

# BYZ NEWS



The official newsletter of Blackburn Youth Zone: November 2019 | Edition 9

It has been a very busy month here at BYZ! We have had a range of different activities happening where young people are being given the opportunity to learn new skills. It is also great to see so many local businesses continuing their support and raising vital funds to keep our doors open to thousands of young people. This month we have had 3556 visits from young people and have had 103 new members.



## Youth Ambassadors

Cohorts 3 & 4 of Youth Ambassadors got under way as they started to explore cultural awareness, social integration and social action! 88 young people have taken part in the project within the two cohorts.



## The Hackathon

The Hackathon saw 13 young people get involved during half term. They used pi equipment, coding, team work and project management to create a final project that they showcased to BYZ judges! Everyone did a fantastic job!



## Youth Football Team

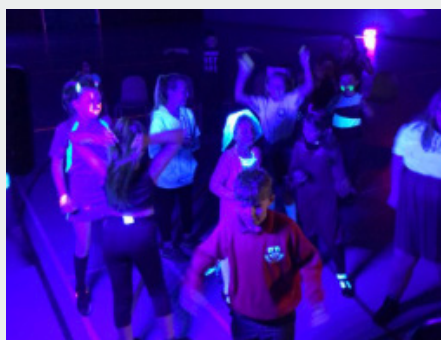
The Youth Football Team have formed a fantastic bond and are now really working as a team. This month they have played the Hive Youth Zone and Wigan Youth Zone coming out as winners in both games. They are now 4 games unbeaten!



## BAE Systems Graduates

Thank you to the BAE systems graduates who came to have a tour around Blackburn Youth Zone. BAE graduates are fundraising for BYZ as part of their graduate programme!

GOT GREAT NEWS FOR THE NEXT NEWS-LETTER? EMAIL [MELANIE.THOMAS@BLACKBURN.YOUTH.ZONE](mailto:MELANIE.THOMAS@BLACKBURN.YOUTH.ZONE)



## Glow Sports

In October we partnered up with Active Lancashire to promote glo sports, which helps minimise barriers to physical activity, by providing young people a completely new experience when it comes to sports and activity. Glo sports has been a massive success! We found a whopping 94% of our young people said they preferred participating in glo sports than traditional sports!



## Strong Sister

The strong sisters continued the fantastic work they are doing into raising the awareness of influential women. They headed to the houses of parliament on a two day residential trip where they were given a tour of famous building as well as the chance to ask any questions. Whilst there they also took the opportunity to interview protesters. The strong Sisters have been shortlisted for the Health & Wellbeing Award at the upcoming OnSide Awards!

## Tour de Youth Zone

Staff and supporters from across the OnSide Network completed a huge feat of cycling to raise money for their chosen Youth Zone.

Riding from the most northerly Youth Zone in Carlisle to the most southernly in Croydon, the cyclists stopped off at each Youth Zone to meet with young people and celebrate their journey.

Tens of thousands raised for young people, 471 miles cycled and over 18,500 feet climbed; it was an amazing achievement for every single cyclist.

If you are interested in fundraising for Blackburn Youth Zone please call 01254 292000.



## Big Give - Christmas Challenge

BYZ is taking part in the Big Give Christmas Challenge 2019 - the UK's largest match funding campaign.

Any donations made between midday 3rd December and midday Tuesday 10th December will be doubled at no extra cost to you.

Your donation will go towards the Digital Enterprise Project

The Digital Enterprise Project will support digital skill development in young people aged 8-19 (or 25 with a disability) equipping

them with employability skills in an increasingly digital world. It will particularly target those who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).

What happens during the Christmas Challenge?

The link will be found on the BYZ website or alternatively use this link: <https://donate.thebiggive.org.uk/campaign/a051r00001OFg6JAAT>

In order for donations to be doubled, they must be made online after 12pm, Tuesday 3rd December and before 12pm, Tuesday 10th December.

(Donations between £5 and

£5,000 will be doubled.)

Please note you must not pre-fill your details prior to 12pm. A clear message will be displayed to indicate when the Challenge has started and when your donation will be doubled.



## Next generation of philanthropist – Mohammed Patel, CEO Vape Dinner Lady pledges his support and joins the Blackburn Youth Zone network

Mohammed Patel, CEO of Vape Dinner Lady, visited Blackburn Youth Zone and following a tour of the £5 million facility and hearing about the Youth Zone's vision from founder Andrew Graham MBE, he pledged his support by coming on board as a patron.

Vape Dinner Lady are a great example of a modern, growing

business which wants to invest in the future of Blackburn with Darwen and Mohammed Patel is spearheading this move as a next-generation philanthropist.

Mohammed Patel, CEO Vape Dinner Lady said:

'Upon visiting and learning about the great effort that is put in by Blackburn Youth Zone in supporting and cultivating the youth of Blackburn, it immediately resonated with me and my upbringing.

BYZ plays a significant role in providing a base for young people that can harness their

potential in such a healthy and expressive way through the facilities, support and nurturing community that has been created by the team. Not only are we honoured, but we consider it both a business and personal duty to support this wonderful charity.'



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