



Blackfriars Newcastle Reception:
01782 987150

Blackfriars Bulletin

Volume 9 Issue 6



The staff all want to thank parents and carers for sending in their children refreshed and raring to go after the winter break. We have had an excellent start to the New Year, already getting the students out and about on visits, work experience and taking part in lots of different activities in school.

Having had your young people at home 24 hours a day, you may have noticed that some of them are entering into, or are fully into puberty. As the mother of 3 children, I speak with experience when I say that this is probably one of the most stressful / distressing times for them and for us as parents – 'where has your lovely innocent child gone??' In order to help you navigate your way through this challenging period in your child's life, we are hosting 3 workshops for Parents and Carers. Please do come along and join us for tea and biscuits and an informal session where you can hear some helpful information, ask questions, raise queries and hear from other parents about how they have managed this period. Even if you have already been through this period and just fancy a chat, please come along:

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

Your Teenager and the changes that are happening to their body – support from our Tina, our school nurse as you try to support your teenager as their body changes – **Thursday 26th January 1.30pm**

Your Teenager and their digital wizardry - support from Ryan and Keira, our IT Technical Dept and Jane Gardiner, our IT Teacher, as you try to keep your child safe on-line as they move 10 paces ahead of us!! - **Tuesday 14th February 1.30pm**

Your Teenager and their changing emotional state - support from Juliet, our Clinical Psychologist, as you try to support your teenager as their emotional state fluctuates – **Wednesday 8th March 1.30pm**

Please book a place (1, 2 or all 3 sessions) by ringing Pip in the Office on 01782987150 or email admin@blackfriars.shaw-education.org.uk

Please do make sure that you have had a look at our Blackfriars Academy Chronicle (The BAC) for last term – it is available at: <https://blackfriarsacademy.org.uk/blackfriars-academy-chronicles/>

Adult Safeguarding Referral Numbers:

Staffordshire: First

Response -

0845 604 2719

Stoke on Trent: Adult
Social Care -

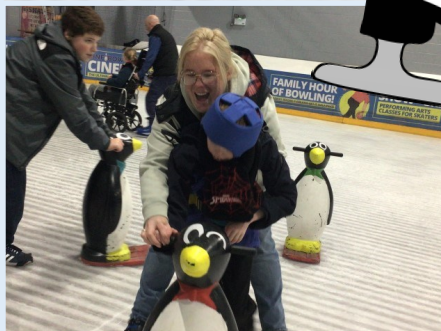
0800 561 0015

Dudson and Clarice Cliff are currently undertaking a mammoth fundraising enterprise. This January, they are doing a sponsored 30 miles walk, broken down into smaller chunks to ensure that all of the students can engage. They are hoping to raise £1000 doing lots of fundraisers over the next few months. All the money will go towards a three-day residential to Bendrigg [Residential Activity Centre For Disabled People](http://bendrigg.org.uk). As Mandy and Becky said 'We know at the moment it is a tough time financially for everyone, so we are asking if everyone could just donate anything they can, even if it's only a £1, the students will benefit from a residential center designed for them. We are extremely passionate about offering the young people in our school opportunities that they may not be able to access otherwise.'

All staff will do the 30 miles in school and the students to the best of their ability will participate.

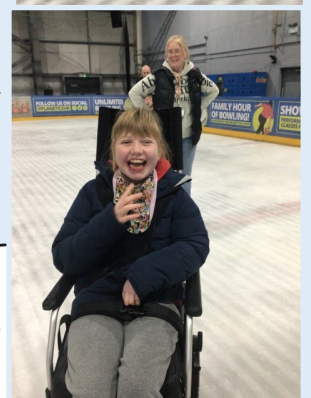
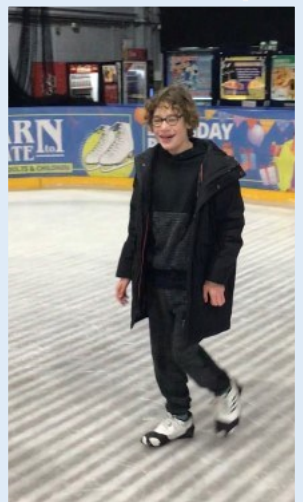
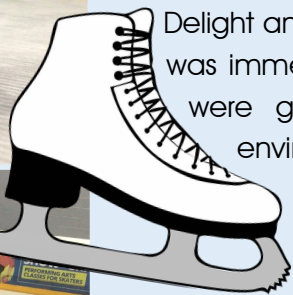
This term Bridgewater have been developing their independent skills both in class and in the independent living room, in preparation for adulthood. Bridgewater have been blowing our minds with their fantastic independence through developing key skills such as keeping our classroom tidy and practising our fine motor skills through tasks such as tying shoelaces. As a class we have also been exploring how we can keep our bedrooms tidy, including learning how to change and make our beds at home.

We are actively taking responsibility for Emma and Bridget, our resident furry friends, and students have become more and more keen to get involved. Every Friday Bridgewater have been doing an excellent job running the café, students have taken on the responsibility of creating menus for the rest of the school to order from, taking orders in advance, keeping our work area tidy, and preparing and delivering food to all of our happy customers. Bridgewater have made some amazing progress so far and are very keen to develop these skills further. The class have all been extremely welcoming and accommodating of their cover teacher Mr. Cuthbert, and we wish Mrs. Emmens a speedy recovery. WELL DONE BRIDGEWATER!



Clarice Cliff went Ice-Skating this week! We travelled on the mini-bus to Uttoxeter and arrived with excitement from both students and staff. Once we were welcomed onto the ice-rink an incredible time was had by all.

Delight and enthusiasm shone through as my class was immersed into their experience. The students were given the opportunity to explore their environment and explore the ice both on foot and in their chairs- experimenting with sense of movement, going fast, slow and extremely fast, changing direction quickly, spinning at low and high speeds, the cold feel offered their senses further stimulation, alongside, sounds and visual encounters. We finished our amazing trip with a treat as we went to KFC for lunch and enjoyed 'Chicken Popcorn' all round.

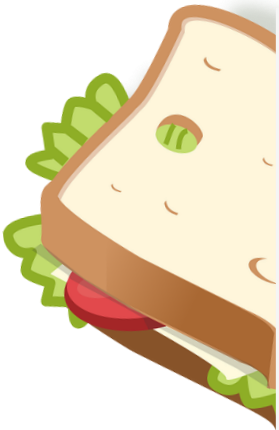


We received some very heartfelt words from a parent after she received the photos on Showbie of the trip that I thought might resonate with some of you:

"Sometimes In the life of SEN it feels like you don't get as many moments to celebrate as a family as you are always sorting something out or moving at a similar ability level. We are still very proud of our child, it's just our journey is a little different. When a wow moment comes along, my word is it a wow moment. And that was today. Thanks to all the staff who made today possible."



In Moorcroft, we have been working on our independence and kitchen skills. During Food Technology, we have been getting the kitchen area prepared for cooking – wiping tables, washing hands and surfaces. Most students then took part in a lesson of making ham and/or cheese sandwiches. Students were encouraged to follow a set of instructions to do this and they all did a fantastic job and showed their determination to become more independent in the process!



Diary Dates:

26th Jan - Your Teenager and the changes that are happening to their body workshop 1:30pm

14th Feb - Your Teenager and their digital wizardry workshop 1:30pm

17th Feb - INSET Day

18th Feb - 26th Feb - February half term

3rd March - Sparkle for a day – glittery clothes to be worn and £1 contribution for New Life, a charity close to many of your hearts.

8th Mar - Your Teenager and their changing emotional state workshop 1:30pm

Scholars of the Week

Thomas B from Gladstone has been nominated by another class! Clarice class have said: 'Thomas was an AMAZING team member when participating in work experience, taking on a role as a supporting TA in Clarice Cliff's session- their Sensory PE and Rebound lesson. His involvement and encouragement to support my students' engagement was outstanding! '

Mr Parr has nominated **Lucy** in Churchill for her support and kindness during a very busy Railway Club session. Lucy helped students who needed support to get the engines on the track, patiently waiting and explaining what was happening – and she did not even drive the trains herself, allowing the rest of the Club members to all have a go. Well done Lucy.

Moorcroft have nominated **Thomas P** for Scholar of the Week for increased determination and independence since coming back to school after Christmas. We have noticed a positive difference and confidence in him.

In Wedgwood, our Communication Class, **Olivia** has been nominated for scholar of week for excellent progress with using her iPad to communicate and being so helpful to her classmates

Get Social!



Find us on:
facebook



FOLLOW US ON
twitter

All the students at Blackfriars are incredible young people who persevere with so many challenges but occasionally we are made aware of a student who has done something truly outstanding – **Orla**, in Churchill, is one such young lady. Orla was not in school on Friday as she went for an MRI, never a pleasant experience. But she was prepared to tolerate this in order to help doctors research her very rare condition, AT (Ataxia-telangiectasia) This is the 3rd research trial that she has taken part in to help other children and young adults with the same condition. To mark this incredible act of generosity, Orla has received the Headteacher's Award, we are incredibly proud of you.