



Blackfriars Bulletin

Volume 09 Issue 11

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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

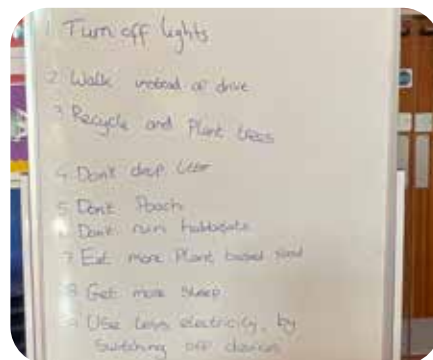
Stoke on Trent:

Adult Social Care -
0800 561 0015

As we look forward to a beautiful weekend weather wise, we wanted to bring you up to date with developments in Blackfriars over the last couple of weeks. Our Year 11 students have been working incredibly hard to complete all of their coursework and exams, only 1 more week to go before they finish their accreditations and then they can turn their attention to celebrating their time at Blackfriars. During that time, much has changed at our Academy – especially in the area of IT.

World Environmental Day

Monday 5th June was ‘World Environmental Day’ and assembly provided us with a chance to reflect on what impact we could make to our own environment in school. We thought about the Christian story of Creation – God creating the World in 7 days - and used this to develop our own Environmental Charter.



The staff were most keen to promote a discussion around the 7th Day, a day of rest, where students could turn off all of their devices and devote themselves to family time away from the distractions of ‘Whatsapp’, Youtube, Instagram, gaming and watching. Needless to say, this was the suggestion that the students liked least! I was asked by a member of Royal Doulton Class: ‘Why does us not going on our devices help the environment?’ – a very good question which led to us think about factors such as:-

- Giving you more time to be outside actually enjoying our very real environment rather than living in a virtual environment on-line
- Saving electricity
- Being less tired which means that we can engage more in important debates such as how we treat wildlife etc

The discussion was a very lively one and well worth picking up with your children at home – being on their phones less will actually help the environment!



How we use technology in our school

All of our students now have access to an IPAD and so we wanted to share with you an insight into the impact that these have had across the school.



In Spode we have been using our iPads to enhance our musical communication sessions. We have been using a preloaded apple application called Garage Band and wanted to tell you how exciting and engaging it can be!

We load up the app and have a choice of different instruments to play such as a keyboard, guitar and drums. This is an excellent way to develop our communication skills by making a choice between them. Once we have chosen our instrument we use it to experiment and make sounds independently. We also try and make sounds together in pairs or as a whole group. Be warned, this can get very noisy!



Our favourite instruments are the drums. One of our students in Spode is an expert at tapping the different aspects of the drum kit to control and make an array of sounds. Lorna's favourite however is the microphone option. We are able to record our voices and turn them into different sounds like a robot, alien or squirrel pitch!

We love our music sessions and especially love the chance to explore this app, which is highly motivating and engaging to all Spode students. We hope you get the chance to explore and play too!

Happy music making!!



Moorcroft have been developing their skills in using technology to support their learning. In line with our Phonics scheme, we have introduced Rhino Reading books, which are chosen dependent upon individual Phonics levels. These books are accessed via the iPads on Showbie, which has proven to be very engaging for our students. E-books have also made reading more accessible, as the stories can be read aloud by the iPad, alongside students reading themselves.

All students have made great progress in segmenting and blending words together, alongside developing their comprehension skills, with longer periods of time to focus.



In Middleport, we use iPads across the curriculum to support our learning and independence. For example, during morning registration students are aware and capable of completing the morning routine which involves them using educational applications.

Students in Middleport also use their iPads for communication based activities. For example, we work in pairs to give and follow instructions in barrier games. Additionally students use their iPads to widen their vocabulary as they are given the opportunity to research keywords to find their definitions.





This term students in Royal Doulton have been trying out different photography techniques.

Students were asked to think about different ways of taking photographs and exploring objects from unusual angles, looking at patterns in objects, or exploring items more closely.

Mia took some lovely photos at home considering these elements.



The next task involved looking at framing a shot carefully by considering the surroundings or finding an object as a frame.



A request from the University Of Surrey

We are looking for parents of children with a learning disability, who attend a specialist school, to complete a questionnaire to explore this, in the hope that this can help inform a better support provision for parents moving forwards. (Note this is not specifically about the support that they have received from school, but from all services).



To complete the questionnaire online please use the QR code or website link:

https://surreyfahs.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0Nd0ciuyLW15qL4

To complete the questionnaire via post, please let us know at Blackfriars' reception and we can send a paper copy.

University of Surrey reference: FHMS 22-23 114 EGA



**Are you the parent / carer of a young person with a learning disability?
Do they go to a specialist school?**



You could take part in this 20-minute questionnaire-based study!

We want to know more about the support for parents / carers of children with a learning disability, and their families.



Be entered into a prize draw to win one of the following prizes:

- 1 x £100 Amazon voucher
- 3 x £50 Amazon voucher
- 6 x £25 Amazon voucher



Please use the QR code or website below to complete the questionnaire online:



https://surreyfahs.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0Nd0ciuyLW15qL4

If you are unable to use the computer / internet to complete the questionnaire, please email Gemma Driver, or let your child's school know and we can provide you with paper copies and a free return envelope

For more information please contact: Gemma Driver School of Psychology, University of Surrey
g.driver@surrey.ac.uk

Version 2 recruitment poster – 27/03/2023

Study Title: What factors have an impact on parents of children with learning disabilities specifically their experience of support given.

This study has received FEO from the University Ethics Committee

Coming up

Prom

Prom is nearly here for our leavers. We can't wait to see all of your wonderful outfits and the transformation of our school hall into a beach themed paradise.



Key Dates

15th June Own Clothes for all Leavers can be worn from Thursday (Last exam is Wednesday 14th June)

22nd June Jobs Fair (If interested in helping out, please contact Julie Fallows on 01782 987150)

4th July School Performance of 'The BF Factor' only for Leavers' parents and carers

6th July School Prom for all Leavers

7th July Leavers' Final Assembly at 1:30 pm

24th July Last day of term

Scholars Of The Week

James in Churchill has been nominated for Scholar of the week, he is growing in confidence and becoming a more fluent reader. He is really committing to his English Interventions which can be seen in the progress James is making.

Also in Churchill, Lily-Anne has been nominated for scholar of the week, for her excellent creative written work in English. She discussed her ideas with TAs, planned, and wrote and took on directed feedback, weaving it into her written response.

Thomas in Moorcroft has been nominated for showing increasing confidence, contributing and answering lots of questions in class, writing some exceptional sentences in English using adjectives and for being consistently polite and respectful around school.

Beth in Gladstone has been nominated, for always being super positive about whatever she is asked to do and for fantastic work in maths.

Also from Gladstone, Kenzie has been nominated for scholar of the week, for fantastic graphic design and photography.

Jack in Bridgewater has been nominated for being a great role model on the transition visit to Newfriars; communicating beautifully with staff and students.

Scholars Of The Week Continued...

Also from Bridgewater, Taylor has been nominated for demonstrating good behaviours in class and communicating appropriately with staff and peers.

Scholar of the week for Clarice is Harry, he has been amazing during lunch time!! Not only eating but using his fork too!!!!!! FABULOUS Harry!! Well done! Super Proud!

From Portmeirion, Millie has been nominated for scholar of the week, for being kind and polite to all her peers and staff.