

BDAT Briefing Note for Schools and Governors: February 2020

Welcome to the BDAT Spring 2 newsletter. This edition provides you with a briefing on the new Academies Minister, an update on how BDAT is getting involved in the new Bradford Teaching School Hub and Early Careers Framework (ECF), plus some excellent SIAMS news from Shipley Church of England, and much more. Happy reading.



Who is Baroness Berridge?

Baroness Berridge of The Vale of Catmose was appointed **Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Education (DfE)** and **Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Women)** at the Department for International Trade on 14th February 2020. Although her responsibilities have yet to be published, she's likely to take on many of those previously held by Lord Agnew, who was promoted to a job at the Cabinet Office and Treasury.

So, what do we know about the Baroness?

Baroness Berridge has been a Tory Peer for nine years having previously acted as a government whip in the House of Lords since July 2019, with responsibility for a number of areas including education. She is state educated with a degree in law from Cambridge. She used to run the Conservative Christian Fellowship – a membership organisation serving as a relational bridge between the Conservative Party and the Christian Community. She's a fan of **faith schools** and in 2017 openly expressed her support for Anglican schools: *"I think, where there is a very large agreement in our society and that is why people in the UK think that Anglican schools are a good thing, because they educate and there is a Christian ethos, but it is very much about these young people to make their choices"*. She is also a member of the Lords' select committee on **social mobility**. In a recent speech in the House of Lords she defended government policy in this area, saying: *"We are committed to ensuring that every child has fair access to a good school place and the school admissions code allows admission authorities to prioritise disadvantaged children."*

HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO THE STAFF AND STUDENTS AT SHIPLEY ON YOUR GOOD SIAMS!

Following a one-day inspection **Shipley Church of England primary school** secured Good in every SIAMS category, with inspectors praising the school as having established *"a vision which enables the school's community to unite and flourish"*. Leadership was commended with inspectors commenting that *"Leaders, supported by the Trust, are developing a bespoke curriculum for the school.... which is progressive and encourages deep thinking and debate."*

Reassuringly and unsurprisingly the students of the school were ultimately judged to be the stars of the school. Inspectors commented *"pupils respond impressively"* and *"take effective and varied roles in school. The well-established and effective school council ensures the pupils have a clear voice resulting in them being instrumental in developments. They are enthusiastic in evaluating the impact of the Christian vision and values across school"*. To read the full report visit <https://www.bdat-academies.org/news/>



LATEST REPORTS FROM OFSTED RECOGNISE PRESSURES ON OUR SECTOR AND SIGNAL AREAS OF FURTHER FOCUS

OFSTED has been busy this quarter publishing a number of key documents and findings on our sector. Back in January they published the [HMCI's annual report](#) with the following key messages:

- 86% of schools are good or outstanding.
- Recognition that sustainable improvement takes time.
- Referencing the results of the latest Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) study which show average scores for 15 year olds in England are significantly above the national average in maths, reading and science.
- Strongly defends the focus on the substance of education in the new Framework.
- References the intention to remove the outstanding exemption.
- Indicates that Ofsted is working with the DfE to develop proposals to improve education in 'stuck' schools https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fight-or-flight-how-stuck-schools-are-overcoming-isolation?dm_i=2VPK,ZQC7,6OJWHO,3REEO,1
- Continues to focus on 'off-rolling' and behaviour in schools.
- Aims to increase the amount of work Ofsted does in multi-academy trusts to assess impact of the trust on school quality.



Then on 21st February Ofsted finally published its long-awaited research into the impact **of funding pressures on schools**. The report received a mixed reception, as while it recognised that funding uncertainty made decision making more difficult, it also levied criticism that some schools are not making well thought through decisions and Heads have not always attempted to monitor the impact of cuts. Sadly the report also confirmed the negative impact the cuts were having on curriculum, with 67% of secondary school Heads and 44% of primary leaders reporting that their responses to financial pressure over the last two years "have led to some reduction in curriculum breadth in their schools". <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/ten-things-we-learned-from-ofsteds-school-unding-study> This report of course comes on the back of the recent government announcement that they are intending to work with Ofsted to introduce a **'financial rating' for schools as part of future inspections**.



BDAT RANKS 20th IN BEST PERFORMING TRUSTS NATIONALLY FOR PROGRESS 8

Last month the DfE released figures on the best and worst performing Trusts nationally and we are really pleased that the BDAT secondary schools made it into the top 20 for overall Progress 8 and rated above average with a combined score of 0.2 (even more pleasingly we were 15th for disadvantaged performance). Congratulations also goes to **Dixons**, who continue to hold the second position for a second year running.

On the A Level front we were also pleased to note how well our schools have performed at key stage 5, and in particular, well done to **Immanuel College** who came 4th in Bradford for progress and achieved the best average point score across all state schools/colleges in Leeds as well as Bradford. Great news.



INVESTING IN DEVELOPING OUR STAFF

BDAT has forged new partnerships with Bradford Teaching School Hub and the Early Careers Framework (ECF) Pilot to ensure our staff have early access to the very best professional development.

Following the announcement that Bradford would be part of the first wave of the Teaching School Hubs, we are delighted to have been asked to sit on the Strategic Board to help inform and shape the hub development offer. Led by **Exceed and Copthorne Primary School**, the hub will be the key player shaping the school improvement offer across our City. Further information will follow in our next newsletter.

We are also really pleased to be one of two delivery partners alongside **Dixons Teaching Institute** to lead on the ECF pilot roll out in Bradford from September. This means key members of the Trust team will be involved in both the programme design and delivery. For more information or to find out how you can get involved speak to Katie.waring@bdat-academies.org or visit <https://www.bdat-academies.org/early-careers-framework/>

BDAT Business

You asked..... We provided: Upcoming Governor Training

Further to governor feedback, we have three exciting Governor training sessions coming up this term:

1. **Monitoring and Evaluating Church School Distinctiveness** on Monday, 9th March 2020 at 5.30 pm (17 places remaining).
2. **Managing Hearings: Disciplinary and Grievances Training for Governors** on Wednesday, 18th March 2020 at 5:30 pm (20 places remaining).

To book either of the above sessions visit: <https://event.bookitbee.com/bdat>

We also will shortly be confirming training for Governors on **Managing Exclusions Training and Independent Review Panels** provided by Services for Schools on 29th April at 5.30 pm (venue TBC). If you would like to pre-register your interest email governance@bdat-academies.org. Places are limited to 30.

BDAT Be There is another resounding success

Hot on the heels of the BDAT Primary Prom, the annual secondary BDAT Be There Performance took place at St George's Hall in Bradford with a fabulous display of live music, dance and drama. What a night! Well done to all staff and students who took part in the organisation and performance of this fabulous show.



News from Our Schools

BDAT Year of Reading 2020 hits the headlines...

The BDAT Primary schools are celebrating reading in 2020.

We started with a launch at every school at the beginning of the year of reading (see image top right: the launch at **Woodlands**).

We chose our authors and made displays about them around each of our schools (second right from top).

Staff from across schools are working together to plan and run some events and competitions throughout the year such as World Book Day on 5th March.

And we have set up a twitter account so you can follow us and find out **@BDATReading**.

We are having lots of fun (see bottom right: reading at Wycliffe).

And we have also already hit the headlines, for example **Cullingworth** was featured in the Keighley news who reported:

"There were bedtime stories in the morning for children at Cullingworth Village Primary School as they arrived in pyjamas. Both children and teachers were invited to wear pyjamas and take their favourite bedtime story for the launch of the Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust (BDAT) year of reading.

School spokesman Janice Parfett said: *"Throughout the year every primary school will be doing some fantastic activities to celebrate reading. "The children had a lovely day enjoying being comfortable and cosy. They shared their bedtime stories with each other, and the teachers shared some stories that they used to love reading when they were children too!"*

Thanks go to Ann Morritt particularly for leading this great idea.



Christ Church Academy wins a visit from Andy and the Odd Socks

Christ Church Academy received a visit from the nation's most in-demand live music act for children after winning a competition to raise awareness of anti-bullying by wearing odd socks!

Headteacher Philippa Foster said: *"We are very passionate about taking part in Anti-Bullying Week each year, participating in Odd Socks Day is a way to make the day fun, whilst tackling serious issues".*

Christ Church Academy has also had a bit of a "win" after they applied and secured a grant of £1,000 from Kellogg's in order to continue providing breakfast to every child in school, every day, through their involvement with the Re-think Food project. This funding is vital as part of the school's work around attendance and well-being and ensures the viability of this project for a further 12 months.



Holocaust Beacon School Belle Vue Girls mixes with Royalty

Four, year 9 Anne Frank Trust ambassadors from **Belle Vue Girls** had the privilege of attending the National Holocaust Memorial Ceremony in Westminster Hall, also attended by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. What an experience!



Spruce Class do their bit for the environment trialling an air quality programme

Wycliffe CoE have recently had the good fortune to have been selected to take part in a classroom air quality trial, courtesy of Global Action Plan and links through one of their parents. With over 2,000 primary schools in the UK being in air pollution hotspots, the Clean Air for Schools Framework provides research and information to help UK schools tackle air pollution and provides bespoke classroom equipment to support it. The purification system cleans the classroom air of particulates and unwanted pollutants and then records and transmits this information to Global Action Plan for analysis. Good work Spruce Class – this project sounds like a breath of fresh air for our budding scientists!



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