



Balshaw's

Church Of England High School



Our family...

thousand miles begins
with one step.

The best preparation
for tomorrow is doing
your best today.

“
The school goes
out of its way to
make you feel
at home.”

-Parent-





*Your Word is a
lamp to my feet
and a light to
my path.*

(Psalm 119:105)

Our school scripture presents God's Word as a source of guidance, wisdom, moral direction and hope. It does not describe light simply as knowledge or success, but as the light that enables people to walk rightly, step by step, in relationship with God and with one another. For Balshaw's, this means that education is not only about academic progress, but about forming young people whose lives are shaped by wisdom, truth, compassion and service. Our ultimate aim is to develop young people, whatever their faith or world view, to reflect Christ's love in the wider community and throughout their lives.

All of our students engage in a formal act of worship twice a week as well as daily prayer and reflection in form time.

As a School of Sanctuary we are delighted that students of all faiths are respected and included in our worship and they value this as an opportunity for spiritual development and personal reflection. All of our students are aware that they are part of a tradition that stretches back to 1782 when the school was founded by Richard Balshaw. For this reason, we expect our students to wear their Balshaw's uniform with pride and we have uncompromisingly high standards for appearance, behaviour and commitment to learning.



Non sibi sed aliis

Our vision for the education of our students flows from the idea of not for self, but for others - it is an inclusive approach to learning with no limit on aspiration for any of our students.

Our curriculum is an academic one and all of our students study GCSE Religious Studies and eight other GCSE subjects, mainly in mixed prior attainment classes.

Our school is arranged into house families and some of our students are fourth generation members of their house (Clayton, Cuerden, Farington and Worden Houses). This creates a strong sense of loyalty, pride and healthy competition.

So, Psalm 119:105 gives our school vision its theological foundation: God's Word provides the light by which Balshaw's walks. That light guides the community towards excellence, not as self-promotion, but as flourishing; not for self alone, but for others; and not through ambition detached from character, but through lives shaped by the love and example of Christ. You are making one of the most important decisions for your child's future - why should you settle for anything less than the school of choice in Leyland for generations of families? We look forward to welcoming your child as a member of the Balshavian family.



Mr Steve Haycocks
Headteacher

Balshaw's 
Church Of England High School

Lighting the path to excellence...

We have no limit on the aspiration we have for our students in whatever form that takes from securing foundational skills, to preparing students for competitive apprenticeships, to those hoping to study at Oxford, Cambridge and other universities. Your child will be met where they are at and will be valued as a member of our school community.

Our curriculum is unapologetically academic with most students taking nine GCSEs including Religious Studies and we aim to prepare students for work in a rapidly changing world. We expect all of our parent/carers to buy into our laptop scheme which means that your child becomes familiar with industry standards for using Microsoft productivity tools, collaborative working practice and the ability to independently improve their progress in a blended learning environment.

“
Students are proud to attend their school.
”

-Ofsted-

“
Teachers have high standards for students' academic achievement and their behaviour.
” - Ofsted

Lessons are taught by subject experts at Balshaw's as we believe that a passionate teacher, who can convey their understanding, is the key to encouraging enthusiasm for learning and thirst for knowledge in our students.





A History of Excellence

The school is proud of its traditions that date back to 1782. Few schools have such a long history as Balshaw's. It is important to us that our students know that they are walking in the same corridors as people who gave their lives in war or who went on to quiet lives of service, became international sports stars, international experts in their fields of research or multiple Oscar winners.

Our alumni play an ongoing role in the life of the school and as a truly comprehensive school with no entry requirements other than distance to the door, the history of Balshaw's as a grammar school with a sixth form until the mid 1970s is an important part of our identity. Generations of Balshavians have learned within these walls.

Knowing that you are a part of something bigger and that we can find a higher purpose for our lives is important. The spiritual development of all of our students is a key part of the education that we provide as part of our *In-Out-Up* concept of spirituality.

We do not compromise on our standards and expectations. We would far rather that our main behaviour concerns were uniform and showing kindness than disruption or disengagement with learning. For this reason, we expect all parents/carers to give their full support to our school policies, whether that is having the right shoes or the confiscation of mobile phones if found in school.

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I enjoy taking
responsibility
for my own
learning.

-Year 11 Student-



Our learning family

Although quality first teaching is at the heart of what we do, we are under no illusion that students don't remember what they did period 4 on a wet Tuesday in February in their 30s! We know that school is much more than the knowledge and skills that you learn in lessons - school goes well beyond the classroom.

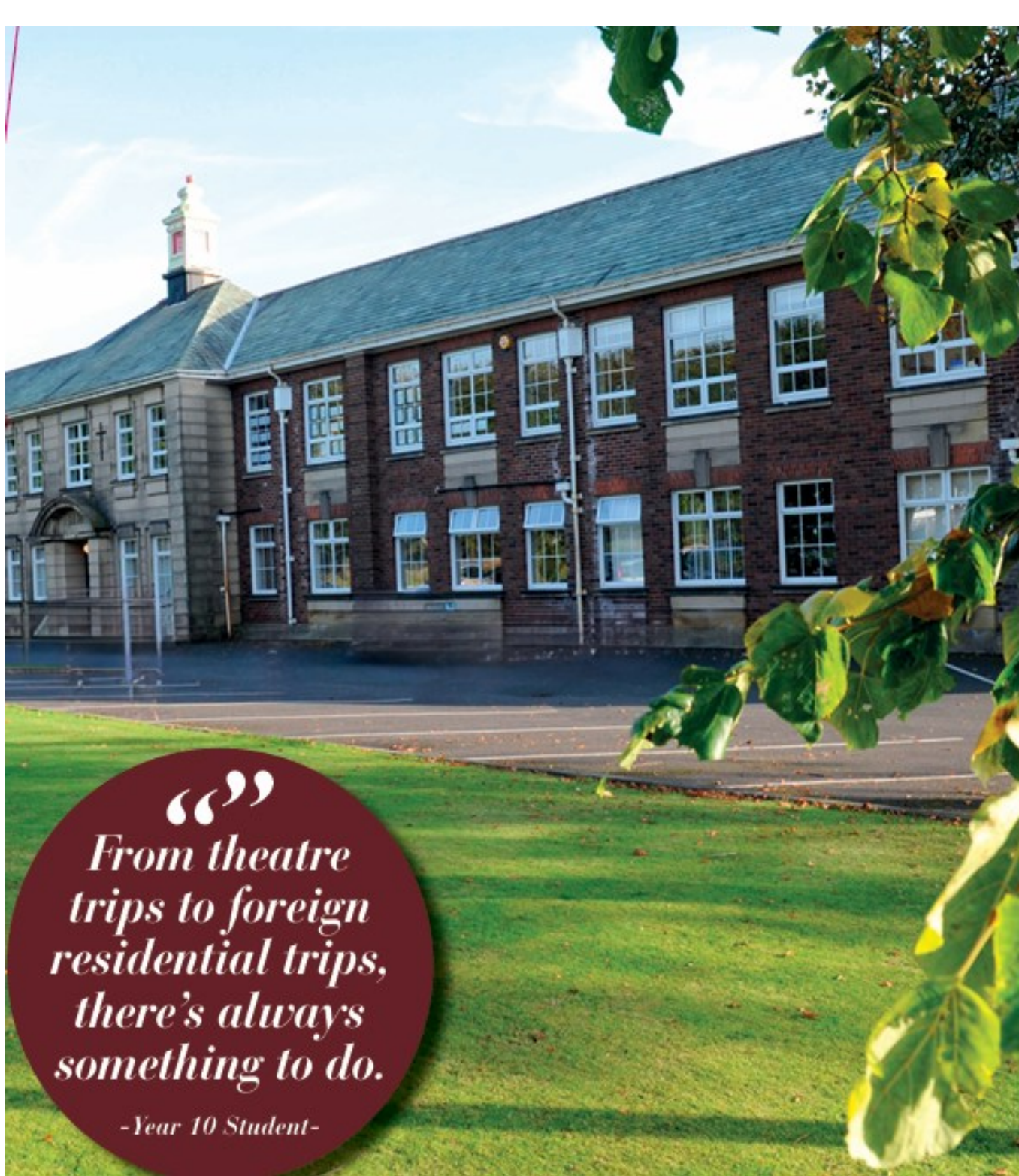
Personal development

As members of the Balshavian family, we are all united by a common history, shared values and opportunities and friendships that, hopefully, will last a lifetime. The personal development of our students is a priority. That happens in a very obvious way with school trips. Our students all get the opportunity to be a part of a school trip, whether that is to Skipton Castle or to Iceland or the Hadron Collider in Cern. We aim to make memories that will last a lifetime whether it is taking part in a school production, winning a race for your house on Sports day, speaking in debating competitions or raising money during our Lenten Charities week - we aim to have something for everyone. There are leadership opportunities in school through School Council, Eco Group, Stewards, Prefects, Librarians or Subject Ambassadors as well as beyond with the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and national competitions from the Anthea Bell Translation prize to the national Warhammer championship.



An enriched education

Careers fairs, mock interviews, work-related education and work experience all broaden our students' aspirations and enrich their experiences in school. Students can take part in a wide range of extra-curricular clubs and activities including many sports, learn an instrument in peripatetic music lessons, be a member of our Faith club, along with enjoying Knitting club, Darts club, Warhammer, Languages club and more! We pride ourselves for having one of the best Library and Learning Resource Centres in the county. Whatever path your child follows, Balshaw's will provide them with the foundation for future success, but always carrying that wider set of skills and sense of social duty reflected in the school motto: *non sibi sed aliis* (not for self, but for others).



“
*From theatre
trips to foreign
residential trips,
there's always
something to do.*

-Year 10 Student-

Our Balshaw's Values:

Love
Forgiveness
Friendship
Kindness
Truth
Patience
Respect
Humility

