

# CROSSHILL NEWS



**Crosshill  
School**

Prepare and flourish

**APRIL 2025**

## HELLO & WELCOME

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we near the end of another term at Crosshill School it is important to reflect upon the learning, experiences and opportunities of all of our learners. It has been a busy term and first and foremost I would like to recognise the incredible efforts that all of the staff have gone to this term to improve the learning environment for our students. We are working towards a number of very exciting building developments next term but the teaching staff have been busy ensuring that the classrooms are clutter free, displays are engaging and interactive and that they create an independent classroom. So thank you everyone for all of your efforts.

This term we participated in a collaborative enquiry as part of Oak Learning Partnership. These are where staff from our fellow schools in the Trust come to look at what we are doing to get ideas and inspiration for their teaching. We explored the offer of reading and this was led by our reading lead, Miss Whitworth. We are delighted to report that the visiting schools identified the substantive offer that all students get at Crosshill to improve their phonics and also their love of reading. Teachers have been supported considerably in their own professional knowledge of reading and phonics and this is a fantastic piece of work that will support our learners in their preparation for adulthood.

This term we also enjoyed World Book Day, which fostered the culture of unity and togetherness at Crosshill and I was delighted when a select group of staff chose to organise "I'm not a Muslim but will fast for the day" whereby we had almost half of the staffing cohort take part. Thank you to all. I would like to personally wish everyone a safe, restful and settled holiday. Happy Easter and Eid Mubarak to all.

Best wishes

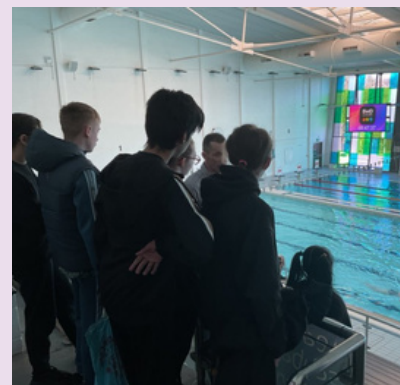
Nicola Pemberton - Acting Headteacher



## LEISURE CENTRE VISIT

gCF visited Darwen Leisure Centre as part of their skills builder topic of healthy lifestyles. The students learnt about the facilities the gym offers, such as the swimming pool, gym and classes.

All students then thoroughly enjoyed a range of activities in the sports hall, such as short tennis, netball and rounders.





## POST 16 UPDATE

As ever, this term has been a busy one for Post 16 and we have spent a lot of time out and about in the community, learning important life skills that will be invaluable to students going forward. Here's a snapshot of what we've been up to.

### HELPING THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THAN US

Students have been working hard towards the Achieve Programme with the The King's Trust. As part of this work they explored different ways in which they could help people and decided to set up a temporary foodbank to help people in the local community. Thank you to everyone's generous donations, the students collected so much and together with the help of Benefit Mankind, will now make food parcels to distribute to those in need.

### PSHE LESSONS

In PSHE (personal, social and health education) our post 16 students have been learning about pregnancy as part of their 'ASDAN Towards Independence' accreditation. As part of their learning, Mrs Crowther's sister, Hannah, came to see them when she was pregnant to answer some fantastic questions from students. They learnt all about how she had been feeling, how she had stayed healthy and looked at some of her ultrasound photos. She then surprised them with a visit after baby William had been born so that students could ask her about life with a newborn. Thank you Hannah and William for coming to visit and helping our students with their learning.

### SPRING MARKETS

The students worked so hard on their Spring market stall at Blackburn Market. They sold a range of gifts, which they had made in class. All proceeds are going towards the Post 16 enterprise fund, which helps to fund student activities in the community. Thanks to everyone who bought from us.

### WORK EXPERIENCE

Some of our post 16 students have been on work experience to Mad Hatters Cafe. They learnt about the different roles in a cafe and then set to work. They cleaned tables, wrapped cutlery, greeted customers and took orders. They also carried cups to the tables and stamped loyalty cards. They were incredible and we were very proud of them!





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## STUDENTS & STAFF FAST FOR THE DAY

Students and staff showed their solidarity to Muslim colleagues fasting during the holy month of Ramadan by participating in the community cohesion campaign 'I'm not a Muslim but I will fast for one day'.

25 members of staff and seven students fasted for the day and were then treated to a wonderful Iftar feast prepared by their fellow Muslim colleagues. Thank you to all those who participated and huge thanks to the staff who made the delicious food.



## WORLD BOOK DAY

On 6 March we celebrated World Book Day, but the excitement and competition was building before the day with our book door competition. Each room decorated their door as a novel or picture book they had enjoyed together. There was a book door tour during the day, where classes voted for their favourite, with one of our year eight explore classes taking the coveted prize of a book token to select a class book, hot chocolate, biscuits and an hour off timetable to enjoy their new read together. Their Charlie and the Chocolate Wonka bar entry was an extremely popular entry with staff and students - well done Miss Mahmood's class. We took to social media to ask our families and friends to choose the next winner and they chose our year seven inspire class with their incredible Charlotte's Web entry - well done Miss Phillips' class. Students enjoyed dressing up as their favourite characters from books and taking part in some 'read your way' activities.

What a wonderful day we had celebrating the power of a great book and fostering our students' love of reading - we can't wait for WBD 2026!



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## HE'S BEHIND YOU!

Miss Whitworth's drama enrichment group have been working hard since September developing their drama skills, auditioning for parts and practising their lines and dances for our pantomime production of Charming. This half term, after six months of hard work, students were finally ready to perform for their peers, staff and families. This really was a team effort with Mrs Burrows' set design group producing the most incredible palace ballroom and rose garden sets for the production, Miss Claudia's Makaton group joining the show with some beautiful, signed performances and Mrs Hamill's dance group with their unforgettable dance to Dolly Parton's 9 to 5. The hard work and dedication of the students was clear to see as they turned out a simply stunning performance. A huge thank you to all the staff involved in making this happen and a special mention to Elms Bank who we were able to collaborate with for costumes - a real team effort all round and a fabulous way to celebrate the wealth of talent we have here at Crosshill!



## WE'RE GOING ON AN EGG HUNT!

This half term KS4MC were challenged with creating a community participation project. They decided to create a whole school easter egg hunt. The class created 100 miniature easter eggs and hid them all over forest school. After a whole week of competition there was a tie for first place in the secondary phase between 7KP and 9FW. Both classes found an impressive 48 eggs, almost half of all the eggs hidden. We eagerly look forward to crowning the champions of our primary phase. Well done everyone involved!

## OPEN MORNING

Our annual open morning will take place on Wednesday 23 April. We welcome families with children in year four and five, who have an EHCP, to visit our school. This will start at 9.30am until 11.30am.

For more information and to book a place please ring 01254 666042 or email [send@crosshill.blackburn.sch.uk](mailto:send@crosshill.blackburn.sch.uk).

## GET IN TOUCH

If there's anything that you'd like to see in a future edition of this newsletter then please email Stacy, our Marketing and Social Media Officer, on [sobrien@championtrust.co.uk](mailto:sobrien@championtrust.co.uk).

We regularly post on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter too so follow us to keep up to date with school news.

[www.crosshillblackburn.co.uk](http://www.crosshillblackburn.co.uk)