

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS & EDUCATION**COUNCILLOR TONY HUMPHRYS****PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR: LISA BIBBY****DATE: 31 January 2013****ST SILAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The new school was officially opened by Jack Straw on 30 November 2012 and has subsequently been subject to an article and cover photo in the nationally recognised "Architects Journal" magazine and also featured in an international architectural magazine. The school has been named as a regional finalist for the Civic Trust Awards.

EXAM RESULTS

The Department for Education (DfE) has published final data for Key Stage 2 Tests and Teacher Assessments and GCSE results which confirmed the provisional data.

In Key Stage 2 the percentage of children achieving English and Maths level 4 or better is up 6% in BwD to 78% (4% nationally to 80%), with only one school falling below the national floor standard of 60%.

GCSE results show no improvement in BwD or across the country as a whole. Locally the percentage of young people achieving 5 GCSEs A*-C remained at 57% (nationally 58%). None of the schools fell below the floor standard of 40%.

Taken together the results from these key measures reflect the continuing strength of our local primary and secondary schools.

APPRENTICESHIP JOBS FAIR, KING GEORGE'S HALL, TUESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2013 (1pm - 7 pm)

For the second year, the Local Authority, Via Partnership and training providers are bringing together a range of employers with live vacancies to offer to young people interested in starting an Apprenticeship in 2013. The audience is those young people who are NEET aged 16-18, and those in schools and colleges who are in years 11, 12 and 13 and looking for an apprenticeship on completion of their courses in summer 2013.

The high response from visiting young people helped to shape the apprenticeships offered by the council in the summer of 2012.

YEAR 9 CAREERS EVENT 2013

The Today, Tomorrow and Beyond event will take place once again on 15/16 January 2013 at King George's Hall Blackburn. Year 9 pupils (age 13/14) from Blackburn with Darwen schools have all been invited and will be transported to the venue for a one hour session to find out more about future careers to help them choose their GCSEs and other studies. There is a twilight session on 15 January between 4-7pm which parents/carers are invited to attend.

NEW JOBS WEBSITE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

www.16-19jobs.co.uk provides up to date information about opportunities in Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire specifically for 16-19 year olds. The website is managed by the Via Partnership who work with employers and relevant organisations locally and nationally to source opportunities. A live web chat facility is provided by trained careers advisers to provide advice and guidance to young people and signpost to other services. This is offered between the hours of 10am until 10pm, 365 days a year.

APPRENTICESHIP STARTS – 2012/13 END OF YEAR

From August 2011 to July 2012, 493 young people aged 16-18 from Blackburn with Darwen started an apprenticeship, an increase of 26% on the previous year, and over two years this has risen from 309 - a 59.5% increase. This compares favourably with the region, where apprenticeship starts for this age group over the last year have gone down by 12.3% and nationally, where there is a reduction of 1.5%.

EVERY CHILD A READER (ECaR)

The success of the ECaR programme continues to impact positively on primary children's attainment in the borough. In the last academic year more than four in every five children (82%) who completed Reading Recovery, an early intervention for children who have made little progress in reading and writing, were lifted to age-appropriate levels in just under 18 weeks. The improvements in KS1 results provide evidence of the impact on standards.

There was further success for Blackburn with Darwen when the Christmas card sent out nationally from the Institute of Education, the European Centre for the administration of Reading Recovery/ECaR, was designed by a pupil at Intack Primary School.

OBE AWARD

Margaret Nowell, Headteacher at St Thomas's Centre PRU, has received an OBE Award in the New Year Honours List. This is a well deserved recognition of Margaret's contribution to Education and Learning during many years' service.

MUSIC SERVICE CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

Children for Children Carol Service – this again took place at Blackburn Cathedral over 2 days and included performances from primary school choirs together with the Music Service Primary Choir. The Borough Choir also performed at the Mayors Charity Carol Service held at King George's Hall. This event also featured our Advanced Windband.

Music Service Christmas Concert - The Big Band played at this event, held at Westholme Theatre, which also included the Steel Band and an orchestra made up of young players, performing for the first time, who were invited to represent their schools.