

Welcome to The Heights



Alternative education for secondary and primary aged pupils, helping children and young people to reach their full potential.




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Welcome

The Heights provides alternative education for young people at risk of not reaching their potential and who would benefit from a more vocational curriculum. We are based on a state of the art, purpose built campus in Blackburn with Darwen.

Working in close partnership with schools, local authorities and external agencies, we deliver highly personalised learning programmes on a full-time, part-time or bespoke basis for pupils from Key Stage 2 – 4.

The Heights offers first class facilities, highly qualified specialist instructors and teachers, an on-site counsellor, and a wide range of courses for primary and secondary age children.

Our positive learning environment is designed to develop academic achievement, vocational skills and personal and social development on their way to employment, education and training.

With a strong focus on qualifications and personalised learning, our young people engage, enjoy and achieve.



Our mission

To engage young people with exciting and enjoyable ways to learn; providing personalised programmes and support to achieve their highest potential in education and future success in training and work.



Curriculum

The Heights delivers a wide range of highly personalised learning programmes, with courses designed to develop academic achievement, vocational skills and personal and social development en route to employment, education and training.

In addition to studying GCSEs in Maths, English and Science, our specialist and state of the art facilities allow our students to develop a range of vocational skills, including:

- ▶ **Construction**
- ▶ **Hair & Beauty**
- ▶ **Creative Arts**
- ▶ **Sport & Outdoor Education**

The Heights **Nurture Provision** also caters for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 2 students, offering a short term focused intervention strategy which addresses barriers to learning. The provision has the benefit of small class sizes, enabling intense input from the staff, and provides a safe and structured environment in which students are given opportunities to develop emotionally and socially. Within the provision we encourage the development of positive attitudes, social skills and raise self-esteem.



“I really enjoy coming to The Heights. Staff always help and support me so that I can do my best in lessons. I’ve learnt much more here than at my previous school.”

A pupil



“The Heights has given me a second chance. Teachers listen to me and there is always someone available to talk to.”

A pupil



Pastoral Care

▶ Behaviour

The school uses the EPraise System to monitor and track all pupils' behaviour in class throughout the school day. EPraise enables the school to develop a positive classroom culture by allowing pupils to develop in areas in which they struggle, and gives staff an overview of where pupils might need support.

▶ Uniform

The Heights expects that students attend in full uniform with no exceptions, unless being advised differently by staff such in cases as students attending outdoor education.

▶ The Heights Respect Charter

We expect all students to respect the school charter. The full charter can be found on the school website, with principles including:

- Respect Yourself
- Respect Others
- Respect Learning
- Respect the Environment

▶ Safeguarding

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued.

▶ Supporting Pupils

Our referral system identifies difficulties and needs before admission. Pastoral staff produce a Pupil Passport for each pupil so that staff are aware of developmental and social issues which may impact upon a young person's education. This Pupil Passport will allow staff to ensure the child is supported within their learning environment, and can also be supported through the pastoral team.

▶ Working with external services

We promote working with external agencies such as Social Care, Youth Offending, Mental Health teams, the NHS and Police to ensure pupils can access services of support during the school day.

▶ Stonewall

The Heights is proud to be a Stonewall School Champion, committed to making school a place where all pupils, parents and staff - including lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans people and those questioning - are accepted without exception.

▶ School Nurse

Our school nurse attends on a fortnightly basis for half a day and students will be advised when she is attending school so that they can speak about any issue in which they might need advice or support, including emotional and physical well being and sexual health. Students are welcome to either book an appointment or attend via a drop-in service which takes place during the school day.

▶ Counselling

Here at The Heights, we are committed to ensuring students can receive counselling and support from a professional counsellor, to help with any issue they may be facing. Our school ethos is to support students both academically and emotionally and can provide counselling appointments during the school day, no matter what the issue may be.

▶ Careers Advice

The Heights offers one-to-one tuition to assist pupils when completing application forms to colleges, Training Providers and Apprenticeships. The school is also committed to following up application forms with these organisations to chase up interviews. We also offer extra support by attending the interview with them if needed. Prior to the interview we will carry out interview techniques and assist to compose a CV so that the student feels prepared and confident.

We regularly invite colleges to deliver presentations about the provision they can offer, and all pupils attend careers events organised by Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council.

▶ Work Experience

Pupils can also access work experience, which is available to them every Friday morning for a period of 10 weeks up to the whole of Year 11.



Outcomes

The Heights is committed to ensuring positive outcomes for all our students.

“Our pupil has thrived whilst being in the Nurture group at The Heights. His attitude and behaviour both in school and at home has improved significantly, Nurture have gone above and beyond and I can’t thank them enough for all their hard work and commitment.” Mainstream Primary School Teacher

“We are starting to see a difference in our pupil’s behaviour and attitude within school. Anger management sessions at The Heights have made a good impact on his behaviour.”

Mainstream School Teacher

“I am pleased to see him attending the Heights I now feel supported, I speak to his teacher on a regular basis and feel positive about his future.” Mainstream High School Teacher

“I’ve been at The Heights for a year and it has changed my life, giving me lots of new opportunities”

Year 11 Pupil

“I cannot thank you enough, I feel his time away from mainstream school has given him the opportunity to reflect on his behaviour. He is also more confident within himself which is lovely to see”

Mainstream High School Teacher

“The culture and ethos of the school encourages a caring and supportive environment in which learning and good behaviour can flourish.” Ofsted

“I have seen a great improvement in his attitude and behaviour. I know he will continue to face difficulties in school but his time at the Heights has helped him so much, the relationship he made with the staff was excellent.”

Mainstream High School Teacher

“Teachers know the students well. The good relationships they forge ensure students behave well and are ready to learn and develop confidence in their own abilities.”

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“My son has been attending The Heights for 4 months. He has come on tremendously, already. His confidence in himself and his abilities have grown with each week he attends. The staff are friendly and supportive. As a parent I find them very informative and quick to answer any queries. The school is very well resourced and benefits from the smaller class sizes. His independence skills have improved especially with the work placement opportunity he has been given. I have every confidence that when my son leaves The Heights next year he will be very well equipped to achieve the future success he deserves. I am certain the decision to transfer him to The Heights was the right one”.

Parent of Year 11 Pupil

“Staff are very approachable and always there when I need them”.

Mainstream High School Teacher

“Our pupil really enjoyed the new experience and I found that the teachers really helped him to adjust to the different environment. Thank you very much for your support!”

Mainstream High School Teacher

To find out more about The Heights,
please get in touch. Our team would
be delighted to discuss your needs,
or to arrange a tour of our campus.



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