



# Newsletter 2 – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024

*Knowledge begins with respect for God (Proverbs 1:7)*

This half-term's value is 'Endurance' (Galatians 6:9)

## Attendance: important new information for 2024-25

It is well documented that poor attendance can have a serious impact on children's learning and progress. Any child with poor attendance is at a real disadvantage and it can take a very long time to make up this lost learning time – some children's learning never fully recovers which can have serious consequences on their future life chances. For children to make the best possible progress, it is vital that their attendance is the best it can possibly be. I would like to remind you of the following:

- Parents/carers **do not** have a legal right to take their child out of school for holidays in term time. Schools are expected to refuse requests for absence during term time unless there are **explicit exceptional circumstances**.
- **Requests for extended leave to attend family weddings or to see ill relatives are *not* deemed to be exceptional circumstances.** The availability of cheap flights or holidays is also *not* deemed to be an exceptional circumstance.

New statutory guidance from the Department for Education came into force on the 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024. As a school we have had to take this guidance into account and have produced a new school attendance policy which has been approved by the Governing Board and comes into force today. The new policy has clear thresholds for different actions to take place:

Thresholds	Actions to be taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 days of absence (6 sessions)</li> <li>• Continued late arrivals despite initial text</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Text message issued. Parents/carers invited to discuss any concerns if they wish to do so.</li> <li>• Late letter issued</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 days of absence (12 sessions)</li> <li>• Continued late arrivals despite initial text</li> <li>• Continued unexplained or unauthorised absences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second late warning letter issued</li> <li>• Parents requested to attend a meeting in school to discuss attendance with the Headteacher and School Wellbeing Mentor</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 days of absence (20 sessions)</li> <li>• Strategies introduced previously have failed to improve attendance</li> <li>• Continued late arrivals despite support offered previously</li> <li>• Continued unexplained or unauthorised absences despite support offered at previous thresholds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Third warning letter issued and further meeting will be held with HT and School Wellbeing Mentor to discuss the need for a parenting contract.</li> </ul> <p>A parenting contract will be put into place which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a statement by parents/carers that they agree to comply for a specified period with whatever requirements are set out in the contract;</li> <li>• a statement by the school/local authority/agreeing to provide support to the parents for the purpose of complying with the contract.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 days of absence (30 sessions)</li> <li>• Parenting contract has been breached and attendance has not improved.</li> <li>• Any of the thresholds for legal action have been met</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School will refer the case to the Local Authority.</li> <li>• Local Authority to utilise appropriate legal powers to enforce attendance. This could include Fixed Penalty Notices, charged at £160 per parent if paid within 28 days. This is reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.</li> </ul>

## End Digital Poverty Day – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024

This is a nationwide initiative to help families to access the internet if they are unable to afford broadband costs or to buy a laptop or tablet. If this describes you, please get in touch with me and I can put you in contact with a member of staff from 6G Internet, a Blackburn company which has helped many other local families whose children attend this school.

## Mental Health Support Team (MHST)

The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) provides help for children who may be experiencing difficulties with their mental health.

If you have noticed your child is feeling frequently sad, worried or anxious and feel they may need support from the MSHT team, please speak to any member of staff at school.



## Flu Vaccination

This year the NHS are again offering both a nasal flu vaccination (containing trace amounts of pork gelatine) and a flu jab (containing no pork gelatine) **to all children from Reception to Year 6**. Last week a form was sent home for you to complete and return to school. This needs to be done by this Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> September.

The vaccinations will take place in school on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September.



## Admission to Reception for September 2025

If you have a child due to start school next September (born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021), you can now go online at [www.blackburn.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/admissions) for information about primary schools and how to apply for a place online. The deadline to complete your application is **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025**.

## Admission to Secondary School for September 2025

If you have a child who has just started Year 6, it is time to decide on your choice of secondary school for September 2024. You will need to go online at [www.blackburn.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/admissions) for information about secondary schools and how to apply for a place online. You don't have long to do this - the deadline for you to make your choices is **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024**. I would recommend attending some of the high school open days which will be taking place soon. I've attached a list of these to this letter.

Best wishes



Julian Rogers  
Headteacher

## Secondary School Open Events

### School Admissions 2025/26

Please contact the individual schools direct for further information:

School	When	Contact Details
BLACKBURN CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 – 4:00pm – 7:00pm	Haslingden Road, Blackburn Tel: (01254) 505700 Website: <a href="http://www.bchs.co.uk">www.bchs.co.uk</a>
DARWEN ALDRIDGE COMMUNITY ACADEMY	Wednesday 2nd October 2024 4:00pm–7:00pm	Sudell Road, Darwen Tel: (01254) 819500 Website: <a href="http://www.daca.uk.com">www.daca.uk.com</a>
DARWEN VALE HIGH SCHOOL	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 5:00pm – 8:00pm	Blackburn Road, Darwen Tel: (01254) 223000 Website: <a href="http://www.darwenvale.com">www.darwenvale.com</a>
OUR LADY & ST JOHN'S RC HIGH SCHOOL, VOLUNTARY ACADEMY	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 – 9:00am – 10:00am – 5:00pm – 8:00pm	North Road, Blackburn Tel: (01254) 588388 Website: <a href="http://www.olsj.blackburn.sch.uk">www.olsj.blackburn.sch.uk</a>
PLECKGATE HIGH SCHOOL	Thursday 12th September 2024, 5pm - 8pm Saturday 21st September 2024, 9am - 12pm	Pleckgate Road, Blackburn Tel: (01254) 249134 Website: <a href="http://www.pleckgatewebsite.co.uk">www.pleckgatewebsite.co.uk</a>
QUEEN ELIZABETH GRAMMAR SCHOOL	Whole School Open Morning Saturday 5th October 2024 – 9am – 12pm	West Park Road, Blackburn Tel: (01254) 686300 Website: <a href="http://www.gegsblackburn.com">www.gegsblackburn.com</a>
ST BEDES RC HIGH SCHOOL	Thursday 26th September 2024 4:00pm – 8:00pm	Green Lane, Blackburn Tel: (01254) 202519 Website: <a href="http://www.stbedesblackburn.com">www.stbedesblackburn.com</a>
ST WILFRIDS CE ACADEMY	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 – 4:00pm – 8:00pm	Duckworth Street, Blackburn Tel: (01254) 604000 Website: <a href="http://www.saintwilfrids.co.uk">www.saintwilfrids.co.uk</a>
TAUHEEDUL ISLAM BOYS HIGH SCHOOL	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 – 3:30pm – 6:45pm	Sumner Street, Blackburn Tel: (01254) 918670 Website: <a href="http://www.tibhs.com">www.tibhs.com</a>
TAUHEEDUL ISLAM GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL	Our Open Evening for main school (admission into Year 7) is from 4:30pm till 7pm on Thursday 3rd October 2024.	Preston New Road, Blackburn Tel: (01254) 54021 Website: <a href="http://www.tighs.com">www.tighs.com</a>
WITTON PARK ACADEMY	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 – 3:00pm – 6:30pm	Buncer Lane, Blackburn Tel: (01254) 264551 Website: <a href="http://www.wittonpark.org.uk">www.wittonpark.org.uk</a>
DARWEN ALDRIDGE ENTERPRISE STUDIO SCHOOL	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 6pm – 7:30pm  Bookings can be made via the school website: <a href="http://www.daestudio.biz">www.daestudio.biz</a>	19 Police Street, Darwen Tel: (01254) 819567 Website: <a href="http://www.daestudio.biz">www.daestudio.biz</a>



# witton wellbeing DAY!

Parkrun  
from 9am

10am  
-  
2pm

**FREE  
EVENT**

Fun for all  
the family!

Witton Country Park  
Blackburn  
BB2 2TP

## Saturday 14 September

### Olympics Style Events!

- Mini Podium & medals for winners!
- Egg & Spoon Race
- Hop Scotch
- Skipping
- Sprint Race
- Obstacle Race
- Mini Javelin
- Bean Bag Throwing  
& much more!



VISIT [REFRESHBWD.COM](http://REFRESHBWD.COM)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Fun Family Challenges & Activities
- Dance
- Biker Tots
- Mini Movers
- Family Walking Trails
- Xplorer Trails
- Cycling
- Boditrax
- FREE Mini Health Checks
- Test your Strength & Balance
- Face painting
- Seed sowing & wood chopping
- Wellbeing Information Stalls

