



# Sharples

## SCHOOL

### Newsletter

Issue 545  
6th February 2026

#### Battle of the Bands - The Round House



On Tuesday night, two of our bands took part in this year's Battle of the Bands. Five Blind Chickens and Stave & Close (pictured) took to the stage to compete against older, more experienced bands from the local 6th forms and music service. The bands performed extremely well on the night despite their nerves after seeing the standard of the competition. The feedback received for both bands was extremely complimentary of their sets and provided some valuable feedback to help them to improve. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening of live music supported by many proud members of staff, pupils and parents. Well done to both bands, we look forward to seeing you perform again in the future.



Sharples School, Hill Cot House, Hill Cot Rd. Bolton, BL1 8SN

Tel: 01204 333253

Fax: 01204 333250

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#### Interact Club Welcomes Rotary Members



It was a pleasure to welcome members of the Rotary to our Interact meeting on Tuesday as pictured above. The guests were introduced to our club members and learned about the events and initiatives we have been involved in throughout the year. They enjoyed a tour of our forest and garden, and had the opportunity to speak with students about the upcoming Environmental Day!

#### January Scientist of the Month

Massive congratulations to the 4 winners of last month's Scientists of the Month.

Year 7 - Ethan P - Working really hard to remember the 8 energy stores.

Year 8 - Rayan Z - Excellent work every lesson. Always tries his best and always has something interesting to contribute.

Year 9 - Khadija M - Fantastic preparation for end of KS3 assessment.

Year 10 - Bailey G - Always engaged and takes part in answering every lesson..

Nominees - Olly McP, Mattia P, Oscar H, Aysenur D, Ayman M, Adam M, Faiz P, Viresh F, Lya M, Bryan B, Fajar AA, Praise KO, Qayyim H, Jennah B, Aine H, Fatima M, Mariyah P, Charley M, Afreen P, Fatimah D, Aisha H, Eunice C, Elise K, Fatima I, Sarim C, Fatima AT, Hayden R, Elliott G, Ho Kwan C.

Well done for all your hard work and efforts!



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#### Operation Cyberbeat



Members of the Sharples Orchestra took part in 'Operation Cyberbeat' - a musical workshop and concert provided by the British Army and Bolton Music Service. Pupils had the opportunity to conduct a brass band, compose a fanfare, learn to march and salute as well as learn about a typical day in the life of a musician in the British Army. Pupils couldn't help but to get up and dance as the Army Engagement Ensemble performed popular hits on the Albert Hall stage. Members of the Sharples Orchestra also made it up onto the stage during the concert to take part in the challenges beating a local rival school.





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#### Mathematician of the Month



Every month a student is nominated from each of the maths classes for Mathematician of the Month. These students are nominated based on their hard work, enthusiasm and efforts within the lesson.

Well done to January's nominees for fantastic work in maths lessons!

#### Year 7

Kamaluddin  
B-R  
Aadil I  
Aysenur D  
Ayaan M P  
Alfie A  
Michael B  
Kayla O  
Harry D  
Charlotte M

#### Year 8

Aasiya A  
Sameeha K  
Lucy H  
Maha Z A  
Jannat F  
Miles H-T  
Lyla B  
Holly D  
Bradley P

#### Year 9

Hadiya Q  
Bilal H P  
Seb W  
Aisha H  
Aasia A  
Tiah O-N  
Lucas S  
Archie W  
Zuha S  
Phoebe G-L

#### Year 10

Fatima B  
Lillie B  
Paige D  
Hannah W  
Aiysha F  
Hooriya S  
Hazra K  
Alexia H  
Amaara M  
Ibrahim A

#### Year 11

Andrew M  
Mfonso N  
Michell A-S  
Abdullateef A  
Farhan F  
Zak S  
Peter F  
Zahra S  
Amila A  
Lucas D



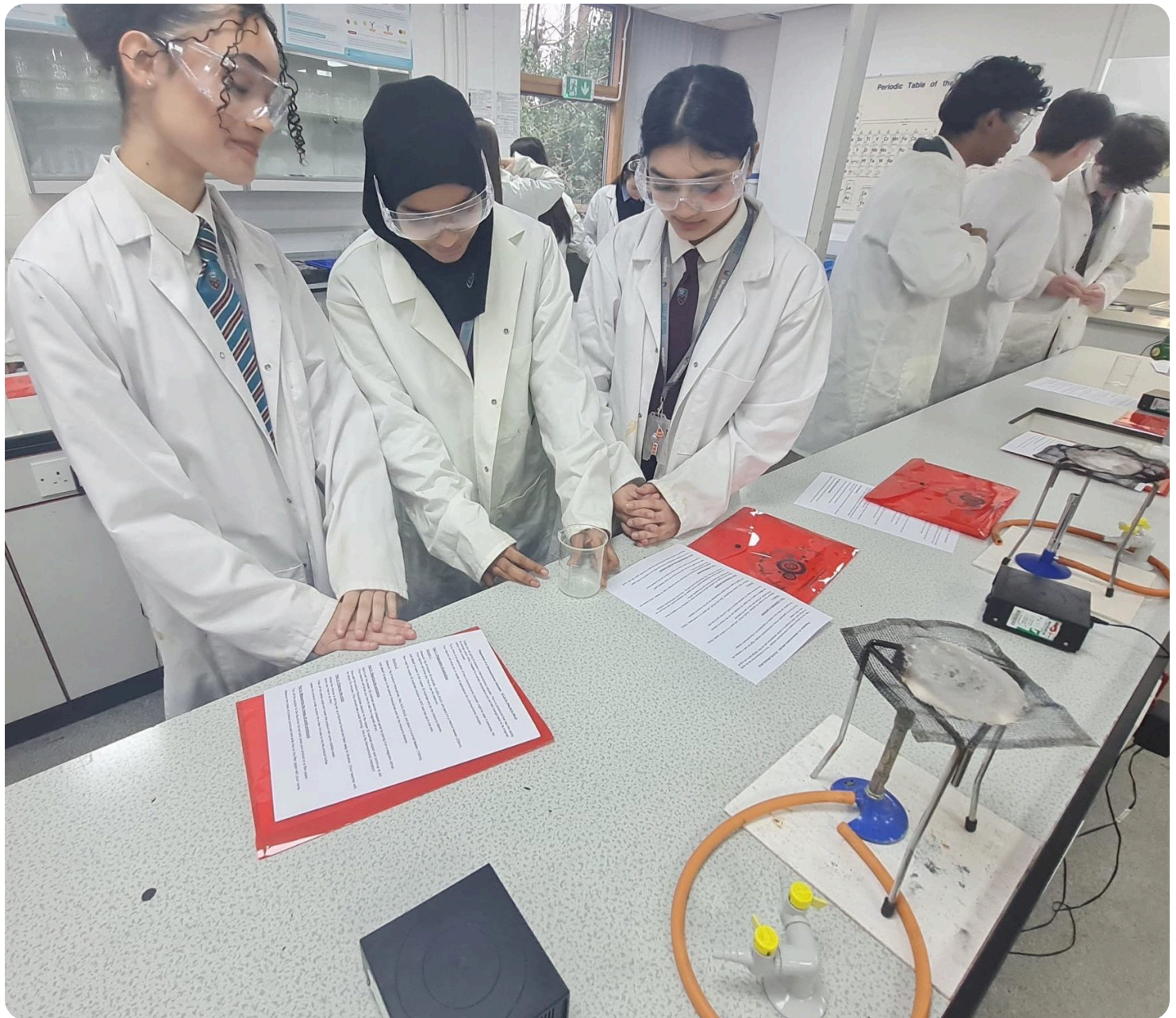


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#### Science Stars Shine at Runshaw College!



On Tuesday, February 3rd, six of our talented young scientists visited Runshaw College for a day of high-energy discovery. Our students got a real taste of college life while diving into advanced challenges across Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.

We are incredibly proud to report that our team didn't just participate—they excelled, winning several challenges throughout the day! It was a fantastic opportunity for them to apply their skills and showcase the scientific talent we have here at school.

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#### English Department's Stars of the Week

##### Work of the Week

Year 7

Joey G for a wonderful letter. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 8

Ayaan V always listens attentively, does his best, and consistently presents his work with care and pride. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 9

Misba J for their fantastic independent poetry analytical paragraph! [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 10

Lauren A for her detailed poetry annotations and taking pride in her work. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 11

Khadijah V for their excellent narrative. [Click here to view the work.](#)

##### Readers of the Week

Year 7

Martha B for always reading clearly and confidently and for performing her anthem in front of the whole class.

Year 8

Mohamedsadik AA always volunteers to read in class and proves to his peers that reading is something to enjoy.

Year 9

Rhys W for his inference skills when reading the opening of A View from the Bridge.

Year 10

Hannah W for reading with precision and confidence.

Year 11

Humaira V for always contributing excellent answers and having a positive attitude to English!





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#### Book of Honour - Cross Country and Football



Five students (pictured above) were asked to sign the book of honour this week after their achievements in sport. Stevie featured in the newsletter last week after representing North Wales at football and he continues to represent Blackburn Rovers outside of school. Scarlett R, Joe G, Charlie S and Charley M all qualified to represent the Town when they finished in the top 20 in Bolton last November. At the weekend they then represented Bolton in the GM Championships. All students gave a fantastic account of themselves and the school were thanked for their efforts on the day.





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#### Sharples Student's Kickboxing Success



Year 8 student, Riley F (pictured above), competed in The Revolution Tournament in Leeds last weekend. He was placed in the 13 to 16 year old under 44kg light continuous kickboxing division. At the end of the competition, he finished in 3rd place. Congratulations Riley and good luck for your next competition.

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#### Carabao Cup Semi-Final!



On Wednesday evening, a group of Year 10 students (pictured) travelled to the Etihad Stadium to watch the second leg of the Carabao Cup semi-final between Manchester City and Newcastle United. It proved to be a dominant performance from City, who secured a 3–1 victory on the night and a convincing 5–1 win on aggregate.

The atmosphere was brilliant, and it was fantastic to see so many players delivering top-level performances!





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#### Under 13s Basketball



Our U13 basketball team (pictured) was in action at Smithills this week.

Their first game was against Thornleigh with Sharples being dominant throughout. We eased to victory with an 8-0 win.

Next up was Smithills and this was an extremely tight game that ended in a low scoring draw.

The most difficult contest was against Canon Slade and despite competing throughout Sharples finished with a loss.

It was fantastic to see all the players in the team score a basket - well done!





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#### Dates for your Diary

Year 11 PPEs ongoing

Monday 9th to Friday 13th February: Year 10 work experience week

Wednesday 11th February: Year 9 Progress Evening (16:00 – 19:00)

Thursday 12th and Friday 13th February: Year 9 Trip to London West End

Friday 13th February: Diversity Day 2026

Monday 16th to Friday 20th February: Half Term

#### Attendance Information

Reporting an absence:

If your child is too ill to attend school, please contact the school before 9.30am with full details of your child's illness/symptoms. The attendance email is the easiest way to contact school as the phone line can get very busy.

The school attendance email is: [attendance@sharplesschool.co.uk](mailto:attendance@sharplesschool.co.uk)

If we are unable to make contact and you do not provide a reason for your child's absence, this absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

#### Attendance Data

Year Groups attendance this week:

7 = 93.70%  
8 = 95.59%  
9 = 93.47%  
10 = 94.72%  
11 = 94.33%

Best forms this week:

7Shar3 = 99.03%  
8Ples3 = 99.08%  
9Ples2 = 97.01%  
10Ples1 = 98.86%  
11Ples4 = 100%

241 pupils have achieved 100% this academic year

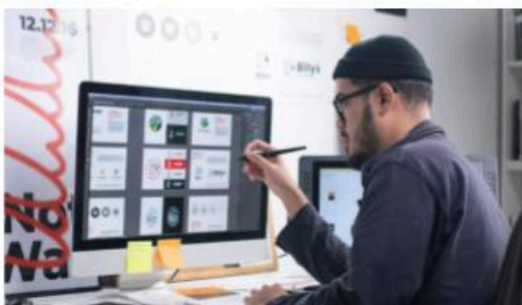
#### Career of the Week: Graphic Designer

Graphic designers create printed and digital materials for magazines, packaging, branding, websites and social media.

Average Salary: £

Typical hours: 37 to 40 (per week)

You could work: evenings occasionally



Information sourced from: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/graphic-designer>

#### Qualifications:

- You could take a foundation degree, higher national diploma or degree in graphic design, art and design or illustration.
- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C), or equivalent, for a level 3 college course.
- 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C), or equivalent, including English and maths, for an advanced apprenticeship

#### Skills required:

- Design skills and knowledge.
- To be thorough and pay attention to detail.
- Knowledge of media production and communication.
- Knowledge of English language.
- The ability to come up with new ways of doing things..
- Thinking and reasoning skills.

#### Relevant Subjects:

- English, Art and Graphics.



Careers & Enterprise  
at Sharples School

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#### PE Lunch Time Clubs - This Half Term

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Y7 Football (Big Astro) - AHM	Y8 Football (Big Astro) - PGR	Y7 Football (Big Astro) - AHM	Y8 Football (Big Astro) - AHM	Y9 Football (Big Astro) - AHM
Y11 Football (Small astro) JBA	Y10 Football (Small astro) JBA	Y11 Football (Small astro) JBA	Y11 Football (Small astro) JBA	Y11 Football (Small Astro) - JBA
Netball Yr 7/8 (SH) - LAL	KS3 Dodgeball (SH) - LAL/AHM	Just Dance- all years (SH) - LAL/PGR	Basketball (SH) - LAL	Y7 Girls Football (SH) - LAL
	Sports studies catch up/KS3 hmwk- AHM			



#### PE After School Clubs - This Half Term

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Y7 Football practice	Y8 Football practice	Y9 Progress Evening	KS4 Fitness Suite- SHAR	PE detentions
KS3 boys Swimming Club	KS4 Fitness Suite- SHAR		Girls Football	
Netball - all years	Running Club- all years		Y9/10 Football practice	
	Racquets- all years			

Week beginning 9th Feb

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# ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> FEB



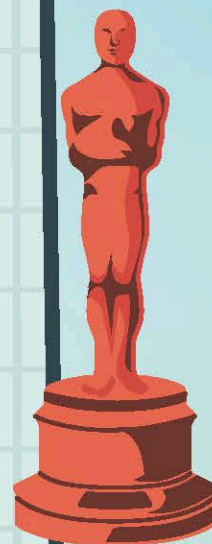
## YEAR 10 LITERATURE SOCIETY: FILM AND LITERATURE COMING UP

After half term, it's Year 10's chance to get involved in this year's Literature Society.

The theme for their year group is (as the headline suggests) Film and Literature.

This is an exciting opportunity for Year 10 students to bolster their applications for when they finish school, to be creative outside of the school curriculum that they can be proud of (and add to your purple folders).

The **deadline** is **Monday 23rd March** with **presentations** at lunchtime on **Wednesday 25th**, where students and staff can come to celebrate your finished projects. **There'll be up to 100 reward points for grabs and prizes and treats for the best - even a rewards trip at the end of the year!**







# MACBETH

## THEATRE TRIP

### ONE PLACE LEFT

If you've already handed  
in your permission slip,  
ensure that you make  
your payment ASAP to  
secure your spot.





## WHAT ELSE IS ON?

### Books and Biscuits



Tuesday  
Lunchtime  
in the library



Anime Club  
Wednesday lunch  
in U15

## WORD OF THE WEEK

### Vivid

= Producing strong, clear images in the mind.

E.g. "Her description was so vivid that I could picture it clearly."

## SHARPLES RADIO

The Sharples Radio team have been busy making monthly podcasts. All podcasts can be found on the Student Voice page of the school website.

<https://www.sharplesschool.co.uk/student-voice/>







# Free Apprenticeship Webinar

## Free Webinar Series: Power Your Future Apprenticeships with Vital Energi

Century House, Roman Road  
Blackburn, Lancashire BB1 2LD

### Technical Apprenticeships

10th February | 5:00–5:30pm

Covering design, engineering, project management, and commercial disciplines.

[Click here to register](#)

### Low Carbon Apprenticeships

11th February | 5:00–5:30pm

Focused on heat pumps, renewable systems, hands-on engineering, and Net Zero technologies.

[Click here to register](#)

### Business Administration Apprenticeships

12th February | 5:00–5:30pm

Covering HR systems, marketing, and business operations.

[Click here to register](#)



Each session lasts 30 minutes, conducted live, with a Q&A segment featuring current apprentices.

To register for the Webinars, [click here.](#)

## Open Day

19th February | 11:00am - 6.30pm

Vital Energi Head Office, Century House,  
Roman Road, Blackburn, BB1 2LD

Students will have the opportunity to:

- Meet current apprentices and management staff
- Explore technical, low-carbon, and business apprenticeship pathways
- Gain insight into daily roles and progression prospects
- Understand what working in the clean energy sector entails





# COME ALONG TO OUR APPRENTICESHIP OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026  
4:00PM-7:30PM

**Business Administration | Leadership and Management  
Engineering Operative | Engineering Fitter  
Machining Technician | Metal Fabricator  
Engineering Design Technician  
Mechatronics Maintenance Technician  
Maintenance Operations Engineering Technician**

- Find out everything you need to know about Apprenticeships
- Have a tour of our specialist facilities
- Check out our current Apprenticeship vacancies
- Discuss your career options with our team
- Meet some of our Apprenticeship employers

Simply scan the QR code to secure your spot —  
it's quick, easy, and only takes a minute!

01204 677888

[info@alliancelearning.com](mailto:info@alliancelearning.com)

[www.alliancelearning.com](http://www.alliancelearning.com)


The Hurst Building, Horwich Business Park  
Chorley New Road, Horwich, Bolton, BL6 5UE  
(behind Horwich fire station)

**SCAN ME**



**Ofsted**  
Good  
Provider

 **University of  
Greater  
Manchester**

 **Apprenticeships**




# APPRENTICESHIPS EXPLAINED WEBINAR

Options, Opportunities  
and Real Experiences



*An information session for  
parents and young people*

 Weds 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026

 6pm-7pm

 Online

This interactive session is designed for parents, carers and young people who want to better understand what apprenticeships are really like!

The webinar will include a clear overview of apprenticeships, followed by a live apprentice panel, where current and former apprentices will share their real experiences, answer questions and bust common myths.

Whether you're exploring next steps after school or supporting someone else to make informed choices, this event offers practical insights, honest conversations and the chance to hear directly from those who've been there.

[Book your place by clicking here](#), or scan the QR code.

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO  
BOOK YOUR PLACE:**



**GMLPN** 25  
Greater Manchester  
Learning Provider Network  
25 YEARS OF COLLABORATION & IMPACT

**NATIONAL  
APPRENTICESHIP  
WEEK 2026**

Struggling to book, or got a question? Get in touch: [info@gmlpn.co.uk](mailto:info@gmlpn.co.uk)





**Dear Parent / Guardian,**

As we approach the holy month of Ramadan, we are writing to you with a spirit of community and inclusivity. We understand that for many students, Ramadan is a time of deep spiritual reflection, fasting, and celebration. At Mellors Catering services, (your school lunch provider) we believe that our food provision should adapt to the cultural needs of its community. That is why we are proud to launch this new initiative, to support within the month of Ramadan. Introducing...**Mellors Moonlit Meals.**

**Why This is important for your child**

Ramadan is a pillar of the Islamic faith, observed by fasting from sunrise to sunset. For observing students, this means missing Mellors standard lunch service.

Fasting requires a nourishing meal (Iftar) to break the fast and replenish energy for the next day. Mellors Moonlit Meals ensures your child receives a healthy, balanced meal to support their concentration, learning, and overall well-being throughout Ramadan.

**How It Works**

We want to ensure that all children have the fuel they need to learn and thrive.

Mellors Moonlit Meals allows students eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) who are observing Ramadan to use their daily allowance to "purchase" a meal intended for breaking their fast, rather than a lunchtime meal. This ensures your family receives the full value of the FSM benefit, reducing your food costs during this important month.

Not on a Free School Meal? Even if your child is not eligible for FSM, we encourage you to use Mellors Moonlit Meals as a convenient and balanced option!

**Your school has carefully selected the following option to best suit our students' needs and facilities:**

**Mellors Moonlit Meal Bag**

The kitchen will prepare a chilled selection of items in a handy 'grab and go' style bag - Ready-to-eat and easy to transport home. Perfect for breaking the fast immediately.

This could include:

- Sandwich
- Fruit Pot OR Homebake
- Bottle of Water





Next Steps: Sign up your Child Today!

To ensure we can accurately plan and prepare these meals for your child, we need to know who will be taking part.

**Please complete and return the form available in the canteen or order your lunch in the morning of each day for the Mellors Moonlit Meals scheme.**

We look forward to supporting your child and family throughout Ramadan.

Warm regards,  
Mellors Catering Services

Scan the QR  
code for  
delicious  
recipes!

SCAN ME!



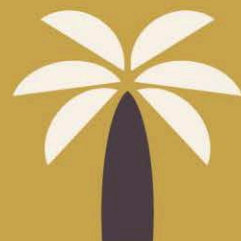
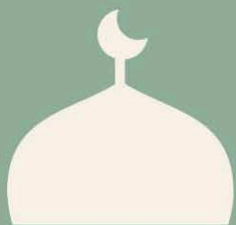
@MellorsCatering



Mellors Catering Services



[www.mellorscatering.co.uk](http://www.mellorscatering.co.uk)





Gallop into the

# LUNAR NEW YEAR

*Mellors*  
**FOOD  
HAPPY**

**10th Feb**

main

**Gobi Manchurian**

**BangBang Chicken**

**Veg Or Beef Chow Mein**

**Salt & Pepper Chicken**

**£2.10**

Dessert

**Coconut Rice Pudding**

**90p**

**Fortune Cookies 15p**

**Biscuits 50p**

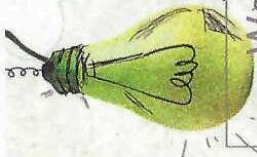


Mellors Catering Services



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# WATT'S FOR LUNCH? FUEL YOUR DAY WITH A HEALTHY SCHOOL LUNCH

Week 3	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Dish	HOMEMADE MEAT PIE & MASH POTATO £1.85 <b>5</b> A DAY	INDIAN CURRY OF THE DAY £2.10 	CHEESEBURGER & CHIPS £2.10	HOMEMADE VEG LASAGNE £1.85 <b>5</b> A DAY	POTATO & SPINACH CURRY £1.85 <b>5</b> A DAY
Vegetarian Main Dish	QUORN BOLOGNAISE £1.80	VEG BIRYANI £1.80 <b>5</b> A DAY	VEG BURGER & CHIPS £2.10	CHEESE FLAN £1.85 	PIZZA OF THE DAY £1.50 <b>5</b> A DAY
And there is more.....	SANDWICH SELECTION £1.45 -£1.85 JACKET POTATO & FILLING £1.85 SALAD BOX £1.90	SAME AS MONDAY	SAME AS MONDAY	SAME AS MONDAY	SAME AS MONDAY
Street Food	Love Joes Curry Pot £1.90 Panini £1.95	Love Joes Curry Pot £1.90 Panini £1.95	Love Joes Curry Pot £1.90 Panini £1.95	Love Joes Curry Pot £1.90 Panini £1.95	Love Joes Curry Pot £1.90 Panini £1.95
Italian Daily Special	Pasta King Sauce of the Day £1.90	Pasta King Sauce of The Day £1.90	Pasta King Sauce of the Day £1.90	Pasta King Sauce of the Day 1.90	Pasta King Sauce of the Day £1.90
Dessert	Fruit Pots 55p-£1.30 Traybake 72p Biscuit 50p Cheese & Crackers 85p	Fruit Pots 55p-£1.30 Traybake 72p Biscuit 50p Cheese & Crackers 85p	Fruit Pots 55p-£1.30 Traybake 72p Biscuit 50p Cheese & Crackers 85p	Fruit Pots 55p-£1.30 Traybake 72p Biscuit 50p Cheese & Crackers 85p	Fruit Pots 55p-£1.30 Traybake 72p Biscuit 50p Cheese & Crackers 85p

A DAY

MEAT FREE

- MEAT-FREE MONDAY

PG

= PLANT-BASED (VEGAN)



# MENU





### What support can we offer?

- Support and guidance for parents who are not feeling confident following a breakdown in relationship.
- Tips for managing your own and your children's feelings.
- Rebuilding relationships with your children following family conflict.



# Empower Parents

### Positives we aim to achieve:

- Parents to feel equipped to manage difficult situations.
- Parents to understand their children's perspectives and have new strategies to support them.
- Building a parent peer support community.

## We are here



25<sup>th</sup> February  
4<sup>th</sup> March  
11<sup>th</sup> March  
18<sup>th</sup> March  
25<sup>th</sup> March  
1<sup>st</sup> April



10am - 12pm

## At

Harvey Children's  
Centre,  
Shaw Street,  
BL3 6HU



Bolton

Together

[CYP@fortalice.co.uk](mailto:CYP@fortalice.co.uk)



01204 589682



[www.fortalice.org.uk](http://www.fortalice.org.uk)

