

BYZ NEWS



The official newsletter of Blackburn Youth Zone

March 2019 | Edition 1

WELCOME

BYZ has seen some amazing developments over the past few months as we have strengthened our position as the hub for the community at the heart of the town. Collaborations with organisations such as One Voice, Scouts, Girl Guides and local sports clubs have helped to increase our reach and number of young people benefiting from our offer and world class facility. This year has seen over 29,000 young people benefiting from our offer to date in projects and activities designed to increase integration, health and wellbeing and raise skills and aspirations. Projects delivered include STEM with BAE and UCLan, Commando Joes KS1, KS2 and KS3 Character education programme, Young Leaders group, science projects and we have introduced our Digital Design programme including coding, animation, digital art, robotics, fashion and gaming.

- Raz Mohammed, Interim CEO Blackburn Youth Zone



YOUNG PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR COMMUNITY

January saw the start of our MAD (Make A Difference) group in Juniors and Diversity. Young people are leading a social action project to help create a better Blackburn. They will be litter picking, community gardening and learning about how they can benefit the local area. This will empower the young people to improve their environment and help them to grow in confidence, promote cohesion and encourage them to Make A

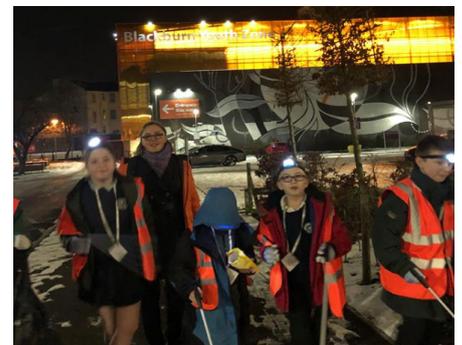
Difference! #iwill

Junior Club opening times (8-11 years):

Wednesday 3:30pm - 7pm

Friday 3:30pm - 8:30pm

Saturday 2:30pm - 5:30pm



5 STAR REVIEW

"Thanks everyone at Blackburn Youth Zone for making the holidays so much fun for my son & his friend. They've had the best time ever!"

VOLUNTEER SUPERSTAR BETH

Beth has volunteered at Blackburn Youth Zone over a two year period and said it has been the best time of her life!

Rose Morgan, Volunteer and Mentoring Coordinator at Blackburn Youth Zone said:

"We wouldn't be able to keep our doors open to thousands of young people without the support from our amazing volunteers. Beth has given a lot of time to Blackburn Youth Zone which shows her incredible level

of commitment."

Blackburn Youth Zone is supported by over 40 volunteers who help throughout the organisation.

You can volunteer and support young people in so many ways at Blackburn Youth Zone. For more information about the opportunities please contact rose.morgan@blackburnyz.org or call 01254 292000.



"Volunteering at Youth Zone is the best thing ever, I get the chance to support so many young people through sports"

Beth, Volunteer at Blackburn Youth Zone



BYZ BUS PICK UPS

Blackburn Youth Zone runs a pick up service five days a week!
Wednesday after school pick up:
Feniscowles Junior School, St Pauls RC Primary
Friday after school pick up:

Shadsworth Junior School,
Longshaw Junior School, Griffin Primary, Meadowhead
Youth pick up: Darwen Co-op, Darwen Vale School, Ewood McDonalds

If you are interested in finding our more about after school or youth pick ups, please contact Emma at emma.floyd@blackburnyz.org.



WORKING TOGETHER

- BYZ recently welcomed One Voice WEGS group who have started attending Girl's Group on a Sunday. They have been enjoying activities such as Dancerise and have settled in really well. A positive move in supporting integration in

Blackburn with Darwen!

- BYZ are setting up a steering group for parents to have a voice on all things Youth Zone - want to join? Contact Laura Walker on laura.walker@blackburnyz.org
- Blackburn Youth Zone is launching its own Scout, Brownies & Guides groups in February.
- BYZ hosted a session with UCLAN for young people who are considering a career in medicine.
- 24 Laundromat teamed up with 2BR for their Christmas

Toy Appeal generating hundreds of toy donations for BYZ members and their families during Christmas.

- You raised £2,507 for BYZ Christmas Jumper Appeal - with Westholme School raising £160.



INVESTING IN YOUNG PEOPLE

A group of Blackburn Youth Zone members started their second course at BAE this month working towards their Silver STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) award.

Last time the young people designed and built an aeroplane using the state of the art facilities at BAE's ASK Academy. This time they will design and build

a runway for their planes, developing further engineering knowledge and skills. Young people are extremely grateful for the opportunity to participate.



Book on BYZ Holiday Club every half term for £10

Blackburn Youth Zone runs a holiday club every half term for 8 - 11 years. This half term has been a fun-filled STEM & Construction themed Holiday Club. Holiday Club is just £10 a day or £40 for the week with breakfast, lunch and snacks provided.

Blackburn Youth Zone awarded National Lottery support

Blackburn Youth Zone has received a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of £29,200 for a 12-month project exploring Blackburn's rich history of influential women. Made possible by money raised by National Lottery players, the Strong Sisters project will engage members of Blackburn Youth Zone's Girls Group in researching the strong and rich heritage of women from Blackburn with Darwen

and further afield with the aim of inspiring them to follow their own dreams and ambitions.

They will look at how women have played key roles in events throughout history such as the Suffragette movement, establishment of the Lancashire Women's Centre and women in Parliament, including Blackburn's own Barbara Castle who was until recently, the longest-serving female MP between 1945 and 1979.

The project, which will run throughout 2019, will see also see

young people visit the People's History Museum in Manchester and the Houses of Parliament in London.

The girls will deliver various exhibitions throughout the project both at Blackburn Youth Zone and Blackburn Museum, which will be open to the general public.



The F Factor: looking to find the entrepreneurs of the future workshop

Founders of the Future is coming to Blackburn Youth Zone to run a workshop for budding entrepreneurs aged between 14 to 25! At the end of the workshop the young people will have all the information they will need to enter The F Factor – an exciting start-up competition for pupils and young adults, now in its fifth year.

The workshop will give you an

understanding of the type of ideas that the F Factor would like to see submitted to the competition, and how to bring these ideas to life.

The F Factor gives young people a chance to win £10,000 equity-free cash and to pitch in front of the most successful tech entrepreneurs in Europe, during Founders Forum.

To register for the event please follow the link: <https://www.blackburnyz.org/the-f-factor-looking-to-find-the-entrepreneurs-of-the-future-workshop/>



5 STAR REVIEW

"I had no friends before coming to Blackburn Youth Zone, I feel safe here"
- Young person Age 14

How can you support Blackburn Youth Zone?

Did you know Blackburn Youth Zone needs to raise £1.2 million a year to make a difference to thousands of young people across the borough?

We have key dates coming up where you can attend and help support Blackburn Youth Zone by fundraising

Key dates:

28th February: Naphthens Wine & Cheese Evening at QEGS

3rd, 4th, 5th May: Blackburn Beer Festival in aid of Youth Zone: at Blackburn Rugby Club

19th June: Trevor Dawson Golf Day at Clitheroe Golf Club. To enter a team contact: caroline@tdawson.co.uk.

17th August: Blackburn Youth Zone Skydive

7th September: Tough Mudder

15th October: Naphthens Charity

Clay Shoot

14th November: BYZ Quiz Quest - The fun quiz night will take place at Dunkenhalgh Hotel. To enter a team of 4 for £100, please email Amy@cumminsmellor.co.uk

6th December : Christmas Jumper Day

If you need more information on how you can get involved please contact melanie.thomas@blackburnyz.org



Patrons Spotlight

Cummins Mellor have been supporters of Blackburn Youth Zone since it opened in 2012.

Cummins Mellor fundraises every year to support Blackburn Youth Zones 'Get a Job' programme.

Due to their support, BYZ has now delivered 3 'Get a Job' programmes to young people aged 16 - 25: 33% of these young people have moved on to gain employment and 50% have progressed in to further studies. "Michelle and I are completely

bought into the idea of the total integration of our community in Blackburn. This starts with the children and where better than the Youth Zone. I wish there had been a Youth Zone when I was a boy" - **Richard Mellor, Cummins Mellor Recruitment**



at Blackburn Youth Zone. Staff from HSBC, Plenary, Pendle Consulting and Organic Insurance have been mentoring young people on developing their own fantastic ideas in to a business plan.

Duncan Bennett Director of Organic Insurance said:

"I wanted to get involved because through years of experience being able to present, whether to an audience or to someone you have just met is a fundamental skill everyone should have but not specifically taught in schools. Being involved in a project that

allows the youth members to create, project manage and present is a fantastic way of learning such skills and I was delighted, and slightly honoured, to help support such a project." **To register for the event please follow the link: <https://www.blackburnyz.org/young-people-prepare-for-youth-zone-entrepreneur-event/>**

Young People Prepare for Youth Zone Entrepreneur Event

Young people are preparing for the Soup on the Go 'Dragons Den' style event on the 27th February, 7:15pm - 8:30pm

TEAM BUILDING?

We have a range of facilities for hire including; sports hall with climbing wall, music room, dance studio, air conditioned gym and a 5 a-side kick pitch.

Contact Mubashar.khaliq@blackburnyz.org

MOVING FORWARD

- A message from our interim CEO

We aim to finish this financial year strongly, continuing to increase attendances and partnerships and are planning ahead as to how we continue to grow our offer. In the next financial year we shall see pick ups from more areas across the borough, increase outreach and our presence in local communities as this is key to unlocking and increasing further parental and community support. We also aim to ensure young people are at the heart of local and regional strategies such as the BwD Integration Strategy. With support from our Patrons and Supporters we will continue to make a difference to the lives of thousands of young people and continue to nurture a virtuous circle to build a prosperous Blackburn with Darwen keeping young people at the heart of what we do. Once again, thank you for your support.



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For more information about any of our sessions, call us on **01254 292000** or visit www.blackburnyz.org