

## Special Edition BDAT Briefing – May 2020

### Hello colleagues and friends of BDAT

Who would have guessed when I last sat down to write my BDAT Briefing back in February, that by May 2020 schools would be coming up to the end of nearly two months of partial closures; we would be providing key critical services childminding the families of key workers and our most vulnerable children; and the Easter holidays would have passed us in little more than a blur?

However, putting that all to one side, who could not be failed to be impressed by the professional and personal generosity of all of the staff in each of the BDAT schools in pulling together and going above and beyond to support our pupils, families and our communities. I keep saying this but the team effort from everyone across BDAT has been simply superb.

In recognition of this, this half term I have scrapped the usual BDAT Briefing and I have taken the opportunity to share some of the amazing, brilliant and heart-warming stories from across the BDAT Family of Schools. These stories have already been disseminated widely – each day I do a briefing for Heads and SLT in our academies, our Trustees and Chairs of Governors – and each day I have shared a different snippet. This newsletter is a summary of just a few of your fantastic stories.

Thank you and please keep them coming. Please don't forget to share them too at [#wearebdot](#)

And most importantly stay safe.

Very best wishes



**Carol Dewhurst**



### Trust Wide News

“Well done to our family of four secondary schools for really starting the ball rolling with this great donation to the NHS..... there was more to follow with schools making their own visors, donating PPE and sharing resources where it is most needed”



### Congratulations to our newly appointed Bradford Research Champions

We are delighted to announce that **Mehwash Kauser from Belle Vue Girls' Academy**, **Hannah Rosenberg from The Academy at St James** and **Greg Taylor from Bradford Forster Academy** have all been appointed Bradford Research Champions. These roles are part of the commitment made in the Bradford Opportunity Area Delivery Plan to support Bradford as a City of Research.

As Research Champions our colleagues will:

- Lead school engagement with research and evidence, acting as an advocate for its benefits
- Contribute to a community of educational research champions in Bradford
- Disseminate research to teachers and leaders in a logical, well-considered process to help develop school practice in teaching and learning
- Encourage and support the school to engage in research or participate in educational trials, helping to support evidence-informed implementation

We wish them every success in this exciting new role!

### Roughly in order of joining.... News from our schools

Just as we entered lock down, **St Oswald's** received some happy news! The catering team, led by Carol Maclean the kitchen manager, received an outstanding award from the Bradford team who quality assures school meals. They have also been awarded 100% for their halal certification, which is backed by the Council of Mosques. The Bradford team manager was so impressed she now wants to be based at St Oswald's and to promote the school as a Centre of Excellence for lunches.

More recently on a more energetic front, St Oswald's staff also shared a video of the children in school enjoying a PE dance session to a laser light rendition of Dance Monkey: [https://twitter.com/st\\_oswald](https://twitter.com/st_oswald)

[https://twitter.com/st\\_oswald/status/1253304980787933184?s=20](https://twitter.com/st_oswald/status/1253304980787933184?s=20)



Meanwhile over at **Christ Church Academy**, staff have been sharing some fantastic clips delivering food, dancing to Joe Wicks and producing some great artwork to thank NHS staff, which they have proudly described on their school gates. The team also seem to have been enjoying some impressive sausage sandwiches (also shared on twitter) which have helped power them through their home delivery runs. <https://twitter.com/ChristAcad>



**St Philips** on the other hand, our only school which has consistently had no children in school over the last few weeks, were keen to point out to their pupils how “bear” the school was without them. They also had visiting tigers, penguins and even an Octopus tweeting as part of Wildlife appreciation day on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. A special thanks to staff at St Philips who have also been helping out at Woodlands as part of their sister school’s rota. <https://twitter.com/STPHILIPSCE>

In the early days following school partial closures, **Nicky White (Principal)**, **Lizzy Pawson (Assistant Principal for Inclusion)** and **Jade Marczynski (Community Engagement)** at **Westminster Academy**, were interviewed by BBC Look North about the importance of making sure our children and families living in disadvantaged areas are well supported and well-fed whilst schools are dealing with the Covid-19 crisis.

To view the full interview click here: <https://westminsterschool.co.uk/gallery/>. It raises some really important points about some of the challenges lockdown places on our families.

Colleagues at **Oxenhope Primary School** have also hit the headlines during lockdown as staff pulled together to climb stairs in their homes – collectively aiming to achieve the height of Mount Everest at just over 29,000 feet. They did of course smash that target and managed to raise over £2655 to support the Sue Ryder Manorlands Emergency appeal. Well done Oxenhope!

<https://www.keighleynews.co.uk/news/18389148.oxenhope-school-staff-scale-new-heights-support-manorlands/>

Back at school, staff have established the SMILE Club (Safety, Movement, Imagine, Learning, Exploring) for children who come to school during this time. They start each morning with PE with Joe Wicks, have put on puppet shows, made flower displays, baked cupcakes and even designed a SMILE Club logo. Sounds great fun! <https://twitter.com/OxenhopeCEPS>

**Immanuel College** has been keeping their pupils entertained and reflective over the Easter period. Featuring one of the most “alternative” Easter services I have seen. **Stuart Hacking, Louis Gomez and Emily Trotter** produced a prayer to mark the end of term and Easter. I guarantee you, even a month later, it is still well worth a look:

<http://immanuel.study/files/Immanuel%20Easter%20Assembly.mp4>

The careers team at Immanuel College also deserve a pat on the back after being heralded as a best practice example of Quality in Careers on the back of the award they achieved last year. The link to their website is below (just click on the Yorkshire segment of the map). <https://www.qualityincareers.org.uk/what-is-the-quality-in-careers-standard/case-studies-of-best-practice-around-the-country/> <https://twitter.com/ImmanuelBD10>







Another school going above and beyond with food deliveries, staff at **Bradford Forster Academy** delivered over 700 food parcels and 300 work packs in the last 2 weeks.

Here's a text from a parent and a photo:

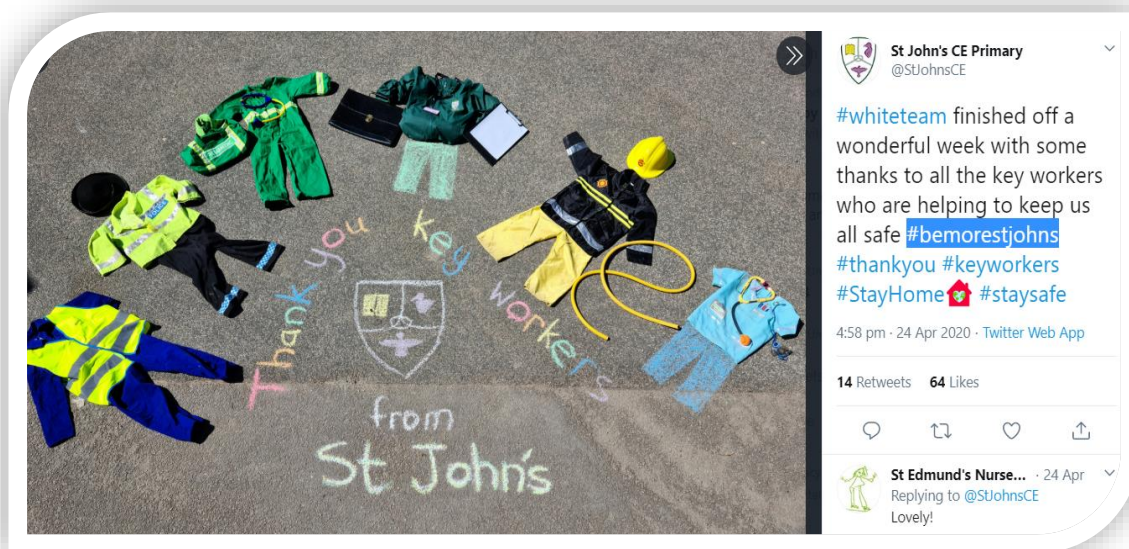
*"Hi I've just taken delivery of a food parcel. This is greatly appreciated however, I feel I am probably in a better position than some and therefore I will not require any further parcels, I would rather it goes to someone who needs it more than us. Thanks again, I think it's amazing what the school is doing for their pupils, take care & stay safe."*

Looking towards the future, following the resignation of **Wendy Adeniji** earlier in the year, we are pleased to have appointed **Catherine Proud** to join us as Principal of Bradford Forster Academy. On behalf of the team of BDAT we want to thank Wendy for all her hard work at BFA and we wish her absolutely every success in her new role. <https://twitter.com/BradfordForster>

Probably our most regular "tweeter" **The Academy at St James** has been sharing at least daily good news stories with us of the fun and activity they have been providing for their students. Here are a few highlights of the hard work of the staff. Check out those food boxes.... we also liked the special birthday party, students held at school for Head Teacher Mr Tolson. [https://twitter.com/church\\_prim](https://twitter.com/church_prim)



Consistently our most busy school with numbers of students attending up in the mid-high 20s, **St Johns primary school** staff have been promoting their school strapline **#bemoreStJohns** as part of their staff team hand overs. Last weeks thank you to the NHS was a particularly and poignant tribute to our key worker parents.  
<https://twitter.com/StJohnsCE>



Meanwhile over at **Clayton St John and East Morton** staff have been sending messages home to parents and families to brighten up their time in isolation.

**East Morton** produced a compilation and shared a beautiful video song to say hello, supported by the voices of the school senior choir. It's guaranteed to bring a smile to your face.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JW4MLcq03h8&feature=youtu.be&app=desktop>

Staff at **Clayton** produced a series of clips of them waving, dancing and doing all kinds of fun activities which they compiled into a short video to "Can't Stop the Feeling".

Take a look at the video following this link:

<https://www.claytonce.co.uk/assembly-worship/> Ms

Hargreaves dancing is worth a watch.

Another particular mention to **East Morton**... many of our schools have been producing artwork thanking the NHS and encouraging families to stay safe outside their school. To date, I think this may be the biggest rainbow we have seen at any of the BDAT schools

<https://twitter.com/EastMortonCEP>

<https://twitter.com/ClaytonStJohnCE>







Meanwhile over at **Woodlands primary** staff have been supporting only a handful of children over the last few weeks – but that doesn't mean they haven't been having lots of fun creating some beautiful spring artwork. The school Easter egg hunt also seemed to go down particularly well with some great rabbit ears on display. <https://twitter.com/Woodlandsce>

As a result of their fantastic 2019 results **Belle Vue Girls' Academy** has received a letter from SSAT congratulating them on their exceptional student progress at the end of key stage 4. Well done colleagues at Belle Vue Girls.

The school has also been producing some really engaging assemblies each week. This week's remote assembly celebrates the NHS and tells the story of Sylvia Diggory – the first official NHS patient in 1948.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fl5oLi2HFMk&feature=youtu.be>  
<https://twitter.com/BVGAcademy>

Colleagues at **Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College** have also been doing their bit to support the NHS, producing visors for Bradford Royal Infirmary and local care homes. This fantastic photo from NHS colleagues demonstrates the difference staff have made. Great work BBEC! <https://twitter.com/BBEC1>



**Wycliffe primary school** staff have taken to twitter to share stories, games and some rather strange dancing from the staff, aka the Wycliffe Wonders....



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qs0Uxa8zdEE&feature=youtu.be>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ughxi1yn7BYm>

There is also a wonderful fundraising effort launched this week from a young year 3 pupil called Evelyn who has decided to use her daily exercise to raise money for the NHS. She is aiming to ride her bike 100K over 7 days around Roberts Park in Saltaire.

<https://twitter.com/WycliffePrimary>



**Cullingworth Village Primary School** has also been treating their families with the support of Greggs, who kindly donated 500 doughnuts to the school, and will be donating to other schools and community centres. We are very grateful to Mrs O'Hare and her husband, Mr Shaun O'Hare from Keighley Big Local, for organising the event which was very much appreciated as evidenced by lots of smiley faces! The parents and pupils were thrilled with the doughnuts and to have the opportunity to meet with school staff and other parents and children. They thanked us for all our hard work and the great service the school is providing during the lock down.

Meanwhile, Cullingworth Village Primary School pupils have been keeping the garden growing by tidying up the raised beds and planting fruit and vegetable seeds. Pupils of all ages got stuck in preparing the soil by digging, hoeing and riddling before planting all the seeds - let's hope for a bumper crop! The rain this week will certainly help to get the seeds started. Thanks to Mrs Simpson and the children for all their hard work.



Finally thank you to **Shipley Church of England Primary school** for sharing this 'Thank You' message from staff to all their pupils and parents to take care and stay safe, alongside other messages on twitter thanking our NHS colleagues.

[https://twitter.com/shipley\\_ce](https://twitter.com/shipley_ce)

**Please keep sharing your stories and thank you for all you are doing**

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