



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we arrive at the end of what has been a particularly challenging year, I am happy to be able to write to you to confirm the plans for our full school opening in September 2020. Our priority is to welcome your children back to school to resume a high quality education with a broad and balanced curriculum whilst following the Public Health guidance to ensure our school is as safe as possible for all. The contents of this letter are very important and you should read this with your children.

Firstly, students in each year group will be in a **designated area** of school for the duration of each day; they are effectively bubbled, minimising contact with students from other year groups in lessons; whilst moving around school and during breaks and lunchtimes. All children will be in the same group for each lesson in Year 7, 8 and 9 and will remain in the same classroom, other than for practical subjects such as PE, art, music and computing. Students in Years 10 and 11 will follow their usual timetable but will remain in the same designated area.

Protocols will be in place for maintaining **cleanliness and sanitisation** throughout the day: during break and lunchtimes; whilst entering school and moving around; using the toilet facilities and whilst travelling on the school buses (for those who choose that transport option.) The school bus will be running in September. At present we are working with Moving People to make the transport of pupils to and from school as safe as possible. If you accessed the school bus this year you will be given priority access. More details will follow shortly.

To support the school's strategy to minimise queues in the building and maximise time outdoors at social times, the menu available to students at lunch will be significantly reduced in choice. This will allow the serving of lunch to be a much quicker process. We will also be asking students to take their 'lunch bags' outside to eat where the weather permits. Please send your child in with a **snack for break** time because until routines are established, the canteen will not be open at break time. If you wish to send your child to school with a packed lunch, we would encourage this.

We will be welcoming students back to school in a staggered way so that every year group can be fully inducted to the new school day.

Date	Year groups attending school:
	Each year group should arrive at school by 8.20am ready for an 8.30am start
Wednesday 2 nd Sept	Year 7 only
Thursday 3 rd Sept	Year 7 & Year 11
Friday 4 th Sept	Year 7, Year 10 and Year 11
Monday 7 th Sept	Year 7, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11
Tuesday 8 th Sept	All year groups

Practical advice for parents to prepare for September:

- If possible and safe to do so, encourage your child to walk or cycle to school.
- If this is not possible, then your child must have a face mask for the journey and a plastic bag to store the mask when they arrive in school. There is no requirement to wear face masks whilst in the school building unless the guidance from Public Health changes prior to September, if so we will advise.

- Please make sure that your child arrives at school for an 8:20am entrance to the building. As the weather may not always be predictable, it is very important that your child has a warm waterproof jacket at all times.
- Please support us by **not dropping your child off at school before 8.15am**; children will not be able to enter the building until 8.20am and there will be no breakfast club facility.
- Explain the importance of remaining within the year group 'bubble' and staying within the designated zones whilst inside and outside the building.
- Students will not be brought inside the building unless there is particularly bad weather; it is important your child has a **warm, waterproof coat with them at all times**.
- Students will also need a good-sized school bag because all student lockers have been locked down to minimise movement and will not be available.
- Please make sure that your child is equipped with their iPad which must be fully charged and in good working order and a full set of essential stationary/equipment every day. Discuss with your child the importance of not sharing their equipment with others.
- Discuss the [catch it, kill it, bin it](#) approach and the [six steps to hand-washing](#) stages with your child. These are the best strategies for minimising the risk of infection.
- Notify school immediately if either your child or someone in your household is displaying symptoms of Covid-19. Follow the PHE "Stay at Home" [guidance](#) and arrange to have a test.
- If your child has any underlying health conditions, make sure you discuss your child's return to school with your doctor and advise the school of any information you feel we need to be aware of. Further support and guidance can be found [here](#).
- Please read through the updated Home School Agreement at the end of this letter with your child regarding their return to school in September.

We are also fully aware that there may well have been significant differences in the learning experiences of students during lockdown, with some children engaged in learning life skills, and others engaging in more formal learning each day. Some children may have done no formal learning at all. The key thing for all of us as we focus on returning to school, parents, students and staff, is to stay safe and focus on a full recovery. Underpinning this time of transition to a new way of working are relationships; all of us talking, listening and understanding. Often, children manage their emotions quite differently to adults, so it is important for us all to keep them talking, to try to comfort and calm, where appropriate, as well as acknowledging what children have experienced as being very real and challenging. What makes Pleckgate unique is that our success is not just our academic achievement; Pleckgate is a supportive and caring community, where everyone is committed to supporting your child. The most important thing for you and your child is to not worry but to talk to staff if they have any concerns.

As Headteacher, I believe in high expectations for every student and will never settle for anything less. Please continue to support the school by reinforcing respect for our school ethos with your child over the summer break, particularly the importance of high standards of attendance, punctuality, uniform and behaviour. Please note that all students should attend school wearing the new school uniform, including blue trousers or blue skirt with the school logo. The only exception to this is when your child has PE on their timetable, students should attend school in their PE kit and will remain in their kit all day, to avoid close contact in the PE changing rooms.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my most sincere thank you to all students, parents and staff who have supported the school this year and wish everyone a restful summer break.

Yours sincerely



Mark Cocker

Staff Leaving - Goodbyes

It is with some sadness that I say farewell to Pleckgate School. I have had a very fulfilling 22 years and have felt very honoured to work with young people's lives. I've had various occupations in my life and can honestly say teaching has been the most rewarding, but it has been the most arduous and requires younger people than an old fogey like me.

It is with regret I am leaving at this time of uncertainty for us all, but I had made my decision last September that this would be my last year, and I have commitments I need to fulfil with my family. I wish all staff and pupils a very successful future. You will hold a special place in my heart and I will be keeping an ear to the ground of news about you all.

To quote A. A. Milne in Winnie-the-Pooh

"How lucky I am to have something that saying goodbye is so hard"

And students take notice of the words of Muhammed Ali:

The world is a field
And we are born to cultivate the field
Once we learn to cultivate the field
We can produce anything.



Very best wishes
Mrs J Parry

To all the students, I have very much enjoyed getting to know you all, especially the two tutor groups I have been a part of this year; 8NH and 7KSL. I have very much enjoyed teaching all my classes and being a part of this school community. I wish you all the best for the future; keep aiming high and doing your very best and you will get to where you dream to be.

I would also like to express my thanks to all the staff at Pleckgate for making me feel so welcome within this school. I will miss the friendly faces I have met this year and would like to say a massive thank you to the science department and all who have been supporting me this year. I have had an amazing time working in this school.



Miss E Callow

After 24 years at Pleckgate I never thought that I would be saying my final farewells 'virtually' like this, and I didn't expect to end my teaching career this way, who would have thought it? The part of my job that has meant the most to me has been my role as a tutor and I must mention 7HOC in particular, again, I'm sorry to have left them this way. The time has come for me to reach for my knitting pattern and my slippers, there may be some dog walking and yoga thrown in as well.

I have loved every single day of my time here at Pleckgate and it will always be a part of me. It's been an absolute pleasure to teach a lot of you and get to know you and your families. You will have a lot of catching up to do when you get back to school in September so you'll have to work hard but it'll be so much fun to see your friends, your tutors, teachers and the support staff. I wish you all every luck in the world.



I'm going to miss you all.

Mrs O'Connor

It is with great sadness that I will be leaving Pleckgate in September after working here for just over 4 years. I would have liked to remind everyone of the fact that Liverpool are champions of England, as well as say goodbye in person, but sadly this is not possible. However, I am especially proud to have had the opportunity to work with such fantastic students and staff and want to say to everybody in 11JSN just how proud I am of them and how I know that they will continue on their paths to success! Good-bye and good luck!

Mr J Shannon

Hi everyone, my last signing in. It's been a strange time sending you work through google classroom trying to make the messages sound personal although I wouldn't be seeing you. I have really missed not seeing you all in school.

I'm sorry to be saying goodbye like this; However I am starting a new permanent job, teaching art in a high school in Carnforth. Pleckgate has been a great place to work and I've been fortunate to be in a department with a fantastic team of people.

I wish you all the best for the future and hope that many of you go on to study art at GCSE and beyond.

There's a lot of talent at Pleckgate!

Have a great Summer.

Mrs Richards

Farewell Message to Year 11 from Mr Clegg

Hello Year 11'

In the words of the Leeds United song Marching on Together, 'and we've had our times together, and we've had our ups and downs!'

The way you left was really upsetting and I am sure 2020 will go down in history not just as the year you left Pleckgate!! I have always been proud to be your Head of Year, you have always had a laugh, looked after each other and been a credit to your fantastic hardworking tutors. I hope you will always be proud to be associated with the Pleckgate Green badge and use the lessons you have learned when you are parents!!

FC Barcelona's motto is 'més que un club' (more than a club). I hope you have learned that Pleckgate is 'more than a school' and you are 'more than a pupil'. Football, cricket, netball, rounders, drama, dance, art, trips- Blackpool, bowling outdoor pursuits, City v Barca in the Champs League, overnight stays in Manchester, inter-tutor sport and charity events to name a few of the many happy memories.

As Mohammed Ali said 'friendship isn't something you learn in school, but if you haven't learned the meaning of friendship by the time you leave you really haven't learned anything'. I'd like to think that you have all learned that.

Take a little piece of Pleckgate with you throughout your life (You lot will definitely never forget Vanessa!!!!)

Thank you for your very classy, thoughtful cards, gifts and messages they meant a lot and I will treasure them forever. I hope you will come back to tell us how happy and successful you are in life!!

Remember 'you need to be yourself, you can't be no-one else!' Be a good person and never give in to the dark side!

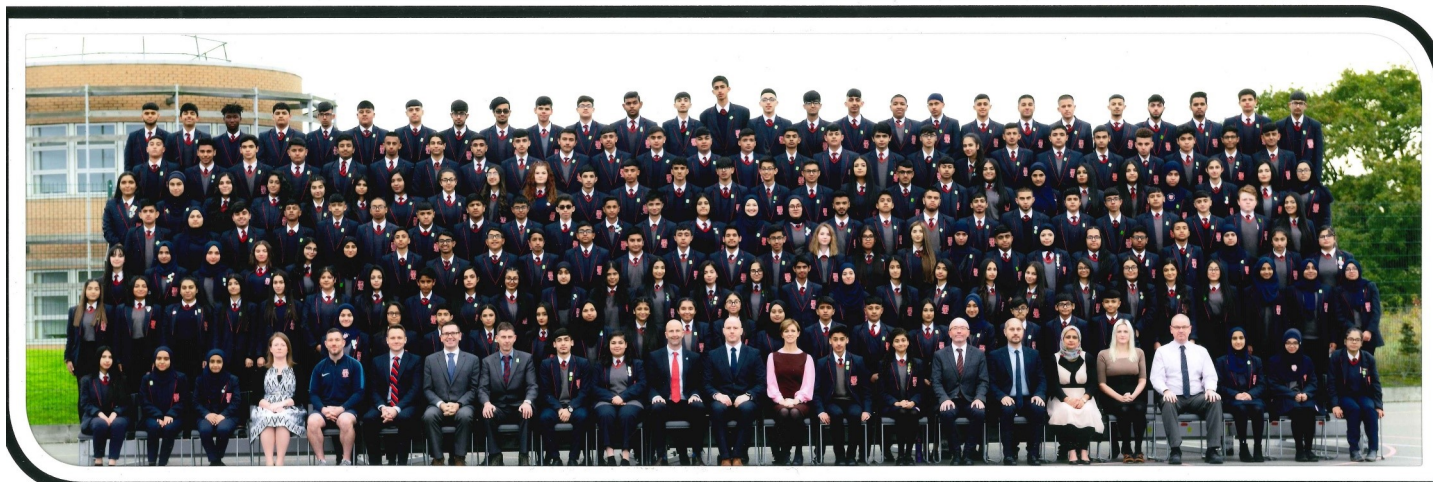
I will now hand you over to the very capable hands of ... YOURSELF!

All the best, beware of window cleaners and we will always be Marching on Together!



Mr Clegg

Mr Clegg's Year Group



As our school motto says

"Aspire and Believe, Act and Succeed"

Useful Tips & Links for Pupils & Parents

Get Stuck In

Welcome to **Get Stuck In** the home of fun activities, fine food and free places designed to keep the kids entertained in August.



Professionally run across **18 locations across Blackburn with Darwen from 3rd to 28th August**, **Get Stuck In** will offer a range of activities including multi-sports, dance, drama, arts and crafts and even a movie or two! Children and young people can reconnect with friends or make new ones in a safe environment that is designed to be lots of fun, whatever their age!

See attached flyer for the scheme.

Bookings are really simple, families will be required to log on to getstuckin.org.uk and complete the booking form.

The **ePlatform online library** can be used during the Summer holidays.

Log in here Pleckgate.eplatform.com

Username - school email address

Password - school email password



Toppsta

Check out the free reading events online this week - this page is updated every single day with a host of activities.

This week you can listen to a chapter of Harry Potter being read by a host of stars:



TOPPSTA

<https://toppsta.com/blog/view/bookish-ideas-if-you're-self-isolating-with-the-kids>

CORONAVIRUS: IMPORTANT LOCAL UPDATE

The number of cases of coronavirus in the borough remains higher than elsewhere. It is really important that we all stick to the government rules – or we could face a local lockdown.

Full update: <http://bit.ly/38QKIGT>



Summer Reading Challenge

Well done to the students who have sent a book review for the Summer Reading Challenge. This includes one from a Year 6. The challenge is for Year 6, 7 & 8.

See the newsletter or your emails for more info or email dhanson@pleckgate.com

AUTHORFY 10 MINUTE CHALLENGES

Check out [@authorfy](https://authorfy.com)

for a new 10 min challenge every day hosted by different authors!

<https://authorfy.com/10minutechallenges/>

Safeguarding

Remember you can find safeguarding information via the website or follow us on twitter for regular updates. The Pleckgate safeguarding email address can still be used by any student to share concerns. This can be done by signing in and sending an email by anyone with a Pleckgate email domain.

Request any help via safeguarding@pleckgate.com This can help to arrange to provide support, information and guidance.

"WE ARE HERE"

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SCHOOL NURSING SERVICE.....



Hello, how are you?

These are strange times that we are currently living in and we hope you are keeping well. For some of you it may be very tough and we want you to know that we are here for you.

We would usually be around your school, and would be at your School Health Drop In, but we know that right now it is not possible. So, how can you chat to us?

If you wish to speak to our school nurses about any worries you may have about your own wellbeing, our School Health Team number 01254 585000, press option 2.

Then depending on what area your school is in, press that option:-

- **Darwen (DACA/Darwen Vale/The Studio/the Brambles)**
- **Blackburn West (St Wilfred's/Witton/The Heights/St Bedes/TIGHs Boys/Blackburn College)**
- **Blackburn North(St Thomas Centre/ TIGHs Girls/Pleckgate/Islamiyah/ QEGS/St Marys College/Jamiatul Wal Huda)**
- **East Team (Blackburn Central/OL&SJ/Markazul Uloom)**

If you don't know which team to choose, select any one, and we will get you to the right place.

If you are not sure if we can help you, then get in touch with us anyway on the number above. We can always help you to find the right support. **You are not alone and we are here.**

There is also a list of support services below which you may find helpful during this time, depending on what your worry is.

Please see information at the end of this newsletter for more information, take good care of yourselves, your school health team.

NEW video link "School Nurse Drop In"

The school Health Team are launching a **NEW video link "School Nurse Drop In"** service for young people to access over the summer holiday period.

Please see **attached a letter with more information** regarding this, **a poster for promotion to young people** and a **user guide for young people to support the use of Attend Anywhere platform**.

Stay connected and follow us on Twitter

<https://twitter.com/PleckgateHigh>

**Children and Young People's Wellbeing Network
Blackburn North Team**

Little Harwood Children's Centre
Robinson St
Blackburn
BB1 5PE
Tel: 01254 585000

Email: CFHS@lancashirecare.nhs.uk

DATE: 15/07/2020

I am writing to inform you of an offer from the School Nurses in BWD Children and Young People's Wellbeing Network, of a virtual health drop-in for all young people in high schools which will run over the school holidays.

Your pupils would access us using a system called 'Attend Anywhere' a virtual platform which they can access every Wednesday between 11.30-13.30 every week.

Once they have followed the simple instructions to access and are waiting in the virtual waiting room, we are able to see their name and invite them into a consultation.

It is worth sharing with all those who could potentially make use of our offer that:

- Any other young person accessing the waiting room at the same time cannot see them.
- The consultation is confidential between the nurse and the young person.
- They have an option of putting their face on screen or not, and we do not mind either way.

We would love you to promote this offer to pupils and their families in whatever means you have available to you and invite you to ring or email if you have any questions in regards to the service. We have attached a poster and guide to accessing the platform for you to share electronically.

Yours sincerely

Jayne Worden

Team Leader

Attending school nurse drop in through video link with LSCFT School Nursing Team

Video calling is as convenient as a phone call, with the added value of face-to-face communication.

Where do I go to attend the school nurse drop in?

Go to: <https://nhs.vc/lscft-health-visiting-school-nursing>

The video call is free (except for internet usage) and you will need a good internet connection

A private, well lit area is recommended where you can't be disturbed during the consultation.

Video calls are secure; your privacy is protected.

You will need google chrome or safari to access the service

Smartphone and tablet users
If you can, connect to a home Wi-Fi network to avoid using your mobile data

On this web page, click the Start video call button and follow

Instructions. Use your first name in the forename box and in the surname box write "drop in".

**Wait in your
own
private video
room**

Your healthcare provider sees you arrive in the waiting area queue...
..and joins you in your video room when they are ready

Your School Nursing Service

Your school Nursing Service can work both in and out of school to help provide or find you support.

*Someone you know and
can trust*

Immunisations

Emotional Health

Keeping Healthy

Smoking



Weight Management

Sexual Health

Drugs and Alcohol

We can also help make sure that young people with disabilities, long term illness, or other needs can receive extra support when they need it. If we can't provide the help ourselves, we can connect you with someone who can.

Confidential

We provide a confidential service. This means that we cannot discuss your personal information with anyone else without your permission. This includes parents and teachers. We would only pass on information if we felt there was a need to protect you or someone else from serious harm. When ever possible we would discuss this with you first.

Qualified

School Nurses or Specialist Community Public Health Nurses are qualified nurses with specific graduate level educations , and work with a team to support you.

Non-Judgemental

We are here to help in a non judgemental way.

We are offering online drop in
every Wednesday

Between 11.30 am –1.30pm

To access our service on

Attend Anywhere click on this link

<https://nhs.uk/lscft-health-visiting-school-nursing>

follow the online instructions and

instead of putting your surname write

Drop In. Then a member of the school staff will invite you into a consultation.

You will need Google Chrome or Safari to access.

GET stuck IN

SUMMER FUN

3rd - 28th August

**KIDS CLUB
4-12yrs**

Limited **FREE**
places available

About Us

Delivered by youth providers from across Blackburn with Darwen offering:

- 4 weeks of fun activities, 4 days per week
- Available 10am til 2pm
- Choose from 18 locations
- Lunch, snacks and refreshments
- All delivered by fully trained staff



football



crafts

Activities includes:

- Multi-sports
- Musical theatre and dance
- Arts and crafts
- Movie time
- Drama and music
- Board game madness
- Splash bubble and pop!

Plus much much more!!

Visit **www.getstuckin.org.uk**
to book your **FREE** place



sports



dance



friends

GET stuck IN

SUMMER FUN

3rd - 28th August

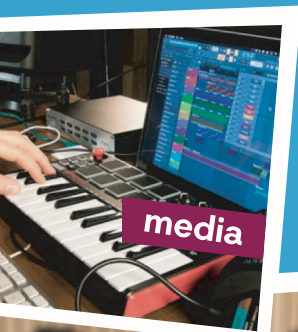
**YOUTH CLUB
13-16 yrs**

Limited **FREE**
places available

About Us

Delivered by youth providers from across Blackburn with Darwen offering:

- 4 weeks of fun activities, 4 days per week
- Available 10am til 2pm
- Choose from 18 locations
- Lunch, snacks and refreshments
- All delivered by fully trained staff



media



filming

Activities includes:

- Multi-sports
- Street dance
- Media and music
- Film making
- DJ mixing
- Nerf wars
- Ninja Warriors

Plus much much more!!

Visit **www.getstuckin.org.uk**
to book your **FREE** place



sports



dance



music

GET stuck IN

DELIVERY PARTNERS

Experienced
Youth Providers
Qualified staff
DBS cleared



**SPRING
NORTH**

Spring North
Consortium



**BLACKBURN
with
DARWEN**
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Blackburn with Darwen
Borough Council

**BLACKBURN
YOUTH ZONE**

Blackburn Youth
Zone



Blackburn Rovers
Community Trust

**newground
together**

Newground
Together

**YOUTH
ACTION. ya**

Youth Action



inspire | motivate | overcome
It's my opportunity

IMO

For further information



@springnorthHQ

www.getstuckin.org.uk

07592 154912

Charity reg: 1150126

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