

## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS & EDUCATION

COUNCILLOR DAVE HARLING

PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING

DIRECTOR: LINDA CLEGG

DATE: 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018

### SCHOOL INSPECTIONS UPDATE

Four schools have retained their 'good' judgement following recent Ofsted short inspections. For St. Bede's Roman Catholic High School, Ofsted praised the school for making considerable changes to subject leadership in key areas. Inspectors commented that subject leaders *"relish taking on new ideas and responsibilities and play an important role in securing improvements in the quality of teaching and in the rates of pupils' progress in those subjects which underperformed in the past."*

Daisyfield Primary School was commended for having taken effective action to address areas for development since their last inspection. These actions have included enhancing the quality of teaching and improving the proportion of pupils making expected and more than expected progress in writing and mathematics in key stage 1.

Shadsworth Junior School was praised by the inspector for having "demonstrated strong practice and marked improvement" since the last inspection. The school is working towards achieving an 'outstanding' judgement.

The Inspector at Lower Darwen Primary School highlighted the positive feedback from parents, with one parent commenting that "this is an amazing school run by a very dedicated and talented Headteacher."

All four reports can be viewed on the Ofsted website: [www.gov.uk/find-ofsted-inspection-report](http://www.gov.uk/find-ofsted-inspection-report).

### SECONDARY SCHOOLS ADMISSIONS

On the 1st March, parents and carers of 2172 children applying for Blackburn with Darwen schools found out which secondary school their child will be attending in September as Year 7 pupils. Over 91% of children received an offer of a place at one of their three preferred schools with 76.1% being offered their first preference.

The Place Planning and Admissions Team continue to support the drive for online services with 90% of secondary applications being made online, up from 88% in 2017. The greater use of online applications has led to a saving for this year of approximately £6,300 in staff time and cost of materials. The national offer date for primary schools is 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

### ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACE) PATHFINDER

Work has continued with St. Cuthbert's Primary School on the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Pathfinder programme. Since their 'outstanding' Ofsted judgement in April 2017, the school has continued to build on the training received to develop and embed good practice within school. Learning from the pathfinder has been developed into a programme to use with a wider group of primary schools, and 23 schools have committed to participate. Detailed programme planning and phasing is underway.

The principles underlying the ACE pathfinder are that pupils with adverse histories can thrive in an ACE informed school environment. Building resilience of pupils through the curriculum and the implementation of new systems is a long-term focus of the programme with a move

towards understanding the message that a child's behaviour is trying to convey rather than to punish.

## **NEWFIELD SCHOOL NEW AUTISM FACILITY**

The local authority capital programme has paved the way for a new build and extensive landscaping for Newfield School on the former Crosshill School site. A brand new single storey Autism specialist facility for teaching will feature a sensory space, multi-use areas, hall and kitchen facilities, which will be linked through a corridor back into the existing Newfield school.

The anticipated completion date for the work is 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018 with the school being furnished and commissioned ready for use from September 2018 following the £5.6m investment.