

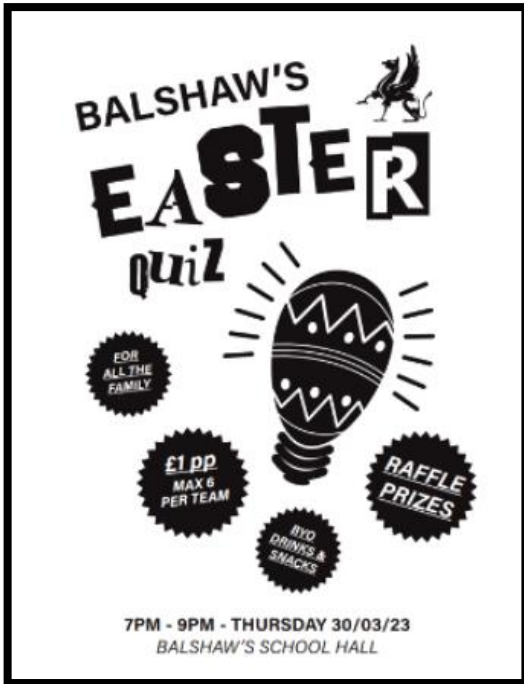
March Newsletter



Dear Parent/Carer

Although we have had a return of some chilly weather and the recent heavy snow, we are seeing signs that we are moving to Spring. The snowdrops are being replaced by daffodils and the promise of the clocks changing over the Easter holiday is always a good sign that Winter is behind us. It also means that we have some of the big calendar events coming up...

Forthcoming Events



Easter Quiz

On Thursday 30th March we have our Easter themed quiz. There are lots of Easter Eggs to be won and the usual fun and games. Bring all your own food and drinks and set up a table with family and friends. There is a maximum of six adults per team so you can have more than one team.

Race Night

On Friday 16th June the PTA are running one of our most popular events: a race night. The event will be held at Lancashire FA (near the Commercial Vehicle Museum) where there will be a bar and lots of fun with a night of racing and fundraising. Be sure to make a date in your diary for this one.

#Balfest2023

We are very excited about this new event in the school calendar. Balshaw's will be hosting our own Music Festival and Family Fun Day on Saturday 15th July. We already have commitments from professional artists, DJ sets and our own in-house performers. As well as this there will be craft stalls, food and other fun activities.

Make a date in your diary. If you would like to hire a table or if you know someone who would like be part of the performance programme, please make contact via the PTA Facebook or Twitter feed or directly with the school.



Celebrating the Success of our Students

Our talented students are busy doing so many different things. We have students who are training to potentially be part of the British Gymnastics Squad; students taking on leadership and tutor roles in music groups outside school, we have competed at a national level as regional winners at Public Speaking and much, much more.

Some of our club level football players have made transfers and are working hard to make their move to first team status. As we have come to hope each year, we are through to the Lancashire County Cup quarter finals. Over half term a number of our students went to Spain where they were immersed in Spanish language classes. Some of our D&T students in Year 9 won the BAE Innovation Award at a presentation at the BAE Academy for Skills and Innovation last week. Our Year 11s have all had interviews with partners from local businesses to develop their skills at interview and job applications. These are just some of the things that have happened since Christmas.

Keep up with all the latest news by checking out the website: www.balshaws.org.uk/news
Or you can also follow our Twitter feed (@Balshawscehigh): <https://twitter.com/Balshawscehigh>

A massive thank you to parents who have supported our Library

We are hugely proud of our Library at Balshaw's – we aim to have the best Library for Young Adult fiction in the whole of Lancashire bar none. Every now and again we put out a wish list to parents of new books that we would like to have in the Library.

We would like to say a massive thank you to the parents who have ordered books for the Library!

Your generosity is helping us to achieve our goal of having the best library for Young Adults in Lancashire.

Ofsted Report:

We were inspected by Ofsted before the half term and our report has now been published and will be available on the Ofsted website from the 21st March. However, I attach it here for you all to be able to read.

It was really good to know that our students enjoy their school, are safe, happy and proud of Balshaw's, their learning and the opportunities which they get. Some highlights from the report are below:

- Students are proud to attend their school
- Leaders are ambitious for all pupils, including those with special educational needs
- Teachers have high standards for students' academic achievement and their behaviour
- The atmosphere around school is calm and respectful
- Pupils benefit from the opportunities for their wider development
- A strong sense of school community
- Leaders and governors share a clear vision for the quality of education
- Subject leaders have thoughtfully considered the essential knowledge that they want pupils to gain
- Teachers use their expert knowledge to teach the curriculum effectively
- Staff are well trained to identify and address the needs of pupils with SEND
- Pupils with SEND have access to the same ambitious curriculum as their peers. They achieve well
- Leaders prioritise reading
- A range of programmes helps pupils to develop fluency and a love of reading
- The school library is a hub of activity
- Pupils behave well around the school and in lessons
- Following the pandemic, leaders have secured ongoing improvements to pupils' rates of attendance. (The school is in the top 10% of all schools for its levels of attendance)
- Leaders have devised a high-quality programme to support pupils' wider development
- Leaders actively and effectively seek ways to engage with their local community

[Here is the link to the full report for you to be able to read it in full.](#)

We know that despite Ofsted's reassurance that "there is no target to reduce the number of outstanding schools by 75%" the figures show that this is exactly what has been happening, so we are very happy to receive such strong comments and the judgment that we are a very good school with an excellent curriculum, strong vision and excellent ambitions for our students. We do not get to read the comments that parents submitted to the ParentView website, but I did get a glimpse on the inspector's laptop of some of the fantastic comments (almost essays) that many of you wrote in praise of your children's experience of school. I would like to thank you all very much indeed for the time that you took to do this – it means a lot.

As a school, we are constantly striving to provide the best possible education for our students, and this rating is a testament to our ongoing efforts. We are committed to building on our strengths and are already addressing the areas for improvement highlighted in the report.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff, students, and parents for their hard work, dedication, and support. We couldn't have achieved this rating without your contribution.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the report in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact the school.