



Blackfriars Bulletin

Volume 3 Issue 4



FE Celebration of Achievement



Tuesday night provided us with an opportunity to celebrate the fantastic achievements of all of our young people who have either left Blackfriars FE Academy, moved into our post-19 provision, or who are being recognised for a very special award. Each of these achievements would not have been possible without the support that our students receive from their parents and carers and therefore the evening

was a chance for us to thank them, as well as the young people who have worked so hard over the 3 years.

Blackfriars FE's results this year have been the best ever with every single student leaving with a range of qualifications. This is due in part to the determined efforts of the staff at the Academy who work tirelessly to ensure that every child reaches, and wherever possible, exceeds their potential.

It was a lovely evening and it was great to see over 40 students, parents and carers. The students spoke about their time at Blackfriars FE department and parents passed on some very kind comments about how much we had done as a college for their son or daughter. It was also fabulous to hear about some of the achievements that have been made since leaving and how some students had continued with the work experience opportunities that had been established with us. A great evening, thanks to all who supported.

4D SENSORY ROOM NEWS UPDATE

Class 2 had tea at The Ritz this week – Breakfast Club was transformed with pictures of the famous tea rooms surrounding the children as they made their choices.

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

Website:
www.set-mat.co.uk



Class 8 (KS4 Y10) pupils took part in an aspirational art project spearheaded by Sharon Corbett of Pingo Art. Picture This is a combined art project using photography and creative life writing to empower young people to consider how they might achieve their ambitions in the future. The photographs and the stories will be exhibited at Staffordshire University in the new year and feature in a book that Sharon is producing. Well done to all the pupils and thank you to Sharon. Watch this space for announcements!

ACADEMY COUNCIL



Blackfriars' new Academy Council had their inaugural meeting last night – it was great to have such a skilled and passionate group of people all committed to supporting and challenging the academy. Our new Chair of the Academy Council is Professor Stephen Cropper. If you have any queries or wish to contact him, please ask at reception and they will forward contact details. At the meeting, Councillors thought it would be helpful, as we have so many new parents, if we shared with you what being in a multi-academy Trust means for us at Blackfriars. In just a few sentences, I will try my best to explain but you can also get much greater detail by looking at The Shaw Trust website <https://www.shaw-trust.org.uk/> It is the Shaw Trust that sponsors our academies and we chose to work with them (because it was a choice for Blackfriars, we were not forced to become an academy) because the mission of the Shaw Trust, as a national charity, is to work to create brighter futures for the people and communities they serve. They are particularly committed to working with young people with disabilities. The Shaw Trust set up the Shaw Education Trust to specifically concentrate upon managing a range of academies in different phases, sectors and regions. Their work is described on their website that can be found at <http://www.shaw-education.org.uk/>



The aim of the Shaw Education Trust (the SET) is to ensure that every student has the opportunity to reach their full potential, whatever that might be. Therefore, a very important part of the SET is providing support for school improvement. This includes free training courses for TAs, teachers and leaders. This obviously impacts massively upon the standard of education that your children receive. Other, very tangible benefits of being in the Shaw Trust have included the donation of hundreds of computers, tons of new furniture and of course, the fabulous facilities at Walton Hall including a large poly tunnel and experienced horticultural staff who work with our students during Options and experience days. An important aspect of the Shaw Trust's work is in advocating for the most vulnerable. We are incredibly lucky that the SET have appointed a new Director for the Special Schools, his name is Philip Harrison, he was an Ofsted inspector but prior to that, has been a head for many years in special schools and set up Transition 2 in Derby <http://transition2.co.uk/> In conversations with him yesterday, he has already made it clear that he will be supporting us in our battles to ensure that the EHCPs truly represent the needs of your children. We are very lucky to be a part of such an exciting and supportive trust.



Blackfriars Academy has been featured in the Duke of Edinburgh Magazine. We have one of the highest participant rates of all special schools and both Mrs Parr and Mrs Emmens were pictured because of their family connection too – all of Mrs Emmens' children and Mrs Parr's eldest daughter have joined their mothers as Gold badge holders!

Scholar of the Week

Josh Class 7 for his kindness and generosity towards others

Paige Class 4 for taking the lead role in inviting important guests to our Remembrance service

Citizens of the College

Alex, 14.4 For using a range of tools to communicate his wants and needs. This includes objects of reference, Makaton and references to support his language and communication

Sophie, 12.3 For increasingly interacting with friends and staff



"Well done to Billy for competing in the London Festival of Gymnastics in 2016. You are doing both yourself and the college proud with your gymnastic achievements"