students I observed were happy, positively engaged and very willing to attempt the activities on offer and I felt that all the activities met the learning expectations as set-out within the Exploratory Pathway handbook."

Neil's conclusion was "Yes, I feel that students, staff and parents are all engaging well with the Exploratory Pathway and that the Pathway is being successful in doing what it is setting out to do."

He went on to say that: "Pathway has been well thought out and the value of the many hours of hard work that have been put into creating something that clearly demonstrates a commitment to putting each student at the heart of their own learning and growing process. Staff are clearly invested in delivering on this commitment despite the often-significant impacts this has upon their time and wellbeing."

Blackfriars' values the contributions of our Academy Council and the suggestions made by Neil will be incorporated into the Pathway Action Plan, particularly to re-build opportunities for parents to come more regularly into school to share in their child's learning journey.



Logo of Questioning Pathway

Heather Ashton, Chair of Academy Council and Councillor with Lead Responsibility for The Questioning Pathway concluded her 'Learning Conference' for the Questioning Pathway (120122). Heather spent the afternoon observing classes, meeting students, parents and staff, reviewing the Pathway Curriculum Booklets and talking to Pathway Lead, Carmel Martin.



Her comments are extremely insightful. When talking to staff, she was "in awe hearing about how questions are developed in Mathematics and the level/depth to which discussions are held to allow understanding of Mathematical concepts. A member of staff described a recent engagement with a pupil over whether time stops in Formula One due to speed –this really does show that staff are willing to allow conceptual learning to be investigated in depth and pupil led through questions which fascinate them – a massively positive teaching tool in any setting.... I came away impressed and enthused by the staff and their genuine passion for what they are doing.

Upon meeting with six Questioning Pathway pupils across the age range she concluded:

"They were delightful to spend time with. They were comfortable speaking to me, great fun and showed such comfortability at being pupils of BF. The pupils reflected everything that the PRIDE ethos of BF aims to achieve. They were warm and welcoming and showed their own personalities and sense of humour with aplomb. The different levels of need that BF pupils have was in evidence across the group but all contributed and all genuinely wanted to be there – it certainly seemed that they were enjoying 'having their say'. A further point which came across very clearly was how they all knew each other and showed their care and interest in each other; their patience with each other's need and encouragement of each other and willingness to listen to each other is a clear indicator of the work the school is doing beyond the academic to develop the pupils' characters."

Heather also spoke to a group of parents. As a result of their discussions, she felt that: "They are resoundingly happy with BF and are entirely assured that their child is happy and safe. All parents mentioned that the progress their child was making/ has made to date was beyond their expectation and that they have been really impressed with what the school is doing to ensure such fantastic progress."

In conclusion, Heather stated that: "There is so much going on at BF; the business of the school, the clear dedication of SLT and staff, the joy the pupils display and the calmness running through the school are testament to the very deserving 'outstanding' reputation you have."

Blackfriars' values the contributions of our Academy Council and the suggestions made by Heather will be incorporated into the Pathway Action Plan, particularly to re-build opportunities for parents to come more regularly into school to share in their child's learning journey and to update their skills base as the iPads roll out and we increasingly use apps such as Showbie.

Preparation for Adulthood

Spode have really enjoyed their introduction to the Preparation for Adulthood room this week! Last Wednesday we went to see what was in the room and Lydia showed off her skills making the bed and tidying the books up!

Last Thursday we went down to the room again and noticed that it was a little messy... Spode were up for the challenge. Students mopped the floors, cleaned the windows, wiped the kitchen sides, tidied away cups and bowls and made the bed. Joseph was especially good at hanging the clothes back on the rail in the wardrobe! Staff were so proud to see how Spode were able to use their independence skills to make sure the room was nice and tidy for the next class.

Well done, Spode!



Land Use News!

Moorcroft have been super busy in land use whittling sticks in order to make Dibbers. Dibbers are used to help us plant bulbs and seeds in the soil to the right depth. We are using kitchen peelers to whittle the wood. The whole class has been demonstrating the safe way to whittle by carving the wood away from their bodies! **Good work Moorcroft!**



Diary Dates:
Thursday 17th February
3:25pm – closing for February half-term

Monday 28th February – school re-opens

Thursday 10th March – Parents' Evening

Get Social!



Scholars of the Week



Olivia H in Wedgwood has been nominated for making progress with her independent use of her iPad for communication



Spode's **Kyle** has been nominated for scholar of the week because he has had a fantastic week of 'over the rainbow' days and has worked hard to speak in



Gladstone staff have nominated **Bradley** and **Aaron** for supporting other students and staff. They have gone above and beyond to include other members of the class in what they were doing and to support others with any issues this week.