

## **BDAT Briefing Note for Schools and Governors: January 2019**

Welcome back to school. We hope you have had a fun and festive Christmas break and have had the opportunity to recharge ready for 2019.

### **OFSTED confirm Academy Trust Summary Evaluations due to take place from January**

In December, OFSTED published new guidance to support inspectors carrying out summary evaluations of Academy Trust chains, providing clear evidence that MAT level reviews will now be a focus on the OFSTED landscape and giving a clear recognition of the accountability dependency between MATs and schools:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-academy-trusts-summary-evaluations>

The new regime will involve batch inspections of academies within the same Trust over a two-term period, followed by a focussed week-long MAT level review, including interviews with MAT leaders, school visits and a series of telephone calls to academy leaders within the Trust.

The new focus of the reviews reflects a stronger position by OFSTED recognising that *“responsibility for some aspects of education that the academy provides may be held at MAT level and some may be set by leaders of the MAT”*. The summary evaluation letter *“will highlight areas of specific areas of strength within a Trust and areas where the support and challenge that the MAT offers can be improved”*.

In the December briefing, OFSTED confirmed the following key areas of focus for the new inspection will include:

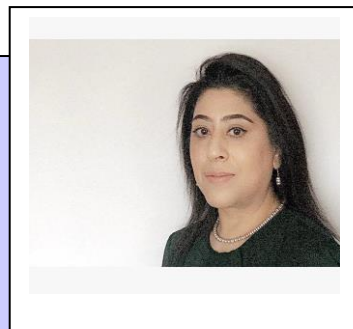
- the **impact the Trust** has on academies, including what elements of education are **uniform**, where the Trusts allow academies **autonomy** and how the Trust reduces **underperformance**;
- how the Trust **monitors** its academies and understand the **quality of education** on offer;
- how policies are implemented and reviewed – with a particular emphasis on the Trust’s intentions and ambitions in relation to **curriculum**;
- how MAT leaders lead the Trust including the approach to **staff recruitment and management**;
- how **MAT Trustees** work with MAT leaders, including setting priorities and providing challenge;
- how the MAT ensures **safeguarding** is effective across all schools in the Trust.

OFSTED have confirmed the summary evaluation reviews will start from January 2019.

### **BDAT Trustee, Ruby Bhatti, awarded an OBE in New Year’s Honours 2019**

Ruby Bhatti has been recognised for her services to children and housing in the 2019 New Year’s Honours. A nominee for Governor of the Year at the 2018 Bradford Schools Awards, Ruby is a board member of BDAT and Dixons Academies Trust and also has more than two decades of experience as a solicitor.

Dedicating her award to her late parents and family, Ruby said, *“I feel really honoured and privileged to receive this recognition. I’m completely overwhelmed, but also very fortunate to work with so many amazing people across the district who have made a real difference to the lives of others. I hope this will inspire others to give something back to the community”*.



## BDAT Business – focus on recruitment and retention

### Bradford For Teaching confirmed to continue.....

Earlier in November we were delighted to hear that our collaborative bid to continue the work of Bradford for Teaching was successful. Following a rigorous DfE tender, BDAT was part of the successful bid that secured funding to continue the work to date to attract and retain quality teachers within Bradford. The bid is led by Northern Lights and Skipton Girls working alongside a number of other key partners including Dixons, Beckfoot, the LA and Birth to 19.



### DfE Launch new free-to-use Teacher Vacancy Website

<https://teaching-vacancies.service.gov.uk/>

DfE has launched a new website that will allow schools to post their teaching vacancies for free. This will include both part-time roles and job shares, as well as full-time teaching posts. The website initially piloted in the South of the country and will go live in Bradford in January/February. We will keep you posted when it is ready to use.

### CPD at your fingertips: New BDAT staff CPD brochures now available.

Are you wondering what CPD and development opportunities might be available to you as part of BDAT? Interested in taking part in one of our workstreams or subject networks? BDAT has now produced a handy primary and secondary phase CPD booklet detailing what is happening and when? To request a copy, please email [trudy.walker@bdat-academies.org](mailto:trudy.walker@bdat-academies.org) specifying whether it is primary or secondary you are interested in.

### Initial Teacher Training (ITT)

Following the piece of work we commissioned in 2018, we are delighted to confirm Katie Waring will continue to work with us one day per week as interim **Director of Early Careers Development** to help us develop and roll out an ITT and early career development strategy for BDAT across the MAT. As part of her work, Katie will take a lead role with our preferred NQT providers, acting as a key liaison point between the Trust, school and ITT providers including Birth to 19, Gorse and Trinity University. She will also focus on NQT and ITT retention ensuring we have the very best structures in place to ensure our early careers staff are supported and nurtured as they start their careers within BDAT. Katie now has her own BDAT email and can be contacted directly on:

[katie.waring@bdat-academies.org](mailto:katie.waring@bdat-academies.org)

Our partnership with Gorse also continues to move from strength to strength as we work with them to open a new secondary SCITT in the city for September 2019. Student recruitment is taking place, BDAT staff are involved with interviews and training and an administrator has been recruited to support the ITT school ahead of the launch in September.





## News from our schools

### School to Support through the Opportunity Area

Three of our schools have been identified as eligible for extra support and funding through the Opportunity Area. DfE are commissioning support from NLEs and Teaching Schools for schools that have historically low performance and high levels of pupil premium for specific school-to-school support around a priority area in the schools' development plan. Three of our schools have been identified and matched with the following partners:

- **Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College** – Yorkshire Inclusive TSA
- **The Academy at St James** – West Yorkshire Teaching Alliance
- **Westminster CofE Primary Academy** – Elevate MAT



In each case, system leaders from these organisations will work with the school's leadership to agree an appropriate package of support worth an average value of £60k. To access this, and as a first step, each school and their system leader will work together to agree a joint action plan for improvement. This will set out improvement goals, describe key activities and any costs, beyond system leader time. The plans will also need to show how this new investment will complement, and not duplicate or cut across, existing improvement activity.



### Westminster Academy awarded £149,000 after their innovative community vision impresses major UK funder

The funding from the Garfield Weston Foundation will enable the school to refurbish their community hub building providing much needed services and support to parents and the community.

Nicky White, Principal of Westminster C of E Primary Academy said, *"We are absolutely delighted to be awarded funding from the Garfield Weston Foundation. We have improved engagement from our parents and local community but further development of this has been hindered by the quality of the space and lack of suitable facilities. The refurbishment of our community hub will enable us to support our parents and vulnerable families more effectively."*

### Belle Vue Girls secures prestigious International School Award for work across whole school curriculum

Belle Vue Girls' Academy recently achieved their fifth International School Award for their international work across the curriculum. This year, the Awards Ceremony was held at the Palace of Westminster, where Assistant Head Teacher Tess Wilkins received the certificate from Bradford West MP Naz Shah.

As part of their link work, the academy works with schools in The Gambia, China, Spain, France, Italy and South America. Almost all students study a foreign language to GCSE level, and they can choose from Arabic, French, Italian, Spanish and Urdu. International activities are included in the Schemes of Work of every faculty, so students study World Music, carry out Art projects with Indian schools, and write letters to their Gambian partner students. The award and work is central to BVG ambition to develop girls who are confident Global Citizens and the Women of Tomorrow.





## Movers and shakers in our schools

- We are delighted to confirm that after a rigorous two-day interview **Matt Watling** will join us as BDAT Secondary Director from 29th April 2019 (after the Easter break). Matt was previously Director of Secondary at David Ross Education Trust. He will have a one-term transition period before Helen Griffin retires at the end of the summer term.
- Adding capacity to the Primary Team, **Reem Briggs** will be seconded to Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning two days per week from East Morton Primary. Reem will continue to work at East Morton as Leader of Teaching and Learning for the other three days of the week.
- **Kerry Bateman** will join us as Governance Administrator from 7<sup>th</sup> January to cover Danielle Carter's maternity leave.
- After a number of years serving as Deputy and Head Teacher at Oxenhope Primary, **John Parkin** has decided that it is the right time for him to leave the school. The Trust and Governing Body would like to thank John for his support leading the school through its early years with BDAT. The school will continue to be led and supported by Alice Jones and the staff at BDAT whilst plans are put in place to secure a new Head Teacher.
- Finally, **Richard Ireland**, Deputy Head at Christ Church Academy, has also successfully secured his first headship at a Leeds-based Academy. Richard has been great support for a number of schools in the Trust over the last few years and we wish him every success in his new role.

## We will remember: BDAT schools celebrate 100 years of armistice

To conclude our newsletter, we wanted to share with you a selection of some of the remarkable and thought-provoking work our schools did to celebrate and remember the centenary of the Armistice, which marked the end of the Great War. Well done and thank you to all our staff and students who took the time to show their respect and mark this milestone in world history.



Pictured (clockwise from top left): some of the great work from Westminster Academy, Bradford Foster, St Johns, Wycliffe Primary, Academy at St James, St Philips and Belle Vue Girls.

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