

15th December 2022



End of Autumn Term 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the end of term draws to a close, may I start by thanking all parents and carers for your ongoing support throughout the term. School will close on Friday 16th December with students finishing at 12.00pm.

Please find highlights from the term in my latest report to Governors which can be found on the school website <https://www.blaconhighschool.net/page/?title=Headteacher%27s+Report+for+Governors&pid=30>

Students may wear a Christmas jumper with their uniform if they wish on Friday 16th December.

School will reopen to staff on Tuesday 3rd January for a training day and to all students on **Wednesday 4th January 2023.**

New School Day

To support learning in school and to streamline the daily routines, we will be making some changes to our school day, starting when we return in January 2023. The start and end times will remain the same. Please see below the new timetable which has been shared with students this week. Years 7 and 8 will be during lunch 1 and Years 9,10 and 11 during lunch 2.

Timings	
08.40 – 8.50	AM Tutor
08:50 – 09:50	Lesson 1
09:50 – 10:50	Lesson 2
10:50 – 11:10	Break
11:10 – 12:10	Lesson 3
12:10 – 13:10	Lesson 4
13:10 – 13:40	Lunch 1/PM Tutor 1
13:40 – 14:10	Lunch 2/PM Tutor 2
14:10 – 15:10	Lesson 5

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INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

Support During Holidays

For any support during the holiday period, please see enclosed a list of contacts and services that are available to help families, not just at this time but throughout the year.

Also, the Council, alongside Edsential and a range of community partners, are running a wide range of fantastic activities for the Winter Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) that will run throughout the school winter holiday.

The HAF Programme is funded nationally and provides funding for local organisations to provide activities for children and young people during the holidays, helping them to access healthy food and take part in fun activities over the school holidays.

Over the winter there will be a wide range of HAF programmes delivered across the borough by our local partners.

Edsential

Community interest company, Edsential, is working with 24 organisations, including schools, community, voluntary and faith sector organisations, to organise 32 holiday activity clubs throughout the borough this winter period. The holiday clubs will provide local children and families with the following.

- Good quality healthy meals and snacks, with some family cooking sessions plus food and nutritional education.
- A variety of directly delivered physical activities such as, climbing, swimming, yoga, golf, judo, skateboarding, dance and drama workshops.
- Diverse enrichment activities, including arts and crafts, musical theatre, carol singing, archery, street dance, mindfulness, forest school, trips to Chester Zoo and local Pantos.

These sessions can be booked via the Edsential website: <https://edsential.com/haf2022/>

Youth Zones for 11-16 year olds (up to 25 for our SEND children and young people)

Youth Zones, operated by the Council's Youth Service, will be providing eligible children and young people across the borough with a winter offer.

Youth Zones will be open across the borough and all families of children and young people who are eligible for free school meals will be able to register to attend our winter fun activity programme. All children and young people will be offered a healthy balanced hot meal.

Our winter programme will include a Christmas party with arts and crafts, games and sports and a trip out.

If you would like more information, please email: EHPChesterandRural@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk.

Provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

A number of organisations have been funded to deliver SEND specific HAF provision across the borough, the varied offer will include sessions for children and young people with an identified need, some sessions will also offer places to their siblings. These include ten pin bowling, trampolining, simple cycling and a wide variety of other sessions such as sensory play, festive fun and crafts and disco along with the opportunity to attend the theatre to see a pantomime, food workshops, community cookery, swim sessions and lots lots more

A healthy meal will be provided at every session for the children and young people in attendance.

For more information, please email: AimingHighForDisabledChildren@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk.

Cost of living support

It is currently a really challenging time for a number of families. Families may be worried about the rising cost of energy bills, food, and transport. The cost of living is rising, and this could have an impact on all aspects of finances. Families may want help accessing welfare rights, benefits and debt advice, support getting all the money they are entitled to, or simply want to know more about national recent support measures.

Whatever money worries there may be, the Council has put together some useful information to help.

The page includes a wealth of information including the Household Support Fund, the Council's HELP Scheme, Warm Welcoming Spaces and much more. Visit:

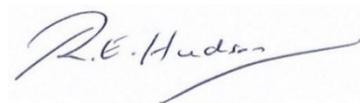
<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/housing-benefit-council-tax/cost-of-living-support>

Household Support Fund payments for children in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM)

Payments for households in receipt of Free School Meals have been made on the 14th December in the usual way. Each eligible family will receive £20 per week, per child, so in total £40 per student for the two-week Winter holiday period.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all the best for the festive season and we look forward to seeing all students return to school on Wednesday 4th January 2023.

Regards,



Rachel Hudson
Headteacher