

CEO Briefing Note for Schools and Governors: November 2017

BDAT publishes plan and priorities for 2017-18

BDAT launched its 2017-18 strategic plan on 25th September 2017 at the BDAT Annual Conference "Building on Trust", attended by over 70 school senior leaders, trustees, governors and staff. The headline document sets our current position and key priorities for this academic year including steady growth, becoming a MAT of choice and of course, reinforcing our main priority **school improvement**.

If you have yet to read the strategy visit

<http://www.bdat-academies.org/about-us/trust-development/>



And whilst on the website check out the updated governance structure for 2017-18 which reflects our new primary cluster model operating with the support of our Trustee Ruby Bhatti and the updated BDAT central team structure so you know who sits in the MAT central team supporting our schools:

<http://www.bdat-academies.org/about-us/bdat-trust-structure/>

BDAT grows to 14 schools!

Realising our next stage of planned growth BDAT welcomes four more primary academies in to the Trust this Autumn. **Clayton St John Primary** and **East Morton Primary** schools joined the Trust on October 1st 2017. **St Johns CE Primary Academy** in Bierley converted in to the Trust on November 1st and **Woodlands CE Primary** is set to join us December 1st.

This means as a Trust, BDAT will have 14 open academies by the end of the year – 4 secondary schools and 10 primary academies. We will provide education for over 7,300 students and will employ 1250 staff with a budget of c£46m.



Image: Woodlands CE Primary



Image: Clayton St John

To find out more about who is in the Trust visit

<http://www.bdat-academies.org/our-academies/>

BDAT Business News

Safe and Sound!

Taking up the core offer, all ten BDAT Academies have had their annual safeguarding review this term and all ten schools reports were largely

positive with no additional areas for improvement identified across our schools. The external QA reports commissioned through Navigate congratulated the majority of the schools for their comprehensive action plans and included comments like *“There is clear evidence (for example in policies, procedures, the extensive early help offer and The Nest) that the school is making provision way beyond the usual norms of a school in terms of the variety and breadth of support and the flexibility in which school responds to community needs. This is common across the BDAT Academies”*. Well done to all ten schools involved. Our new joiners will be having their reviews by the end of Jan 2018.



Coming soon... Health and Safety audits and inaugural BDAT conference.

Following on from the success of the safeguarding audits, BDAT is also rolling out annual Health and Safety audits for all our schools to ensure H&S practice is top quality and compliant across all our schools. Undertaken by LearnSafe, all reviews will run in January and February 2018 and each school will be provided with a report and recommendations for improvement. As part of this package BDAT, in conjunction with LearnSafe, will be running the first annual BDAT Health and Safety conference for school business managers and other school staff involved in Health and Safety on Wed 15th November. Speak to peter.thompson@bdat-academies.org for an agenda and to reserve your place.

Launching January: Governor Hub

Coming soon to a school near you, BDAT will be rolling out Governor Hub from January. The new system, which has been piloted by the BDAT Board provides an online platform for governor information, minutes, papers, training and secure communications. As many of you will be aware, there are much more stringent data protection regulations coming out next year and this programme will ensure all governance documents are compliant and protected whilst being accessible wherever you are. If you want to find out more, email Victoria.bray@bdat-academies.org





Thank you to all staff at our academies who have helped us hit our statutory deadlines during what has proved to be a very busy first term. All school (and central team) members have worked hard this month to:

- Meet the requirements for the return of the **new Land and Building Collection tool**
- Met with our auditors to compile the information for the 2016-17 **BDAT Financial Accounts**
- Finalise a **three year budget** for each academy and Trust.

Schools Conditions Allocation (SCA) funding and Healthy Pupils Capital Fund

2016-17: Last year, due to hitting a certain size (more than 5 schools & 300 pupils) BDAT qualified for formulaic **SCA funding** to improve and maintain our school building portfolio. This fund is awarded annually from around April and last year BDAT was allocated £753K. Following a successful bidding round in April, we allocated just over £550K of the funding across 8 of our academies and we anticipate the rest of the funding will be allocated in round 2 (deadline closed; decision November 2017).

2017-18 and 2018-19: EFA have now confirmed they will be rolling forward the existing allocations methodology for the next two years. BDAT therefore plans to rerun our bidding programme to the same timescale and with the same process for the next two years (round 1: Easter; round 2: opens September). Please note only schools in the MAT on Sept 1st can apply for funding. Also please note because BDAT receives formulaic allocation, individual academies in the MAT are not eligible to bid to the Condition Improvement Fund.

New Healthy Pupils Capital fund: £100m of revenue generated from the Soft Drinks Industry Levy will be used for the Healthy Pupils Capital Fund, which is intended to improve access to facilities such as kitchens, dining facilities, changing rooms, playgrounds and sports facilities. The Fund will operate for one financial year only: 2018–19. As BDAT is eligible for School Condition Allocations, we will also receive a direct allocation from the Healthy Pupils Capital Fund. This direct allocation is in addition to our normal SCA and will be announced and paid alongside it. Further guidance will be made available on GOV.UK shortly.

BDAT confirms Union Recognition and commits to facilities time

BDAT has always recognised the Unions (as has Bradford LA) as part of TUPE. The BDAT board has now agreed a new Joint Consultation & Negotiation agreement with the unions which includes the commitment to continue to pay facilities time. **Please can all schools ensure they have returned and paid their subscription for 2017-18.** If you would like to see the final JCNC agreement email samantha.rushworth@bdat-academies.org. NB. This charge does not include H&S (remains an additional option to each school).

Sixth Form Special: New College Bradford moves closer to opening

New College Bradford, a multi-million pound new sixth form college, has finally found a home on a prominent city centre site as part of Bradford's review of post 16 education.

In October 2017, DFE confirmed New College Bradford will be built on the former site of Britannia Mills, off Nelson Street, which was demolished last year to make way for a new swimming pool. Plans for the pool have since been scrapped, leaving the site empty.

The £19m college, which will eventually have 1,200 pupils, is now confirmed to open in September 2019. Some schools in the City, including Buttershaw, Queensbury and Carlton Bolling College have already confirmed they will be closing their sixth forms, partially in adjustment to the new sixth form provision. Bradford Forster which is an 11-16 Academy will also look to feed in to NCB, as part of the strategic partnership between NCLT and BDAT.

How will the partnership work?

Initially the Trust has agreed an SLA with some shared governance across BDAT and the New Collaborative Learning Trust at MAT Board level. BDAT has also helped place three local governors on the New College Bradford Advisory Board.



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As the project moves closer to opening, further opportunities for recruitment, shared teaching, IAG and student experiences are likely to merge across the BDAT secondary schools and new sixth form.

Already this month, BDAT year 9 and 10 pupils have been amongst those offered a place at the "Be Inspired" event led by New College, Pontefract in December.

To find out more about New College Bradford visit: <https://ncbradford.ac.uk/>

Other plans for sixth forms in Bradford

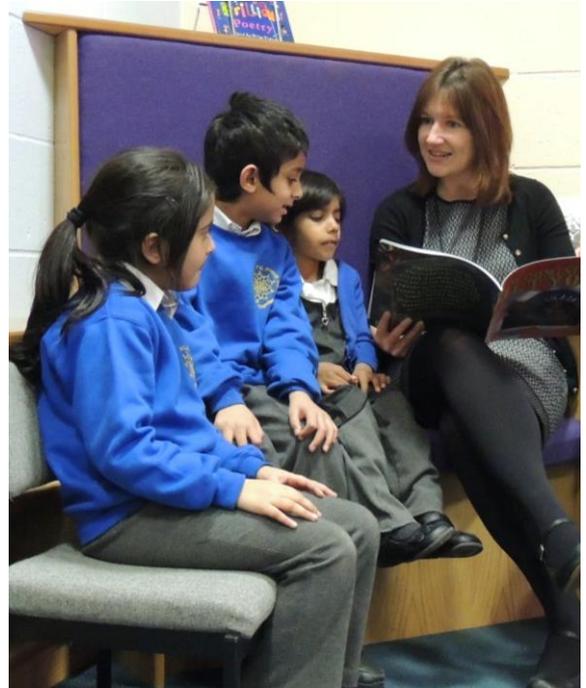
As well as this new sixth form college, another post 16 centre is being planned by the Dixons Academy Trust, which runs several primary and secondary schools in Bradford. The chain has said they hope to open in a central Bradford location - but a spokesman said they were not able to specify which site yet.

Movers and Shakers November 2017

Bringing in the new academic year, we are really pleased to welcome the following new staff to BDAT:

Arriving:

- **Michelle Hargreaves, (right)** Head of St Philips has moved to Executive Principal of St Philips and Clayton St John from November 2017. Ann Proctor will deputise for Michelle as Head of School at St Philips, while Gemma Elliot continues as Head of School at Clayton.
- **Claire Stephenson** moves from Business Manager at Bradford Forster to take up an 80:20 Executive Business Manager post across Westminster and Belle Vue Girls.
- **Suzanne Spencer** joins us from Grove House Primary School to take up the role of Executive Business Manager across East Morton and Clayton St John from 13th November 2017.
- **Beth Holmes** joins the central MAT team as an apprentice covering the reception desk and providing administration and finance support. (Note to schools – want to find out how you can also use your apprenticeship allowance speak to Peter or Ash).
- **Richard Giles** has been appointed as an independent advisor to the Trust Board to lead our internal audit function. As a MAT with an income over £10 million BDAT is required to have an internal audit function and Richard, who is a Pensions Actuary at PWC will work with the MAT board to lead this function.



Departing:

- After supporting Clayton for the last 12 months and overseeing the school through the conversion in to BDAT, **Sarah Horsborough** returns to her substantive post as Headteacher at St Lukes.
- Other leavers this half term include **Beverley Taylor** (PA to CEO), **Tracey Lister** (Business Manager at East Morton) and **Kirsty Dwyer** (Business Manager at Clayton St John).

Don't forget.... Keep up with the latest news and share your stories
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