

At Balshaw's C.E High School we are proud to be an inclusive community that values diversity, providing outstanding education for all children irrespective of their race, religion, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation knowing that they will succeed in our school as each child is unique in God's eyes. Every child is treated as an individual and given the nurture, care and many forms of support they need pastorally, socially, emotionally and academically to thrive and fulfil their own potential.

It is for this reason we began our journey to become a 'Schools of Sanctuary' as we believe their values encompass our own Gospel Values of Love, Patience, Respect, Tolerance, Forgiveness and Trust in our caring school environment and we want to ensure all of our school community welcome everyone and provide a 'sanctuary' for many.

What is School of Sanctuary? It is an initiative :

-to **celebrate the good practice** of schools who welcome asylum seeking and refugee families into their school community and foster a culture of welcome and inclusion for all,

-for **everyone:** diverse or homogenous schools, parents, communities, local people and people seeking sanctuary,

-to engage sanctuary seekers and families with their communities and educate children and teachers about the human right to sanctuary, and  
**Is not just about asylum seekers and refugees – It is about inclusivity for all.**

Why are we becoming a School of Sanctuary?

Part of our work to become a “School of Sanctuary” is based on our vision to strengthen our links with the local community and increase student voice and active citizenship.



We believe that there is something noble and decent about doing something to help others, often less fortunate than ourselves and we want to give something back to our community. We want to make a difference.

What have we done on our sanctuary journey this term?



Languages Board

-The MFL Dept have created a language board to increase everyone's knowledge of other languages and to help us learn common words

-In October we looked at Arabic and this month we are learning Polish  
“CZESC” and “MRHBAN” are “Hello” in both languages



## **Black History Month Activities**

We commemorated Black History Month with activities in lots of different Curriculum Areas and held a History House Cup Challenge based on the fantastic contributions of Black people to British Society.

We were also very fortunate as part of celebrating "Black History Month" to have Adrian Murrell kindly visit school to offer us an insight into the Windrush generation and his experiences as a young Black man growing up in Britain and the experiences of his parents. He is the CEO of Windrush Initiatives CIC an organisation which recognises the disparity in economics, employment, health, education, housing, judicial process and empowerment within the political process experienced by Black and Mixed Race people within the UK, but specifically our Community in Preston and surrounding areas.

Adrian spoke openly to a group of Year 9 history students taking them through the recent history of Black people in the UK starting in the 1950's and moving up to the current times to help our students nurture a greater understanding of difference, culture and diversity. Year 9 had the opportunity to ask Adrian questions about his heritage, the Windrush Generation and how life for people from the Caribbean and other Commonwealth felt to leave their homes and come to help plug labour shortages in Britain and get the nation back on its feet after World War Two. Year 9 were very appreciative of Adrian's time and acknowledged how much they had learnt about through his visit.



## **Remembrance Services November 2024**

Through our Remembrance Services we honoured those who served to defend our democratic freedoms and way of life. We united across faiths, cultures and backgrounds to remember the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces community from United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

In school to commemorate all those who lost their lives in the First World War, the Second World War, the war in Afghanistan as well as all other world conflicts we held two Remembrance memorial services in school for Y 11, 10 & 9 and Y7 & 8 went to St Andrew's Church for their service.

**We will remember them.**



### **The Theme this Year is Beginnings**



- It was 110 years ago that the First World War began in 1914
- It was 85 years ago that World War II began in 1939
- When conflicts begin, it is very hard to see how or when they will end. They said the First World War would be "Over by Christmas!" yet it was four long years later, with millions of lost souls that it finally ended.
- Today we remember all those who have lost their lives in conflicts and especially commemorate our Balshavian fallen who fought so that we may be free. Today we also pray for peace.

## Multi-faith Service – December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024

On 2<sup>nd</sup> December we remembered all those who we have loved and who are now departed in our Memorial Candlelight Service – United in Light, Guided by Hope. This was a multi-faith event for all people, celebrating the power of light as a universal symbol of hope. We spent time reflecting and remembering all those who are dear to us. This was an inclusive event for people of any faith or world view. We reflected on the power of light and hope in the Christian, Islamic, Buddhist, Jewish, Hindu and Secular traditions. We lit candles and reflected on these lights offering solace as well as symbolising unity and hope, regardless of background or belief.



**Memorial Candlelight Service**  
*United in Light, Guided by Hope*

**Date:** Monday 2nd December  
**Time:** 5.00pm  
**Location:** School Hall, Balshaw's Church of England High School

Join us for an evening of remembrance, reflection, and unity as we gather to honour the memory of loved ones. This inclusive service is open to people of all faiths, beliefs, and worldviews, celebrating the power of light as a universal symbol of hope. Through poems, readings, and a candle-lighting ceremony, we will find comfort in one another and share in the warmth of remembrance.

**Program Highlights:**

- Reflections on Light in Different Faiths and Cultures
- Readings and Poems on Hope, Unity, and Remembrance
- Individual Candle-Lighting Ceremony

**Duration:** Approximately 1 hour  
You will be provided a candle at the event (donations welcomed)

For more information, please contact:  
[enquiries@balshaws.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@balshaws.org.uk)  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 5.00pm

**This is a multi-faith event.**

**Balshaw's**  
Church Of England High School



**WHAT NEXT?** We will keep you posted next term with more events and activities as we continue on our School of Sanctuary journey. Until then may we take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.