

## SCHOOL AND DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

Balshaw's enjoys the privilege of being one of the most successful schools in the county and the most over-subscribed school in South Ribble. We believe that this is deservedly so.

As a school rooted firmly in the Christian ethos, each student in our care matters deeply to us. However, as an authority controlled school we do not operate any entry criteria and the school is available to students of all abilities, interests and aptitudes. Nevertheless, in following the school motto: (*non sibi sed aliis*) 'not for self, but for others' we aim to create students whose actions reflect the love of Christ as we develop them into full and well-rounded young adults ready to make valuable contributions to our society.

Balshaw's has a proud 235 year history of academic excellence for students. The school adds significant value to its students from their starting points in Year 7 to the time when they leave in Year 11. Many will go on to study at Runshaw College which was originally the Sixth Form of Balshaw's and others will take up apprenticeships or employment.

However, the results speak for themselves. What is equally important to us is the richness of opportunity available to students at Balshaw's. Set in 21 acres of beautiful land, Balshaw's staff provide extra-curricular opportunities that other schools could only hope for. The huge range of clubs and activities have taken many of our students on to careers in sport and media with a number of well-known alumni.

Those who come to work at Balshaw's will have fantastic opportunity to progress their careers and gain a wealth of experience. When you hear the phrase 'Once a Balshavian, always a Balshavian' you will realise it to be a truth. The school is only on its 14<sup>th</sup> headteacher in its 235 year history!

Balshaw's is more than a school – it is a family. This post offers you the opportunity to become part of the Balshaw's family where you will be able to make a difference to the lives of the young people who are our future.

### OFSTED – September 2013

- 'This is an outstanding school'
- 'Students make outstanding progress from their starting points.'
- 'Students say how safe they feel and are particularly appreciative of the exceptionally personal support which the school gives them'
- 'Students feel very safe and talk freely about the sense of community the school engenders'
- 'Much of the teaching is outstanding and across the school it is consistently good'
- 'Students, parents and staff are fulsome in their praise of the school'

## TECHNOLOGY FACULTY

Technology is the highest performing department within the school. Food Technology had the highest value added figure in the school in 2017 and Graphic Products the second highest value added figure. We value the disciplines within the subject area and therefore insist that all students take a GCSE in Design and Technology or Food and Nutrition.

The main strength of the Design and Technology department is the experienced and hardworking staff. They have developed an excellent working relationship with students who are well motivated and keen to succeed. Staff and students at Balshaw's work within a well-resourced and up to date Design and Technology department where the students are able to flourish and meet the challenge of our rapidly changing technological society.

#### Accommodation

The Department encompasses one specialist Food room, a Graphics studio, a Textiles studio and a Resistant Materials workshop.

There is a materials preparation area and central store room alongside a Technology office.

#### Resources

The Department has a wide range of resources available to teachers and all Technology rooms have six networked PC's and ceiling mounted projectors, a teacher's desktop visualiser and interactive whiteboard. There are two laser cutters within the Department. A purpose built ICT suite connected to the Design and Technology block is available for Design and Technology whole class ICT lessons. This enhances the delivery of CAD/CAM, computer control and design folder presentation both at KS3 and KS4.

#### Technology Provision

All Technology is taught in mixed ability groups of between 18 and 24 students. We are committed to building the best possible relationships between staff and students and so operate a carousel system in the Technology Department, all teachers teaching their own specialisms.

##### *Year 7*

In Year 7 students are taught 3 hours over a two week timetable, spending equal time in Food, Textiles, Graphic Products and Resistant Materials.

##### *Year 8*

In Year 8 students are taught 4 hours over a two week timetable, spending equal time in Food, Textiles, Graphic Products and Resistant Materials.

##### *Year 9*

In Year 9 students are taught 4 hours over a two week timetable, spending equal time in Food, Textiles, Graphic Products and Resistant Materials.

##### *Year 10*

We currently offer GCSE Food, Nutrition and Preparation, Graphic Products, Resistant Materials and Textiles (5 hours per fortnight over two years). All Year 10 pupils take a Design and Technology GCSE.

##### *Year 11*

As Year 10 with a legacy Electronics group.

#### Public Examinations

##### *Year 10/11*

AQA GCSE Food, Nutrition and Preparation

AQA Design and Technology: Graphic Products

AQA Design and Technology: Resistant Materials

AQA Design and Technology: Textiles