



Prospectus Detail 2025/2026

Dear Parent/Carer

The time has come to choose a high school for your child - a time that seemed far off when they were born, but it is here already! It is one of the biggest decisions that you will make. However, I hope that you will see why Balshaw's has been the school of choice in Leyland since 1782.

The important thing is to get a sense of the community at Balshaw's and the strength of the relationships. Our deeply rooted Christian values are key drivers to the success of the school and how we interact with each other.

If choosing a high school was as simple as looking at student outcomes, OFSTED and SIAMS reports, or Department for Education league tables, then choosing Balshaw's as your child's high school would be easy. But it's not just about labels and good exam results. You want to be assured that your child will be known and cared for, you want to know how students and staff work together, what extra-curricular opportunities there are and you want to know what the atmosphere is like to be a student in this school.

The primary aim of our school is to create students, whatever their faith or world view, who will be able to go into the world and reflect Christ's love through their actions to make the world a better place. Great outcomes are a happy by-product of this moral commitment to their education as we light their path to excellence through our Christian vision and its values. You can read more about our Christian distinctiveness later in this booklet.

Balshaw's blends traditionally high standards of uniform, attendance, behaviour expectations and manners with an innovative approach to learning in which every student at the school has a laptop device which parents/carers buy into so that your child can work in a blended learning environment. Our standards are applied rigorously at Balshaw's and we follow our policies clearly and unambiguously to ensure that we are firm, but fair, in the way that we treat all of our students.

Our families say:

"The support and encouragement offered by his teachers and the leadership has ensured that he has received a top class education. It is daunting trying to choose a high school when your children are in year 5/6. We are so glad that we chose Balshaw's and know that we made the right decision." (Year 11 Parent)

"It is no exaggeration to say that he is a changed boy. He is happy and settled at Balshaw's and this has meant a noticeable gain in confidence meaning that he takes more responsibility, is happier and has made new friends. Your staff have positively affected an entire family, not just the pupil." (Year 7 Parent)

I hope that you will feel a sense of 'coming home' when you enter our school and realise that it is the body of people motivated by Christian love that is the strength of the Balshaw's family.

Mr Steve Haycocks
Headteacher



"Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path." (Psalm 119, vs 105)

**Lighting the path to excellence through Christian vision and values:
Love Forgiveness Friendship Kindness Truth Patience Respect Humility**



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Lighting the path to excellence through Christian vision and values.

Gospel values of love, forgiveness, friendship, kindness, truth, patience, respect and humility are the foundation for decisions made in the Balshaw's family.

Our aim: to develop students whatever their faith or world view, who reflect Christ's love within the wider community.

Balshaw's Church of England High School has Christian values at its heart and our aim is to create students, whatever their faith or world view, who will act in Christian love in and beyond school. Our principles are based in the following scripture:

"Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path." (Psalm 119:105)

The Word of God being a light in the darkness is a vital idea about the purpose of education. In a challenging world with lives that can be difficult, Balshaw's Christian purpose should be to shine a light in that darkness and provide a light to guide our young people to a path shaped by love. It can be a path to faith, a path to success, a path to self-worth and ultimately a path to a better world if we send students out to reflect Christ's love in the wider community.

That idea about working for the good of others is also captured in the school's original Latin motto:

Non sibi sed aliis

This means: *not for self, but for others*. This notion of selfless love and courageous advocacy for others underpins our culture of fundraising and charitable giving. The education we give to our students is integral to building a fairer and more sustainable world for everyone. Courageous Advocacy equips them with the skills, tools, confidence, and opportunity to speak up and take action on issues of justice.

Developing your child's spirituality is also important. At Balshaw's we talk of this as a three stage process: In, Out and Up:

In	→	Looking in: to understand yourself.
Out	→	Looking out: to understand the world.
Up	→	Looking up: to develop reflection on what our higher purpose for being might be.

Balshaw's has its own chaplain who is available to all students whatever their faith to support their spiritual, faith and religious needs. Students engage in worship every day, whether that be formally in a school-led Act of Worship or through daily prayer with their tutor at the start of every day.

Balshaw's enjoys strong relationships with a number of local churches, especially St. Andrew's where students worship at Easter and Christmas as well as St. Ambrose and Buckshaw Village Community Church.



Christian values permeate all aspects of the curriculum and the way that we interact with others. All students study Religious Education to GCSE, all subjects seek to make Christian values explicit in their teaching and our rewards and sanctions are also based upon our Balshaw's Gospel Values.

Of all the values that we hold dear, love is the most important and is what makes Balshaw's distinctively different.

School Worship

Balshaw's is proud of its Christian ethos and, as such, School Worship is considered a vital part of school life. Each year group enjoys an Act of Worship in the school Hall once per week. Collective worship also happens when students meet in their house families for a further Act of Worship later in the week.

The 'Thought For The Day' with an accompanying 'Prayer For The Day' are used in tutor time each day. These are linked to the theme of worship for that week, which is also further explored during tutor time. At Balshaw's, students take a very active and leading role in worship and prayer, with students delivering and planning Acts of Worship. Worship is evaluated by our Faith and Worship Committee. Students receive a varied diet of worship from visiting clergy from different churches, as well as other relevant outside speakers. To further enrich experiences of worship, students have also taken part in a number of 'RE-Treat' days which are led by the Blackburn Diocese with whom we have strong links. There are lunchtime groups which enable students to further explore the Christian Faith.



All Christian festivals are celebrated and voluntary communion services are held to mark Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Whitsun as well as at the beginning and end of terms. At Christmas we hold two Carol services at St. Andrew's Church and all students are able to attend one of these services and take part. During Lent, students take part in a range of activities to reflect upon the significance of this time. Whilst some may choose to give something up for Lent, the majority of our students also choose to give something back and take part in fundraising activities, raising money for charities and putting our Christian values of love and kindness into practice. There are special services at Easter and the Music Department annually put on a 'Resurrection Rock' to mark Easter with the whole of Year 7. To mark Remembrance, we have special services to remember former Balshavians who have lost their lives during conflicts.

Prayer is at the heart of all we do, during each act of Collective Worship there is the opportunity to participate in prayer and as mentioned above there is a Prayer For The Day every day. We have a Christian fellowship group for staff and a prayer group for students. We have close links with a number of local churches. Our School Chaplain, Luke Blakeley, who joined us in September 2020, continues to grow and develop the wide range of opportunities for worship and for spiritual development.

Each year, we hold a Memorial Service which is open to the wider community, enabling us all to take part in an act of remembering loved ones who are no longer with us. Representatives from our school have also taken part in Church services in the local community and in acts of Remembrance in the local area.

Through the inclusive school worship programme all students, whatever their faith or world view, are provided with a range of opportunities to develop their spirituality and hopefully come to faith.

Balshaw's SIAMS inspection rated the school as Excellent in all areas in 2019.



Eucharist Service



In March, we were excited to welcome Bishop Philip North and Father Paul Robinson into Balshaw's to lead our students and staff in a Eucharist Service.

Students in Years 7-9 took part in a taught Holy Communion, where Bishop Philip shared the meaning of each aspect of the Eucharist before Father Paul led the students in the liturgy and prayers. We received wonderful feedback from our students about their experience and taking part in this special service.

Memorial Candlelight Service

Each year we meet on the first Monday of the Advent season to remember loved ones, friends and family who are no longer with us.

We gather in the glow of candlelight to remember, to reflect, and to find hope in the presence of one another. This is a space open to all, regardless of belief or background, as we focus on light as a universal symbol of remembrance and hope. In 2024, our memorial service was an inter-faith event, and we were pleased to welcome our friends from a range of different faiths.



The Balshaw's School Prayer

Here is our Balshaw's School Prayer, that has been in use for some time, and talks about the strength of our Christian community in the past and into the future, building upon examples set to us by the many who have walked the corridors previously:

"Heavenly Father,

We ask for your blessing on all who teach and work at the school and all those who learn. Help us to be guided by your Spirit and ever mindful of the part we play in your world. Help us to be responsible and react kindly towards each other and all we meet.

As we go out into your world, help us to take the standards of our school, remembering past students and all who have been associated with Balshaw's.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen."

Fundraising and Supporting Others

As a school we do an amazing amount of fundraising and support both local and national charities. Our students are keen to engage in many fundraising activities to help those less fortunate than themselves. We have sold poppies in school on behalf of the Royal British Legion to support those who have given their lives for their country or been injured in action.

In the Autumn term we ask for food donations for Christmas hampers to share with the elderly in the community, either through the Leyland Centre or Regenerage. Along with the Christmas hampers, we were able to donate over 970 much needed toiletries to those in need in the local community. We have trainer days in school that help to raise money for a number of different charities and they have included; Jeans for Genes, Save the Children and Lancashire Mind. There are numerous cake sales throughout the year and previous donations have included MacMillan Cancer Support, The Sanctuary Foundation and Blue Skies Hospital. Harvest donations are also collected during the Autumn term and donated to those in need in the local area in collaboration with our Chaplain and St. Andrew's Church.



During Lenten Charity fortnight students decide which charities they would like to support and it is always a hugely successful fundraiser. In 2024/25 we raised a whopping £4587.27 in just 9 days for our chosen charities; Derian House, St. Catherine's Hospice, and Galloway Society for the Blind.

Our Balfest and Family Fun Day raised over £2,200 for the PTA, which will help to support school and to reinstate the climbing wall.

Previously, we have completed a 5k cross-country fun run in school for students and money raised was split between Cancer Research UK and St. Catherine's Hospice. Over three hundred students took part in an indoor rowing competition. They rowed in 10 minute blocks for their House team and collected sponsorship money from friends and family to complete the challenge. In total the students rowed 668km and raised £2,500 for the HeartBeat charity. Our staff have also taken part in a number of fundraising football matches that have raised money for Lancashire Mind and Children in Need. Along with raising money we have collected items of clothing and essentials for families evacuating to Poland from Ukraine. We have also collected items for International Aid Trust and donated many shoe boxes to this appeal for a number of years. In December we collected over 970 toiletry items to create 'Care Kits' that were distributed to those in need in the local area. Over the last 5 years our amazing team of staff, students and their families have helped to raise large amounts of money in the tens of thousands of pounds for a range of charities.



At Balshaw's Church of England 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 applied for 'Schools of Sanctuary' status, as we believe their values encompass our own Gospel Values of Love, Forgiveness, Friendship, Kindness, Truth, Patience, Respect and Humility in our caring school environment and we want to ensure all of our school community welcome everyone and provide a 'sanctuary' for many.

As part of our commitment to inclusivity, we held an Iftar celebration in school, in March 2025. We welcomed 26 residents from the Leyland Hotel, along with a large number of our school families. Everyone came together to pray, cook and eat together and it was a wonderful evening that we look forward to hosting in the future.

In July 2025, we were delighted that we were officially awarded School of Sanctuary status.

What makes this award even more special for us is that we are the first and only Church of England High School in Lancashire to achieve this status.

Pastoral Care and Guidance

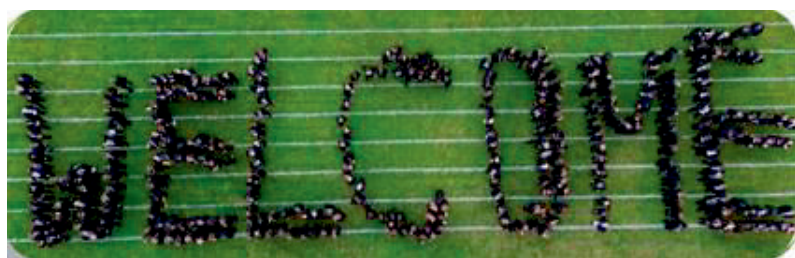
What will we do at Balshaw's to support your child at school?

The transition of your child from primary school to high school is always a time of uncertainty and sometimes anxiety. At Balshaw's we do our utmost to ensure every child is well cared for, nurtured and is well-known amongst staff through our outstanding pastoral system which is structured in Houses. Each child is placed in one of four Houses and then placed in a Tutor group. The House Form Tutor monitors each child's progress, behaviour and welfare. Our overall aim for our young people is for them to use the talents and abilities that God gave them and to be the best that they can be.

Through the encouragement of strong, supportive and positive relationships we encourage each individual child to aim at excellence in everything that they do – in their actions, in how they treat others and in their participation in the life of Balshaw's and the wider community. We ultimately want to help nurture, develop and encourage all our students to develop their own potential and necessary life skills in order to become responsible and self-motivated young people who are able to take their place in the wider community.

We also support parents/carers because we understand the challenges of parenting in a digital age and the anxiety and mental health issues that young people face. It can be hard to know how to support your child and our guidance evenings have been praised for the help they have given.

Transition Programme



Students are supported in a variety of ways to settle quickly into high school life through our supportive transition programme starting in March when secondary places are allocated. Students and parents/carers are asked to attend a New Intake Evening in July in order for staff to get to know the children a little better. Pastoral

staff visit primary schools to see the children in the summer term and speak to Year 6 teachers who know your youngsters so well. In July, a New Intake Day is organised in order that students can “sample” a day in the life of Balshaw's.

On the first day of term as true Balshavians, Year 7 have a special Introduction Assembly and go to tutor and get to know each other, their Tutors and Heads of House. A range of clubs and activities in the first term allow students to make new friends and spend time enjoying something new. Through Year and House assemblies, PSHE lessons and the Meet the Tutor evening for parents/carers, students do settle quickly and confidently and within weeks feel like they have been at Balshaw's forever! There are some young people however, who do need extra support and we can offer a range of interventions in order to help students settle quickly, from places at Home Learning Club for help with organisation, a 'My Space' Club for those students struggling to form friendships or feeling overawed by the transition process, extra support in lessons for those with additional needs, a More Able Programme and Emotional Support for those who need greater provision to help their social and emotional needs.

We are ultimately very proud of our outstanding pastoral achievements at Balshaw's and highly privileged that we can play a small part in helping to develop, cherish and encourage all students to foster their love of learning and achieve their full potential within an environment that is both caring and Christian.

Christian Values

Christian values are lived out through pastoral care and guidance and incorporated in our anti-bullying policy.

Safeguarding and Child-Protection

Because of day-to-day contact with children, schools are particularly well placed to observe outward signs of abuse, changes in behaviour or failure to develop. Parents/carers should be aware, therefore, that where it appears to a member of staff that a child may have been abused, physically or emotionally, the school is required, as part of the Local Child Protection Procedures, to report their concern to Children's Social Care immediately. Staff are trained to act professionally, recognising genuine concerns without jumping to unreasonable conclusions. There is a designated Teacher and a Governor with responsibility for Child Protection. Parents/carers will be fully informed of all referrals.

Mrs A. Wilson, Deputy Headteacher, is the Designated Safeguarding Lead for all Child Protection and Safeguarding issues in school. The Governor for Child Protection is Reverend Paul Davies.

As a school we participate in Operation Encompass, a joint initiative with Lancashire Police to help ensure any children that witness domestic violence at home are well-supported and cared for in school.

The House System

On entry to the school, Year 7 students are placed in House tutor groups. The composition of the tutor group is influenced by information provided by the primary schools, by parents/carers and by the school's need to integrate students from many primary schools as smoothly as possible. The House Form Tutor is a key person in each child's school life in the giving of help and advice. Apart from the registration period, House Form Tutors teach their classes for the Personal, Social, Health and Economic lesson (PSHE). House Form Tutors are responsible to their Head of House in an organisation that means senior members of staff work closely with colleagues to ensure that each student is cared for and guided as necessary, both academically and pastorally.

Parents/carers will be kept well informed. We encourage parents/carers to contact the school at an early stage with any concerns. Good communication and co-operation between home and school are very important in helping us to maintain high standards of behaviour and care. Members of staff are pleased to meet parents/carers, by appointment, during the day when necessary. It is important to request appointments in advance, since staff are not always immediately available, this can be either in writing or by telephone, giving reasons for the request. This will ensure that suitable arrangements can be made and the member of staff who is best qualified to deal with the situation is alerted. The academic progress of any student is closely linked with general well-being, therefore every member of staff exercises a pastoral concern.

Clayton Head of House	Mrs D Lupton
Cuerden Head of House	Mrs C Leathard
Farington Head of House	Mr S Riley
Worden Head of House	Mr P Paize

The Headteacher is available to meet with parents/carers by appointment. Please contact the Headteacher's Personal Assistant if you wish to do so.

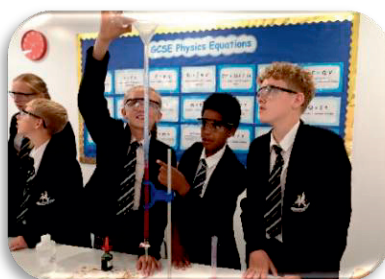
Anti-Bullying Policy

As a Christian school we believe that each person is made in the image of God, which implies that we should respect the dignity of the individual. Therefore, all students have a right to learn in an environment in which they feel safe and supported and free from any form of bullying. Bullying can take many forms: verbal taunts, cyber bullying, homophobic, using derogatory terms for disabilities/disabled people, using religion/religious terms in a derogatory sense against another person, racial bullying and attempts to isolate an individual can be just as damaging to that person's self-esteem and confidence as physical threats. Bullying has no place anywhere in our school community, and

this applies as much to the relationships between adults and students as it does to those between students themselves. School staff also have right not to be bullied by students, parents/carers or other staff. School staff have a right to come to work without facing abuse or vexatious emails or letters from parents/carers. The full policy document is available on request.

In the most recent Ofsted Inspection it states that *"Pupils are happy at Balshaw's. The atmosphere around school is calm and respectful and pupils say that there is always someone to talk to if they have concerns. Leaders deal effectively with any incidents of bullying and this helps pupils to feel safe."*

The Curriculum



At Balshaw's, we provide a broad and balanced curriculum at both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. This ensures that students at Balshaw's leave school with a comprehensive range of qualifications that prepare them fully for their futures; giving them the skills, confidence and resilience for college, apprenticeships and employment.

The Learning Week



Students are taught 25 lessons per week, over a two week timetable. The Curriculum is broad and balanced with core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Modern Foreign Languages, Design Technology, Physical Education and Religious Education all studied. Humanities subjects of Geography and History are studied with increased time in Year 9. Other subjects taught in Key Stage 3 include Art, Computing, Drama and Music.

At Key Stage 4 there are two academic pathways, one which includes the full suite of EBacc subjects (English, Maths, Science, Geography or History and French or Spanish) and a Non-Ebacc pathway which offers some students a more vocational range of subjects. Other subjects at Key Stage 4, which are not included in Key Stage 3 are Business and Film Studies.

Subjects are taught in mixed ability groupings as we aspire for all students to be able to access the very highest grades possible in a supported environment.



Curriculum Diagram

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11		
1	English	English	English	English	English		
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8			PSHE				
9	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths		
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16			PSHE			PSHE	PSHE
17	Science	Science	Science	Combined Science (Trilogy)	Combined Science (Trilogy)		
18							
19							
20							
21							
22							
23						Design & Technology	
24			Design & Technology				
25	French/Spanish	PSHE	French/Spanish	Option 1: Fine Art, Food Preparation & Nutrition, Geography and History	Option 1: Geography or History		
26							
27							
28							
29						Drama	
30							
31						History	
32			Geography			Geography	Option 2: Business, Computer Science, Film Studies, GCSE PE, History, Music, Religious Studies (full course GCSE), Separate Sciences
33							
34							
35							
36	Religious Studies						
37							
38	Art	Religious Studies		Option 3: French, Geography, History, Religious Studies (full course GCSE), Spanish	Option 3: Business, Fine Art, Food Preparation & Nutrition, French, GCSE PE, Spanish		
39							
40							
41							
42			Music				
43							
44			Computing				
45			Computing				
46	PE	PE	PE	Religious Studies (short course GCSE)	Religious Studies (short course GCSE)		
47							
48							
49							
50				PE	PE		

There are opportunities within the curriculum time for students to experience accelerated learning and to receive targeted intervention and specialist support.

SEND, Additional Needs and Pastoral Care

Through quality teaching, appropriate intervention, effective use of Teaching Assistants and, above all, a caring approach, we meet the needs of all our students with additional or Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The school keeps an up-to-date register of all students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. All staff are involved in the process of producing a supportive student passport for those who require additional support. We have a nurture group in Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 for students who need additional support. Additional literacy and numeracy support is also available.

In our Pastoral Hub we have a base to meet the needs of all students. Members of the Pastoral Team and SEND Team work together to support all students who have additional needs either through small group tuition, individual withdrawal lessons, or support for students with social, emotional or mental health difficulties.

As a Christian school we care for the whole child and consider their development academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually. We have two 'My Space' Clubs (Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4) which run at lunchtime for students who may feel vulnerable or who want a safe nurturing environment to be in.

Learning support is made available to all students via the Home Learning Club, which takes place after school on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, run by Support Staff.

Examination Results

One of the reasons for Balshaw's continuing success is the examination results that our students attain. It is particularly important to note that, in the majority of the government's measures, Balshaw's is above national averages of attainment and progress from students' starting points. That means that whatever the level of prior attainment, Balshaw's will do its best to ensure we maximise the progress of all our students.

Headline figures for 2024-25 Exam Results	
Average Total Attainment 8	51.96
Progress 8	+0.27*
Number of Students	189
Average Entries per Student	7.9
Average Entries per Student (GCSE only)	7.7
Students Achieving 9-7(A*-A) in English and Maths	11.6%
Students Achieving 9-5 (A* -B) in English and Maths	56.1%
Students Achieving 9-4 (A*-C) in English and Maths	78.3%
Students Achieving 5 Standard Passes (9-4) including English and Maths	72.5%
Students Achieving 5 Strong Passes (9-5) including English and Maths	51.3%
Students Taking 3 Single Sciences (GCSE only)	17.5%
Students Entered for the EBacc	55%
Students in COHORT Achieving the EBacc (Standard Pass)	44.4%
Students in COHORT Achieving the EBacc (Strong Pass)	32.8%
Ebacc Average Point Score	4.79

*Estimated using SISRA data

Laptops for All

At Balshaw's, we are committed to preparing students for a future where digital skills are essential. That's why all parents/carers of students who accept a place with us are invited to join our "Laptops for All" scheme. This scheme is designed to support our blended learning approach. Laptops do not replace traditional methods like writing or classroom discussion. Instead, they enhance learning by enabling students to personalise, extend, and deepen their studies both in school and at home.

For a monthly fee, your child will receive a personal laptop for use at school and home. Various payment plans are available, and once all payments are complete, the laptop is theirs to keep.

The device is:

- Fully supported by our IT team
- Covered by a comprehensive 3-year warranty, which includes accidental damage and repair
- Preloaded with all the necessary educational software

If you choose Balshaw's for your child, we will provide full details about the scheme and answer any questions you may have. In the meantime, we encourage you to speak with current students about how laptops are used in their daily learning.



Online Safety at Balshaw's

At Balshaw's, we recognise the incredible benefits that modern technology offers in enhancing students' learning, creativity, and communication. We are committed to helping young people make the most of these opportunities while staying safe online.

We understand that with rapid technological change come new and evolving risks. Our Online Safety Policy is designed to protect students, staff, and the wider school community from these potential dangers, while promoting responsible and informed use of digital technologies both in school and at home.

All students, parents/carers, and staff are required to read and agree to our ICT Acceptable Behaviour Policy. Online safety is actively taught across all year groups through PSHE, Business and Computing lessons, year group and House assemblies, and regular safeguarding updates. We also take part in national initiatives such as Safer Internet Day to further reinforce key messages.



A full copy of our Online Safety Policy is available on request or via our website www.balshaws.org.uk/parents-portal/school-policies.

Careers Education

The basis of the Careers information and guidance offered at Balshaw's is the Gatsby Framework (see our Careers Policy on the School Policies webpage for more information). We work in partnership with the Lancashire Careers Hub to offer a rich and varied 'Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance' (CEIAG). The School offers all students access to an Independent Careers Service through a dedicated adviser, Mrs A. Webb; offering personalised interviews to all students in Key Stage 4 and Year 9, and weekly drop-ins for any other students. The Careers Team in School organise annual Careers Events, Apprentice workshops, workplace visits, college taster visits, work experience and the Mock Interview programme in which every Year 11 is offered an interview from the world of work.

In every school year CEIAG is part of the Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Curriculum, as this is a really important element in preparing students for life after Balshaw's. Opportunities to develop the transferrable skills needed by our students in order to make them desirable to employers are provided explicitly in careers sessions and further interwoven throughout the wider school curriculum.

Every year, we organise an annual Careers Fair with representatives from over 20 local and national business, colleges and our dedicated careers advisor.

The school also runs a full programme of Work Experience for Year 10 students, which will be over a week this year. In 2025, we had students at a huge variety of work placements, as far away as Cardiff and Buckinghamshire! The programme allows valuable opportunities for students to experience different workplace environments and time to exercise and develop their personal key skills as they make their way on their pathway through education towards employment. Work Experience is a vital part of the curriculum and we will be extending some parts of this into Key Stage 3 this year.

PSHE

Our Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) lessons reflects and reinforces our school values. We believe that PSHE helps our students to be safe, healthy and prepared for life's opportunities. Education that prepares students for life today, and tomorrow. It gives students the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge they need to thrive now and in the future. This includes helping them to deal with critical issues they may face every day such as friendships, emotional wellbeing and change, giving them a solid foundation for whatever challenging opportunities lie ahead, so they can face a world full of uncertainty with hope. Our PSHE teaching not only meets all the mandatory requirements from the DfE Statutory Guidance but also includes Economic Wellbeing as we believe that financial knowledge and economic confidence are essential for our students.

From making informed decisions about alcohol to succeeding in their first job, our PSHE education helps students prepare for all the opportunities, challenges, life decisions and responsibilities they'll face.

This in turn achieves a 'virtuous circle', whereby students with better health and wellbeing can achieve better academically and enjoy greater success.

PSHE is taught by our Form Tutors who have a unique relationship with their students. This helps to ensure that students can be confident in asking questions and expressing their ideas and opinions during their PSHE lessons. For any students who may feel the need to ask further advice we signpost all students to a range of services including our school Pastoral Team, Childline and other associated charities and agencies.

Enhancement activities including First Aid and CPR training, Firework, Young Drivers and Water Safety delivered by Lancashire Fire & Rescue service, presentations on Consent and Sexual Health delivered by Lancashire Sexual Health Service and theatre performances on the choices and consequences of anti-social behaviour, knife crime, drugs and alcohol augment our PSHE provision for our students.

Library: Public Speaking and Debating at Balshaw's



We have multiple teams taking part in the Rotary 'Youth Speaks' competition every year and our students have been successful in the national and regional finals. We were also Rotary Youth Speaks champions for South Ribble in 2022, 2023 and 2024. Also in 2022, our team of speakers reached the National Finals of the prestigious English-Speaking Union Competition in Cambridge. In 2024 and 2025, two of our teams reached the Regional Finals of the of the ESU and our Year 9 teams won the Great Lancashire Debate organised by Lancashire County Council in 2023 and 2024. In 2025 we also became the North of England and Wales Rotary Youth Speaks Champions in both the Intermediate and Senior Competitions. Individual speakers also achieved accolades for their oracy prowess and these skills are essential to future success in all walks of life.



School Archivists

The school has a rich history and one of the most complete archival records of all schools in the area and the Student



Archivists group is very popular. Our student archivists are very busy each year, not only with their research visits to the Lancashire Archives to research Old Balshavians who fought in the First and Second World Wars for our Remembrance services and assemblies but also interviewing people for our archive and website. This year we have interviewed Miss Venn (the Headteacher from 1995 up to 2014 before Mr Haycocks) and Mrs Ingram (wife of the Headteacher of Balshaw's from 1973 to 1994); Dorothy Berry who came to Balshaw's from 1946 until 1951 and Eva Paddock (née Fleischmann) who came to England aboard the

final 'kindertransport' train from Prague in 1939, aged just three. This daring operation, orchestrated by Nicholas Winton, managed to save 669 children – predominantly Jewish – from the looming threat of Nazi persecution. Amazingly, after the war, Eva attended Balshaw's from 1946 until 1954 and she shared her memories of the school from that time. The archive is being digitised for our website and continues to grow attracting donations from Old Balshavians across the globe. Head girl Sylvia Dowling bequeathed a collection this year as well as Sylvia Thompson (née Mayor) who had the missing speech day programmes for 1948. Dr. Breen is always delighted and surprised when a mystery parcel arrives; this year, Vanessa Harrison (daughter of Old Balshavian Jessie Frances Knight who came to Balshaw's between 1925 and 1931) sent a wonderful collection of Balshaw's memorabilia including the missing copies of the *Effort* (the school magazine, precursor of *The Balshavian*) dating 1927-30!

Author Visits

We were delighted to welcome popular children's author Phil Earle to school on Monday 4th November, 2024.

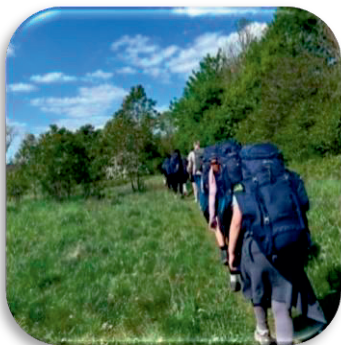
Our Year 7 students were thrilled to have an audience with Phil, where they were able to listen to Phil talk about his life, being an author and his inspiration for his novel *'When The Sky Falls'* which is our brilliant transition book that all Year 7 read together when they come to Balshaw's.



Extra-Curricular Activities

We pride ourselves on the wide range of cultural, social and sporting activities offered to students. Drama, various choirs and band practices are held throughout the year along with concerts, shows and productions. There are extra-curricular clubs in a variety of sports and many sports teams compete at House and at school level.

Duke Of Edinburgh



In 2025, we relaunched our first Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, run by Mr Smith, who has many years of leading DofE Award in previous schools. The Bronze programme is currently offered to Balshaw's students in Year 10.

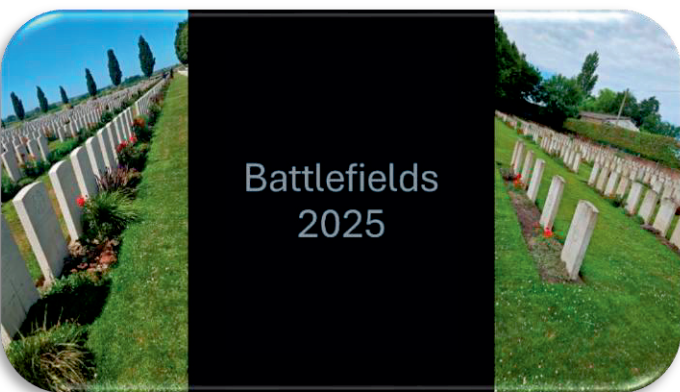
Students displayed many Balshavian values through their volunteering, skill and physical sections, and had a great time in the sunshine completing their Practice and Qualifying expeditions around Rivington!

Curriculum Trips

Previous trips have included: Year 8 'GET IT' trip to Amazon Web Services, GCSE Business trip to Jaguar Landrover and JCB World Headquarters, Business and Computing Department 'DigiGirlz' trip to Microsoft UK and Bletchley Park, Year 7 and 9 Geography fieldtrips to Blackpool Zoo and the Lake District and Year 10 fieldtrips to Morecambe Bay, The North West Sustainability Conference and Year 8 trip to Big Bang in Birmingham. A Science trip to Manchester Museum of Science and Industry. An MFL trip to Lancaster University to see languages being taught at university level. Year 10 students also went to Merseyside to take part in an event run by Business Language Champions with GCHQ and were commended on their participation, a Year 10 trip to Manchester Jewish Museum, along with a Maths trip to Harry Potter Studios. There have been English theatre trips including *A Christmas Carol*, as well as having a visiting theatre group in school to perform *An Inspector Calls* and *Macbeth*. Theatre trips are offered to widen the students' cultural experience have included trips to see *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Blood Brothers*, *An Inspector Calls*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, along with workshops for students from industry professionals.



Residential Trips



Previous residential trips have included: Modern Foreign Languages trip to Warsy in France for Year 7, 8 and 9 and a trip to Avila in Spain for Year 10 and 11. A PGL PE trip, Science trips to Geneva and Iceland for Year 9 and 10. An RE trip for Year 10 and 11 to Krakow exploring sites of religious and historical significance such as Auschwitz, Birkenau, the Jewish Quarter and Wawel Cathedral. A Maths trip to Disneyland in Paris, a Year 10 Battlefields trip to Belgium and France, along with a Food Technology trip to Croston Farm.

Clubs

We have a number of amazing clubs, competitions and opportunities, which include: Art Club, Culture Club, Darts Club, Knitting Club, Faith Club, Warhammer Club, Film Club, Young Writers Club, Year 9 Computational Thinking Challenge, Cyber First Competition, Alan Turing Competition, Code Club, Cyber Discovery Challenge, Faraday Challenge, Key Stage 3 STEM Club, Matrix Challenge, Student Investor Challenge and a Wellbeing group. Our Eco and Fairtrade Group have taken part in many activities including attending an Eco Sustainability event at Blackburn Rovers and are regular winners. As previously mentioned, we have public speaking and debating societies and also offer Home Learning Club for all year groups after school in the Library.



There is something for everyone, and if students suggest a club and have enough proposed members, we will start one. Our newest clubs are in faith, knitting and darts. Ofsted said that our students benefit from the many opportunities for their wider development at Balshaw's. We encourage all students and staff to get involved.

The curriculum is extended by offering a wide range of extra-curricular activities which are open to all students. These provide our students with a variety of opportunities in clubs, workshops, rehearsals, performances and visits. We hope students gain many benefits, not least enjoyment, from participating in the Expressive Arts subjects as they strive for excellence and realisation of their potential.

MFL take part in two national competitions every year: The Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators run by Oxford University and GCHQ's National Language Competition for students in Year 9.

Extra-Curricular - Sports



Extra-curricular sports that are offered include; Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Circuit Training, Cricket, Cross-Country, Dance, Fitness Club, Football, Gymnastics, Hockey, Netball, Rounders, Rugby, Table Tennis and Tennis. We have invested a lot of money improving the sports facilities at Balshaw's. We now have tennis and netball courts, a full size floodlit 3G astroturf and a fabulous state of the art fitness gym and mirrored dance studio. These facilities will help to enhance our curriculum and also provide excellent facilities for extra-curricular activities.

Balshaw's aims for excellence and has enjoyed considerable success in National, District and County competitions. We are justifiably proud of our 'Roll of Honour' and actively encourage students to extend their sporting interests outside school. Many students are members of local sports clubs and teams, and students have represented South Ribble Schools, the County and beyond, in a variety of sports. Our dedicated, enthusiastic and knowledgeable staff, together with the facilities and equipment available, enables us to provide our students with a meaningful, challenging and enjoyable sporting programme.

Creative and Expressive Art at Balshaw's

The school sets great store by its excellence in Expressive Arts. It forms one of the liveliest, most energetic and successful areas of the school, which for many students is a very important part of their life at Balshaw's. As well as being studied as academic subjects the creative and performing arts provide a balance to the curriculum and unique experiences which enrich the artistic and cultural development of your child. Those who wish to do so will have the opportunity to study these subjects at Key Stage 4, where a high level of excellence is achieved.

Music – Beyond the Curriculum

Along with classroom Music teaching, the Instrumental Teaching Service is well established at Balshaw's from beginners through to advanced players in the upper grades. The service is a fee-paying one and students have a 15 or 30 minute individual weekly lesson, the time of which is rotated, so as to avoid missing the same curriculum lesson each week. Further details of the peripatetic music service are on the school website in the Music section of the Curriculum pages www.balshaws.org.uk/curriculum.

The following instrument groups are taught: guitar, drums, piano, keyboard and violin.

We are very proud of our instrumental teachers at Balshaw's who carry out the tuition with great enthusiasm and commitment. They are all appointed by the school, and are highly qualified, experienced and committed. Students are encouraged to take graded examinations when appropriate. They are expected to join relevant bands, choirs and musical ensembles when they are competent to do so.

Various concerts, shows, services and other events take place during the year which students are encouraged to take part in, including Carol Services, Resurrection Rock, Music for Open Evening, Music for Awards Events, Family Fun Day and Balfest, Holocaust Memorial Day and more.



Drama – Beyond the Curriculum



Outside of the curriculum, students have the opportunity to get involved in our Drama productions.

The productions are always amazing, and our students never cease to astound us with their dedication, talent and enthusiasm when it comes to productions. There are roles to fill for acting, singing,

choreography, helping with staging or behind the scenes. There really is a part for everyone!

The most recent productions have been *Oliver Jnr!*, *Matilda Jnr!* and *We Will Rock You*. All of which were brilliant, and ticket sales were through the roof!

Productions require a whole team of people to make them go smoothly and also involve many members of staff, former staff along with professional choreographers.

Balshaw's Association PTA

Our PTA is well-established and has recruited new members recently and is a group of people linked to Balshaw's (not all are parents/carers, at least not of current students!) who organise events and activities to foster the wider sense of Balshaw's community and to raise money for school enrichment. If you would like to find out more about the PTA, they meet on the first Wednesday of every month (during term time) and you can also read more on their webpage on our website www.balshaws.org.uk/about-the-school/balshaw-s-association-pta.



Celebrating the Past

Richard Balshaw, a Leyland man with business interests in London, founded the school in 1782, “for instructing the youth of the middling and lower classes of Leyland”. It occupied buildings on Golden Hill Lane until moving to the present site in 1931. Building extensions were made in 1984 and we continue to develop our facilities to meet the demand for places. The school became voluntary controlled in 1951 and has the status of a Church of England Voluntary Controlled High School.

Headteachers of Balshaw's			
1786 - 1790	William Boyer	1899 - 1903	James D Wilde MA
1790 - 1792	John Singleton	1903 - 1931	F Jackson MA
1792 - 1799	Stephen Hayhurst	1931 - 1960	V U Oldland BA
1799 - 1850	Robert Kellett	1961 - 1973	F E Bleasdale MA
1846 - 1849	George Bennett	1973 - 1994	P J Ingram BSc
1849 - 1870	George Singleton	1995 - 2014	Josephine M Venn BA
1870 - 1899	John De Pennington	2014 -	Steven Haycocks BA

We have a fascinating online archive which we recommend you visit via the About the School section of our website.

Celebrating Our Achievements

Awards

- We were awarded School of Sanctuary status in July 2025. We are the first and only Church of England High School in Lancashire to achieve this status
- Diocesan Inspection declared us to be an Excellent Church School in 2019
- Judged to be a Good school by Ofsted where leaders are ambitious for all students and teachers have high standards for students' academic achievement and their behaviour
- The first Secondary School in the county to receive Race Equality Award
- The school is recognised by The Schools' Network as a High Performing Secondary School
- The Business and Computing Department is a Computing at School 'Community of Practice' Network
- A number of teaching and support staff have had excellent work recognised with national awards
- Our students dominate across the district in all areas of sport
- South Ribble Rotary Technology Tournament: Our Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 students took part in the event
- Pilot partners with CAMHS on developing early intervention to support students and families
- Students have led on Lancashire MH:2K Mental Health and Diversity Project
- Best practice partner for The Parliamentary Review
- Awarded the Achievement for All Quality Mark
- Our Eco Council achieved the Eco Council School Green Flag Award with Merit for 2023-24. Attended the NW Eco-Schools Sustainability Conference at Blackburn Rovers' Ewood Park Football Club. The Year 7 team won the Production Line Challenge for the third time in 2025. The Year 8 and 9 students were involved in the STEM Challenge winning the best logo design in 2024. We have also installed new solar panels to our school roof as a result of successful lobbying of LCC for funding by the Eco Group
- Oxford University's Anthea Bell Translation Competition: Commendations for Aurora Kerfoot (level 1 Spanish), Abi Moorhouse (level 1,2 Russian), North West area winners: Coralie Evans (level 1 French), Millie Morrison (level 2 French), Khia Hartley (level 2 Spanish)



Personal Achievements of Some Students and Former Balshavians

- **Liv Cooke:** UK's first female professional freestyler, freestyle football World Champion and seven times World Record Holder. Liv visited school in September 2021 to meet our students and promote her book *The Way to Win*
- **Philip Jones:** former Manchester United player with 169 appearances for the team and played in the World Cup for England. He has been involved with the Manchester United Youth Teams and started a Global Football Sport Directorship Course
- **Clarke Carlisle:** former professional footballer who has appeared on Countdown and TV programmes on racism and depression. A former Chairman of the Professional Football Association and wrote a book *You Don't Know Me, But A Footballer's Life*, worked with UCLan to develop a specialist mental health advocacy course. In 2025, Clarke took part in the celebrity edition of *The 1% Club* on television and helped to secure £100,000 for Soccer Aid and UNICEF
- **Marian Clayden:** textile artist and designer to the Hollywood stars. Retrospective exhibition at the Harris Gallery and Museum 2014
- **Margaret Maughan:** won GB's first Paralympic gold medal in 1960
- **Kim Libreri:** won an Academy Award in 2015 for Technical Achievement. Worked on many films including *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. Nominated for many other awards and has worked with the Lucasfilm companies since 2004. Kim presented prizes at our Awards Evening 2016. He is a part of the team behind the cult game *Fortnite*
- **Professor Sir John Lawton:** a British ecologist, RSPB Vice President, President (former Chair) of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, President of The Institution of Environmental Sciences, Chairman of York Museums Trust and President of the York Ornithological Club
- **Michael Douglas:** Former *One Show* hairdresser and has been in the hair industry for over 30 years. Michael previously visited our Fairtrade Fashion Show and presented prizes at Speech Night in November 2014. Michael also took part in *Celebrity Googlebox* on Channel 4. Michael has very kindly donated wonderful prizes for our Balfest raffle that helped to raise lots of money for the PTA and school
- **Tom Bidwell:** nominated for an Oscar in 2011 and a BAFTA in May 2014 and went to work in Hollywood. Writer of the Channel 4 drama *My Mad Fat Diary* and BBC1 adaptation of *Watership Down*, along with being Executive Producer of *The Irregulars* on Netflix
- **Rebecca Eastham:** actress who starred in *All the Ordinary Angels*, *Coronation Street*, *Emmerdale* and *Ted Lasso*. Rebecca visited school in January 2020 and ran a workshop for our GCSE students
- **Tisha Merry:** actress and former character on *Coronation Street*, who also starred in the BBC Drama *Brinkburn Street* and the independent film *Tamla Rose*. Tisha opened the Family Fun Day and Spring Fair in May 2017 and came along to watch our school production of *Oliver Jnr!* in July 2022
- **Trevor Mather:** CEO of Auto Trader and previously CEO of Thoughtworks Inc.
- **Marcus Bleasdale:** documentary photographer who currently works for National Geographic and Human Rights Watch
- **Jan Sargeant:** a retired education advisor and now exhibiting her paintings internationally as *Woman with Stick* and spokesperson for Parkinson's Disease
- **Adrian Lascom:** an artist who works on many projects as photographer, illustrator, art director and senior graphic designer
- **Alex Moran:** appeared in the touring version of *War Horse* and in 2017 in *The Invisible Man* which he also directed. This ran in London initially and then toured
- **Billy Gunnion:** accepted on an Acting degree at the prestigious London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. Has appeared in several programmes including *Vera*, *The Reunion* and *Saint Vassily* planned for 2024
- **Kiera Collier:** current secretary and player for the UCLan Rams American Football team, a coach for the U19s at Chorley Buccaneers and officially made it to the 75-woman roster for the Great Britain Lions
- **Sam Collier:** has been selected for the American Football U17 Great Britain squad
- **Drew Dawson:** took part in BBC TV programme *Singing for Britain: The Choir with Gareth Malone*. Drew was selected to sing "Bass" in the Hallé Youth Choir. Drew has secured a place on the Musical Theatre degree at the prestigious performing arts academy Urdang London from Autumn 2024

Personal Achievements of Some Students and Former Balshavians

- **Finley Hough:** was ranked 5th in the European BMX Championships in 2023. In 2024, Finley won the Lloyds Bank British Cycling National BMX series. In July 2025, Finley became European silver medallist and progressed to the World Championships and we await his results
- **Beth Adam:** in November 2024, Beth swam in the 100m IM, 50m Breaststroke, 100m Breaststroke and the 200m Breaststroke. Beth posted PBs in all three of her Breaststroke events, medalling in the 100m and 200m (silver in both) and also achieved Winter National Qualifying times in these events. A phenomenal achievement as one of the youngest swimmers in this age category! In July 2025, Beth finished in 8th place in the British Nationals
- **Ollie Settle:** plays for the Cheshire County Cricket team
- **Nadia Breska:** overall World gymnastics champion in her category of the IGC World Championships with 4 golds and 1 bronze medal in 2023
- **Mia Dodoo:** won 2 gold medals and 1 silver medal at a gymnastics competition in Leicester
- **Emmy Monk:** won first place in the North West Regional Competition of the Translation Prize, which is run by Queen's College, Oxford University. Previous winners of this competition have included Isabel Pearson
- **Jess Bailey:** secured a place as a member of the National Youth Theatre
- **Honor Luckhurst:** In November 2024, Honor took part in the Swim England North West Winter Regional Championships. Honor swam in the 50m Fly and 100m Fly. Not only did Honor get a personal best in the 50m Fly, she also achieved the fastest short course time in the female 15 year age category, in Britain, so far for 2024! Honor finishing 2nd overall (silver medal) and 4th in the 100m Fly again as one of the youngest swimmers competing. Honor already had Winter National times in these events
- **Will McGurty:** auditioned for and secured a place in a national TV advert
- **May McGowan:** appointed as the Police Cadet linked to the new High Sheriff of Lancashire
- **Evie Midjek-Conway:** has secured a place at LIPA (The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts) on their dance course
- **Leon Uden:** has recently been promoted to 1st Dan in Taekwondo
- **Esme Sutherland, Lily Lukacs, Lucy Varey, Stephen Bond:** took part in the North West Regional Trampolining competition: Stephen 1st place, Esme 3rd place, Lily 5th place and Lucy 7th place
- **Ava and Sophie Reynolds:** Ava plays for the U14s Preston Hockey club team and Sophie plays for the U13s team, and both girls have been selected to play for Lancashire. Sophie has also been selected to play for the North Tensworth Academy, which is part of the official pathway to the England hockey team and Sophie will represent our region in the squad
- **Year 7 & 8 girls:** competed in the District Secondary Schools' Dance Competition held at Worden Academy and came second
- **South Ribble Swim Gala:** Teams of boys and girls took part and all three teams finished in second place
- **Megan Fish:** secured a place at Steven Gerrard Academy to complete a football media course and she hopes to become a Sports Presenter
- **Harriet Brady:** took part in the World Gymnastics in Las Vegas. Harriet achieved bronze medals on the bars and beam and is placed 3rd in the world. She was placed 6th in the world for floor and 7th in the world on vault
- **We also have a number of wonderful golfers:** brothers Sam and Jack Waddington and Abi Thompson, who all excel in their chosen sport. In 2023, Sam was awarded the Sanderson Golf Trophy, a prestigious award commemorating the memory of Barry Sanderson, a beloved teacher and fellow golfer at Leyland Golf Club. In 2024, Sam came first in the National Championships at Lincoln Golf Club

You can read more on our News webpage www.balshaws.org.uk/news.

We are always seeking information about our current and former Balshavians so please let us know if you have any information that we can share.

FOOTBALL

- **Year 7 Boys:** South Ribble League (2nd place), South Ribble Cup (Winners), Lancashire Cup (Runners-up), 7-a-side – B Team (Runners-up)
- **Year 9 Boys:** League (2nd place)
- **Year 11 Boys:** South Ribble Cup (Runners-up)
- **Year 7 Girls:** Lancashire Cup (Semi-finalists), South Ribble Cup Final (Semi-finalists)
- **Year 8 Girls:** 7-a-side South Ribble (Winners)
- **Year 8/9 Girls:** South Ribble Cup (Semi-finalists)
- **Year 10/11 Girls:** South Ribble Cup (Winners), 7-a-side (South Ribble Winners)



DANCE

- **South Ribble Secondary Dance Competition:** Runners-up

BASKETBALL

- **U13 Boys:** Participation in Local League Fixtures
- **U15 Boys:** Quarter-finalists of Lancashire Schools Cup and South Ribble Tournament (Winners)

BOCCIA

- **South Ribble Secondary Boccia Competition:** Runners-up



ATHLETICS

- **U16 Team:** 2nd Place

CROSS-COUNTRY

- **Overall School Team:** Joint 5th out of 10 schools
- **Year 10/11 Girls:** DNQ
- **Year 10/11 Boys:** DNQ
- **Year 8/9 Girls:** 3rd Place
- **Year 8/9 Boys:** 3rd Place
- **Year 7 Girls:** 5th Place
- **Year 7 Boys:** 4th Place



CRICKET

- **U13 Boys:** Participation in Local Tournaments and Lancashire Cup
- **U15 Boys:** Participation in Lancashire Cup

NETBALL LEAGUE

- **Year 7:** 6th Place
- **Year 8:** 3rd Place
- **Year 9:** 2nd Place
- **Year 10:** 3rd Place
- **Year 11:** 4th Place

ROUNDERS SOUTH RIBBLE COMPETITIONS

- **Year 7:** 5th Place
- **Year 8:** 2nd Place
- **Year 9:** 2nd Place
- **Year 10:** 3rd Place

RUGBY LEAGUE

- Participation in Local Friendly Fixtures

Admission Policy

All admissions to Balshaw's are managed and administered by the Local Authority. Balshaw's staff have no control over admissions. The admissions policy is available from <https://www.gov.uk/schools-admissions>. This ensures that all applicants within the catchment area, without prejudice or additional entry criteria, have a chance to attend our wonderful school. The fact that we are consistently over-subscribed is a testament to this.

OFSTED:

"There is a strong sense of community and this helps pupils develop their confidence and character."

"After talking to fellow Runshaw students I found that Balshaw's had provided me with opportunities that other schools didn't."

"I still look back fondly to my time at Balshaw's, not only because of the amazing memories I shared with my friends, but also due to the wonderful staff who helped me through my GCSEs to get outstanding results."

(Former student)

"Balshaw's is a brilliant school and I would like to thank the school and all the members of staff who inspired me and helped me to get where I am today."

(Former student)

SIAMS Extract

Overall Judgement	How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?	Grade	Excellent
Additional Judgements	The impact of collective worship	Grade	Excellent



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