

BDAT Briefing Note for Schools and Governors: May 2019

Welcome back from your Easter break for what is set to be a brief but busy half term. The latest BDAT News is packed full with the latest national and BDAT school news, including an update on who is new to the Trust, what's been happening over recent weeks and more. Happy reading.



Dominic Herrington confirmed as permanent national schools commissioner.

The Department for Education (DfE) has confirmed the permanent appointment of Dominic Herrington as national schools commissioner, having held the post on an interim basis for the past eight months.

The announcement came after Damian Hinds, the education secretary, moved to clip RSCs' wings last year. The education secretary ruled that the commissioners would no longer be able to send their staff into schools, amid concerns they were conducting "shadow inspections", in conflict with the role of Ofsted.

The national schools commissioner will oversee "operational changes to the work of regional schools commissioners in the coming months to help schools, academy trusts and local authorities work with them by creating an even more joined-up team in each of the eight RSC regions". Mr Herrington said he had "thoroughly enjoyed working with academy trusts" in his first eight months in the job, and is "very much looking forward to continuing to work with the team of regional school commissioners – helping them to support and challenge school leaders to deliver the best possible education for children right across England".

Immanuel maintains a securely good OFSTED judgement

Following their final report being published on 4th March and seven years after their previous inspection, we are delighted to confirm Immanuel College retained their OFSTED good judgement.

Inspectors commented that the school has "*strong and determined middle and senior leadership teams, who are ambitious for the school's future and have the capacity to effect the rapid changes and actions the school needs to improve towards becoming outstanding*". Governors, safeguarding, and the school's sixth form were amongst other areas praised in the short inspection report. Well done to all involved.

To read the full report visit <https://www.immanuelcollege.net/ofsted-report/>



Well-deserved recognition from the Minister for Belle Vue Girls

Staff at Belle Vue Girls received wonderful recognition from the Minister of State for Schools, Nick Gibb, for the stunning results achieved by their students last year and the high level of GCSE language entry. The school ranked fifth in Bradford and amongst the top 9% nationally. Well done to both the staff and girls in the Academy.

BDAT Business

Annual DfE Trust review

Carol Dewhurst (CEO), Helen Griffin (Secondary Director), Ann Morritt (Deputy Director – Primary) and Tessa Mason (BDAT Chair) all attended our annual review with the DfE and Diocese of Leeds in April. This meeting is one of the key ways the Department annually holds the Trust accountable for our performance across all of our academies. This year also had a focus on the effectiveness of our governance structures and the Trust's decision to pause growth to allow us space to consolidate and focus on the 17 current academies. The meeting went well – I think the DfE left without any doubt that the Trust knew our schools, had a total commitment to continual improvement and with a better understanding of the hard work being done by the staff across all our schools in the context in which the Trust and our academies are operating.

Opportunity Area provides funding for research based school improvement interventions

Six of our schools continue to be supported through the Bradford Opportunity Area funding.

St Philip's and **St Oswald's** have been identified for funding of up to £17,500 each to support primary Literacy. To date, an external whole school Literacy audit has been carried out by One Education in order to identify key recommendations for each school. In summer 2019 colleagues will attend a two-day Literacy support session which is being led by Bradford Research School with an opportunity to devise a bespoke Literacy Action Plan during these sessions.

Westminster, **The Academy at St James**, **Buttershaw** and most recently **Shipley**, have all been identified for school level improvement support and have been matched with other regional teaching schools, which we hope will bring new ideas into the Trust. Buttershaw for example, has been matched with East SILC TSA to run a project focussing on strategies to improve attendance with a particular focus on Year 6 into 7. The Academy at St James on the other hand, has been matched with Yorkshire Inclusive TSA and are running a project focussing on the explicit teaching of vocabulary and early Intervention (how we support our very youngest pupils on entry and through to KS1 and strategies to support vulnerable pupils). We hope to be able to share further learning with all the schools across the Trust as the projects develop.





Cross Trust Working brings math and science to life with some healthy competition

Following the successful collaboration with our annual BDAT Be There performance earlier in the year, the four BDAT secondary schools have again joined together for a bit of friendly competition in the BDAT Maths Challenge on 25th March (top left) and the BDAT Science Event on 2nd May (bottom left)

Thanks particularly to Katie Paine, one of our BDAT Leaders of Education for coordinating the maths event and to Louie Gomez for leading the science day.

Thanks also to the Linking Network (<https://thelinkingnetwork.org.uk/>) who have provided some of the funding to make these events possible. This year the Linking Network have allocated £4500 to the secondary schools in the Trust to help make this collaborative work happen.

And of course, well done to all the staff and students who took part and helped make the day a success.



Capital allocation confirmed – and funding allocated for school condition work.

The Trust were pleased to be able to confirm we had been allocated a further £943,051 schools condition funding this year to help improve and maintain our school buildings and estates. Thank you to all school heads and business managers who have submitted their bids for this round. The Trust was pleased to be able to allocate over 75% of the available funding this round for work to make our school environments better. A further SCA round will be open later in the year.

BDAT relaunches all school admissions policies for our 17 academies

Following the collective consultation on Admissions Policies for 2020 – 2021, all BDAT Academy Admissions Policies are now finalised and have been approved at local and Trust level.

These are available to view on the individual academy websites or at <https://www.bdat-academies.org/admissions-process-bdat-academies/>

The admissions policies were updated this year en masse to ensure that they are broadly similar across all our schools and to make sure that they meet the statutory requirement of being reviewed at least every seven years. As the admissions authority for all of our academies, we hope by providing all the policies in one place it will assist prospective parents wishing to obtain a place within one of our academies. Thank you again to all staff involved for their work in this process, and in particular to Vicky Bray for her work in coordinating this piece of work.



Movers and shakers in our schools

Over the last term we have appointed a number of new senior leaders across our academies who we want to welcome to the Trust:

- ✚ At **St Oswald's** following the departure of Jill Elam to take up a Headteacher post at Shelf primary, we have appointed **Caroline Hegney** to the substantive Deputy Head post. Caroline was previously Assistant Head at St Oswald's.
- ✚ Following the departure of Richard Ireland to take up his first Headship at the Beckfield Co-Op Academy, we have appointed **Nathan Davies** to **Christ Church Academy**. Nathan was previously an Assistant Head at Crossley Hall.
- ✚ We have filled both Deputy Head vacancies in our secondary academies. **Jonathan Pattison** takes up the post at **Belle Vue Girls** and **Ian Addison** joins the team at **Bradford Forster**. Both Jonathan and Ian started in post this Easter.
- ✚ **Lauren Milner** joins **Clayton St John** in September as Deputy Head.

The Trust has also appointed two new **Executive Business Managers** starting this term. **Fiona Cressey** took up post as Executive Business Manager in April to support **Shipley** and **Wycliffe** Primary academies. **Elaine Daniels** will join the Trust in May to support **St Oswald's** and **The Academy at St James** after **Matthew Hill** moves to the post of Business Manager at **Belle Vue Girls**. **Liz Storey** has also been promoted to Executive Business Manager in recognition of the work she has done to support the Trust, Wycliffe and a number of secondary schools across the Trust.

Within the central Trust:

- ✚ **Vicky Bray** has been promoted to **BDAT Head of Governance and Company Secretary** in recognition of the increased work she does supporting 17 academies within the Trust and managing our clerking and governance service. As part of her new role, Vicky will also act as Deputy Data Protection Officer for the MAT, supporting Peter Thompson on all GDPR related issues and queries.
- ✚ **Reem Briggs** has now joined the central team on a permanent basis as Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning (Primary). Reem will continue to work 3 days a week in 2019-20 seconded back to East Morton before moving to the central education team full time.
- ✚ Finally we are delighted to confirm we have extended **Katie Waring's** secondment as **Director for Early Careers Development** through until the summer of 2020. Katie will continue to lead on the roll out of our ITT and Early Careers strategy on behalf of the Trust and will remain a pivotal link for our teaching school partnerships with Gorse, Birth to 19, Teach First and Leeds Trinity.



Welcome to all the new staff who join BDAT this Easter – we hope you have a great first term.

News from our schools

The Academy at St James gets creative....

The **Academy at St James** held a hugely successful 500-word writing competition at the end of February. The event took place at Café West in Allerton and it was a chance for the budding young authors to showcase their skills to a wider audience.



Head teacher Chris Tolson reported: *"We put on big firework displays and a Christmas extravaganza, but this was the first event we've really done outside the school. Over 100 people came down to watch, including volunteers at the Café West centre, and the children submitted 280 pieces of writing. All 24 winners and runners up have had their work entered into a national 500-word competition run by Radio 2 DJ Chris Evans. The National Literacy Trust supported the event and they donated over £200 worth of free gifts. The café also provided free food and the parents even got involved, as many of them signed up for a book club".*



Oxenhope gets ready to welcome the Tour de Yorkshire

Worth Valley residents geared up to welcome this year's Tour de Yorkshire by creating artwork to celebrate the race coming to Keighley and Bradford districts. They gathered for a well-attended drop-in session at Oxenhope Primary School to paint Yorkshire white roses and bike-themed art to decorate stage four of the route. The artwork session was co-funded by Oxenhope Parish Council and Oxenhope Primary School.

Keep up with the latest news and share your stories #wearebdat