

CROSSHILL NEWS



**Crosshill
SCHOOL**

Prepare and flourish

SUMMER 2023

A WARM WELCOME

Hello and a very warm welcome to our new termly newsletter, which we are hoping one of you can name for us (see page 3).

So much fantastic work goes on in school. We want to use this newsletter to share the achievements of our students and staff, in addition to keeping you up to date with the latest developments at school.

If you have anything that you would like to see in the newsletter going forward please do get in touch. Contact details can be found on the back page.



**LIDIA GARDNER
EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER**

SCHOOL TO GET NEW SENSORY GARDEN

When students return after the summer holidays they'll be able to enjoy a new sensory garden at school. We were very lucky to win the Tesco blue token appeal, with our prize being £1500 of funding to create a small sensory garden. Work has started on the area, clearing all the debris and getting it ready to create a sensory delight for all of our students to enjoy.



STUDENTS GROW BUTTERFLIES

Our KS3 semiformal class had a great time growing their own butterflies. They used a kit that came with caterpillars and they were able to follow them at each stage. They then released the butterflies once they'd grown.





£1 MILLION INVESTMENT INTO NEW SCHOOL FACILITIES

Work is underway at Crosshill to extend school and in doing so create additional classrooms and space for students and staff.

The local authority has invested almost £1 million to create additional capacity at our school. We need to expand as our year seven intake has increased substantially over the last couple of years and in turn, the number of students we have has increased.

The work will refurbish parts of the existing school, as well as create an extension to house four additional classrooms, a life skills room (food tech), sensory room and additional toilets. We are expecting the work to be completed by September in time for new students arriving.



PLANS TO EXPAND AGE RANGE

A public consultation was undertaken last month to consult on expanding our age range to include primary school children. This would provide numerous benefits to primary children who have an EHCP as we'll be able to provide specialist provision, both academically and therapeutically. It will also help to provide seamless provision for vulnerable children when moving into key stage three.

The consultation has now been submitted to the Department of Education and we await their response.

STUDENTS ENJOY THE OUTDOORS

We're very lucky at Crosshill to have the space and surroundings for a forest school. It's an amazing multi-sensory space used by lots of our students. Research has shown that forest schools provide multiple benefits for SEND children, including helping to reduce anxiety and stress, as well as building confidence.

We use ours as much as we can and the students love it.





CELEBRATE WITH FRIENDS OF CROSSHILL

Friends of Crosshill are a fantastic team of staff, parents and helpers who meet informally once a term to socialise and share ideas for fun activities and events for families, friends and the school community. They have two events coming up shortly:

- Wednesday 19 July - afternoon tea as part of the end of year celebrations
- Wednesday 2 August - family fun morning

All parents and carers of Crosshill students are invited. If you would like to attend please get in touch with Heather Sweeney at HSweeney834@crosshill.blackburn.sch.uk. We'd also love to see new faces at our meetings. Please get in touch with Heather if you would like to attend.



NAME OUR NEWSLETTER

Can you think of a name for our newsletter that is more exciting than Crosshill News?

If so, please email your suggestion to sobrien@championtrust.co.uk and we'll pick our favourite for the next edition.

FOLLOW FACEBOOK

Did you know that we have a Facebook page where we regularly share updates from school? You can follow us at [Crosshill Blackburn](https://www.facebook.com/CrosshillBlackburn) to keep up to date.

BRONZE AWARD FOR STUDENTS

KS4 formal students have successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh bronze award. To achieve this they had to practice a skill and complete community service throughout the year. In June they completed their final expedition. On day 1 students paddled rafted canoes and then stayed overnight at Height Nook. The following day they used their navigation skills acquired over the year to walk back to school. Staff were very proud of their efforts.





KEY STAGE THREE CAREERS WEEK

Key stage three students took part in lots of activities for this year's careers week.

They undertook problem solving challenges, such as den building and did maths quizzes in our forest school. They also got to go out and work on their EHCP targets of community participation and independent living by taking a return bus trip from school to Blackburn market. They visited a cafe and independently ordered their own snacks and drinks. Another class went on a bus trip on a double decker and got to interview the bus driver too and finally one group visited the Temple of Fun and had a great time in the sensory room.



SHELTER FUNDRAISER

A big thank you to all those who helped the students raise £88 for the charity Shelter. The money was raised at our non uniform day that we held for the coronation.



MENTAL HEALTH WEEK CELEBRATIONS

As part of this year's Mental Health Awareness Week, Crosshill got on board by running extra lunchtime clubs for students, aimed at supporting their wellbeing. Our wellbeing student leaders ran the sessions and offered yoga, dancing, social activities and mindfulness colouring.

Both students and staff alike had great fun participating in the various activities.





NEW UNIFORM PROVIDER

We are pleased to report that we have another uniform provider this year, Ribble Valley Supplies. This now gives parents more options when buying uniform, plus the option to buy online and take part in a savings club should they wish.

We have a couple of pop up shops coming up at school where you can check out sizing and purchase uniform. They are on:

- **Wednesday 19 July 2.30pm-4.30pm**
- **Friday 28 July 10.30am-11.30am**

Click [here](#) to see the full list of uniform required and details of suppliers.

FUN ON THE FARM

Key stage three pupils learnt about habitats this term. As part of their learning they went on a farm visit, where they got to see a type of habitat and the animals that live there. They also learnt about how some of the animals needs are met.

A huge thank you to Miss Anita for giving us this opportunity to visit her farm, we all thoroughly enjoyed it.



MEET GEMMA, OUR NEW FAMILY LIAISON & SAFEGUARDING ASSISTANT

We are delighted to welcome Gemma Zand to our Crosshill family. Gemma joined us earlier this year and is our new Family Liaison and Safeguarding Assistant. She works at Crosshill full time from Monday to Friday.

Gemma is on hand to offer support, information and advice to all parents and carers. Her role involves assisting staff, children and families in securing the support required for each child's progress. Her liaison role aims to help you access the school and wider support networks easily.

If you have any issues ranging from health, finance, community, housing, behaviour etc. or just want someone to be a listening ear then Gemma is your go to. No matter the issue, big or small, she is happy to support you in whatever way she can. Gemma can be contacted at GZand320@crosshill.blackburn.sch.uk or you can phone her on 01254 666045.





POST 16 UPDATE

So much good work has been going on in our post 16 class. Here's just a snapshot of a couple of fun projects the young adults have been involved in.

The pupils took part in a sound project with Community Rail Lancashire. They started the day at Blackburn train station and worked with a sound artist, James, to record the different sounds that they could hear. The pupils then travelled on the train to Preston train station where they continued to record a variety of sounds. All the sounds that were recorded will be made into a soundscape for others to use to help prepare them for travelling on the train.

Pupils also worked closely with Herbert Parkinsons when some of the pupils posted leaflets to promote their 70th anniversary event. During the event, we were lucky enough to have a stall to sell our enterprise products on. Liam did a fantastic job serving customers and meeting people within our local community.



GET IN TOUCH

This newsletter is for you as a parent, carer or supporter of Crosshill School. If there's anything that you'd like to see in a future edition then please do get in touch as we'd love to hear from you.

You can email Stacy, our Marketing Officer, on sobrien@championtrust.co.uk with any ideas or suggestions you may have.

We hope you have a wonderful summer break and we can't wait to welcome students back in September.

LEAVERS CELEBRATE IN STYLE

Students leaving us this year celebrated in style with a party at Dolly's Tearooms where they were treated to a splendid array of food and treats. It's always a sad time to say goodbye to our students but we're also excited for what the future holds for them.

Good luck leavers, we can't wait to see what you achieve next. You'll be dearly missed and have been an asset to our school.

