BPET Central Team Newsletter – Summer 2021

This is an update from the BPET Central Team, providing news and progress from across the Bellevue Place Education Trust schools.

Dear Pupils, Parents, Carers and Staff,

Thank you for what everyone has achieved throughout another turbulent academic year. Staff have been incredible in the adjustments they have been asked to make this year. I have seen determination and resolve to ensure all pupils have the full curriculum covered.

I remain inspired by what has been achieved, the enrichment of the curriculum delivering our vision in the classrooms across BPET. Residential trips have taken place, sports days, topic based workshops, along with some excellent classroom based learning. COVID closures have continued to disrupt learning but our leaders have worked hard to keep that to a minimum and reverting to online teaching as necessary.

As a Trust, we have two schools seeing their first Year 6 pupils off to Secondary School for the first time – Whitehall Park and Braywick Court. I know the year 6 teams have worked hard to ensure they are prepared for the transition and these founding groups have been wonderful ambassadors for these schools. It is appropriate to celebrate the achievements of Gemma Donnelly, our first founding Headteacher seeing her first cohort to complete Year 6. Braywick Court is a very successful school, which she has led for the past seven years – a wonderful achievement, well done Gemma!

While formal assessments have been cancelled again this year, we chose to conduct our own school assessment programme, as a way of maintaining the focus on learning in the schools with Year 6 pupils and to also gain a sense of how all our schools are performing too. Using unseen previous papers, we are delighted that 70% of our Year 6 pupils across Rutherford, Evendons, Whitehall and Braywick Court achieved the expected standards in Reading, Writing and Maths, which is 5% above the national average. 17% of pupils achieved a greater depth in these subjects, 6% above national, with Reading performing the best with 49% of pupils achieving a greater depth, 14% above the national average*.

* These national averages are all pre-pandemic benchmarks and we know the COVID disruption has had an impact on learning across all schools nationally, especially for writing, which will be a focus for all our schools next year.

Whilst delighted with the pupil achievement, we will continue to focus on this next year, with our three main priorities as a Trust being:

- Aiming for 80% of pupils at Age Related Expectations and 25% exceeding Age Related Expectations at the end of Keys Stage 2 (Year 6) in core subjects
- Continuing to deliver a broad curriculum that is enriched with an exciting extended curriculum, driving an inclusive and personalised learning experience for all pupils
- Develop stronger Asset Management and ICT renewal plans that link with school budgets and capital reserve forward plans

These are ambitious objectives, especially in the context of post-pandemic impacted schools, but I am confident in what the leaders and staff across the group are determined to deliver to help pupils achieve.

Thank you to parents, carers, who completed the BPET Parents Survey this term too. We have had some wonderful comments and feedback that will be analysed by each school to inform our focus for improvement. As a group:

- 96% of parents and carers strongly agree or agree that their child enjoys coming to school
- 89% of parents and carers are highly likely or likely to recommend their school to friends
- 93% of parents and carers strongly agree or agree that their school's values and attitudes have a positive effect on their child
- 91% of parents and carers strongly agree or agree that their school develops their child's independence and responsibility

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Chief Executive Welcome continued …

We also conducted a survey of the provision of the central team to Headteachers and also a staff survey, which 66% of staff completed. These survey's helps us review both processes and support within school and across the Trust. We will provide more detailed data from these surveys in the autumn.

I am delighted to say that after a long journey, ALL BPET schools are now in their permanent buildings, after the staff and pupils of Deer Park School moved into the state of the art building in Richmond Road, during April!

I would like to take the opportunity, to thank the hard work and commitment of the central team. As a group of nine staff, they have worked tirelessly to support the schools deal with the constantly changing nature of education this year. They have continued to drive improvement in systems, processes and contract providers for all schools.

We have to say 'goodbye' to Stuart Dixon, the BPET Chief Operating Officer who left earlier this month after three years of wonderful service, which included attracting £200K funding for new boilers, development of music rooms, HR support for schools, two new school building projects and some importantly managing and guiding us through the COVID pandemic. Stuart has supported our schools very well indeed and we wish him well, as he starts a new role in a larger trust closer to his home in the autumn.

We look forward to welcoming Richard Crompton as our new Director of Operations in September. Richard has a background in the corporate sector at John Lewis & Partners and has most recently worked at a large academy Trust as Head of Estates, Facilities and Operations.

Finally, thank you to the Local Advisers and Trustees who drive the governance of schools and the Trust. Supporting leaders and their schools, mostly remotely, has been a challenge this year. Improvements continue to be driven with your tenacity and commitment to the schools. Thank you for your precious time.

I look forward to us all returning in the autumn, with an academic year where we hope to welcome parents back into schools again. We have missed being able to run open days, events, performances and pupils trips which enrich the curriculum. I am sure we are all looking forward to return to a sense of normality next year. Until then, have a lovely summer break and we look forward to seeing you in September.

With very best wishes,

Mark Greatrex,
Chief Executive

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Hello and Goodbye

We are delighted to have welcomed Claire Kevin to the BPET Central Team as Executive Assistant to the Director of Education and Chief Executive in June. Claire has over 20 years of Executive Assistant(EA) and office administration experience and prior to joining BPET was EA to the CEO and Education Director at Bellevue Education for almost three years.

Claire will be responsible for overseeing the administrational structure of the School Improvement Review Cycle across the BPET Schools, CPD Offer for all staff and supporting Management meetings and Headteacher Performance Management processes.

Sadly we have to say goodbye to our Maths Consultant Robert Wilne. Robert has been an huge asset to the trust as a 'critical friend' to our schools, assessing the quality of teaching and learning, recommending strategic developments to the Headteachers and maths leaders and then supporting them to implement.

His passion and flair for maths has been infectious and has seen great progress across our schools. We wish Robert all the very best for his new full-time role at Kings Maths School in London.

Rutherford House Boiler Replacement Works

In Autumn 2021 we received funding from the Governments 'Condition Improvement Fund' (CIF), which focuses on projects which keep education buildings safe and in good working order, including projects which address health and safety issues.

In the Spring newsletter we reported on the completion of updates to the heating at Halley House School, Hackney.

We have now completed a project at Rutherford House School on their heating. The equipment in place when we took over the building was unable to sufficiently warm the higher floors of the school. The age of the machinery meant it was very difficult to source new parts. We knew there was a growing chance that the system would stop working over a winter, which could have resulted in a potential school closure.

So using the CIF funding and contributions from RHS maintenance funds and BPET reserves we have replaced the main plant room with modern and efficient equipment. This reduces overall running costs in term of energy usage and servicing costs. The new boilers are condensing gas-fired which provide a minimum hot water storage coupled with high continuous flow of hot-water to cater for peak demands of heating.

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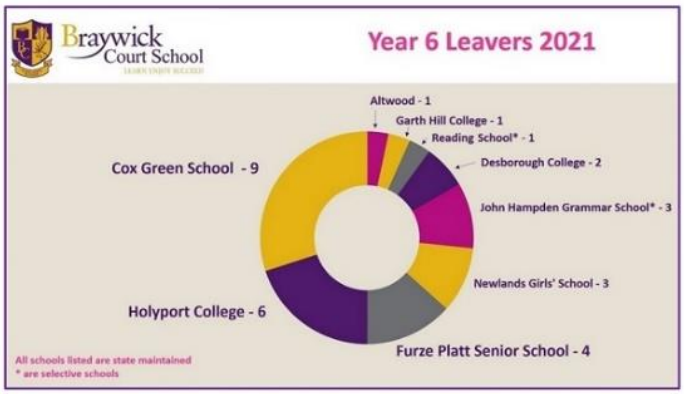
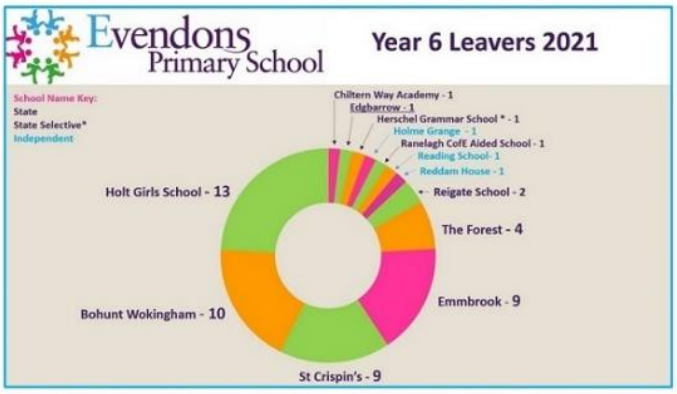
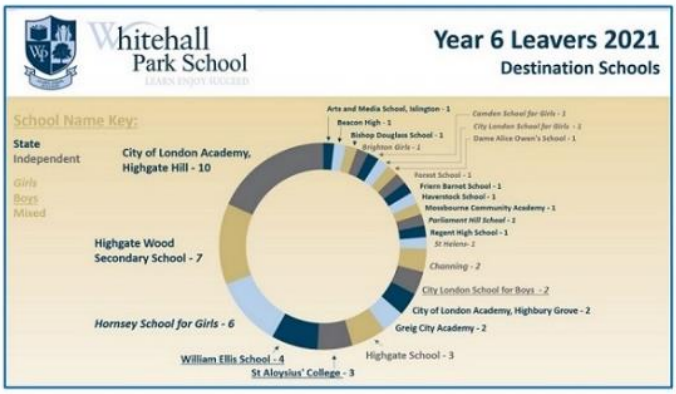
Year Six School Leaver Destinations

This year 50% of our schools (four) have a Year 6 cohort leaving for secondary school!

Each school is unique in its local geography and the mix of schools available to them, so it is fabulous to see the breadth of destination schools for our pupils. We truly believe that our broad, enriched curriculum and extra-curricular clubs have supported each pupil to identify and go to the best fit secondary school for them!







You can see these charts in more detail on our website

Quotes from the 2021 Parent Survey

Here are just three quotes from families who completed the 2021 survey, they truly reflect the thoughts of so many survey respondents …

*"**BCS** has provided an excellent learning environment for my son and a place he wants to be every day. His confidence grown enormously thanks to the dedicated teachers helping him feel like he can do anything."*

*"The behaviour of my children tells me all I need to know about their school - **KGS**. When we leave home in the morning, they always want to run to get there. When we come home in the afternoon, they speak with breathless excitement about their classmates, teachers, activities and achievements."*

*"**DPS** is incredibly unique. It is packed full of truly remarkable people who aspire every day to ensure our children are happy and loving learning. I've never come across a school like it! Brimming with energy and kindness, it's a very happy place and we feel very lucky that our daughter is able to go to such a fantastic school. Thank you."*

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Deer Park School – Open and Thriving!

We focused on the completion of the Deer Park School project in the last newsletter (Spring 2021) so now the school is open and thriving we are delighted share some wonderful pictures from the recent photography and filming project visit:

Photography by Squib Photography

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These next few pages highlight each school across the trust. Please visit their websites for more!

Clean Air Day 21 – Posters

Congratulations to all the children from **Deer Park School** whose fabulous Clean Air posters feature on the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames website as part of the Clean Air Day 2021 Poster Competition!

In particular Jarvis for being awarded Runner-Up KS1 competition!

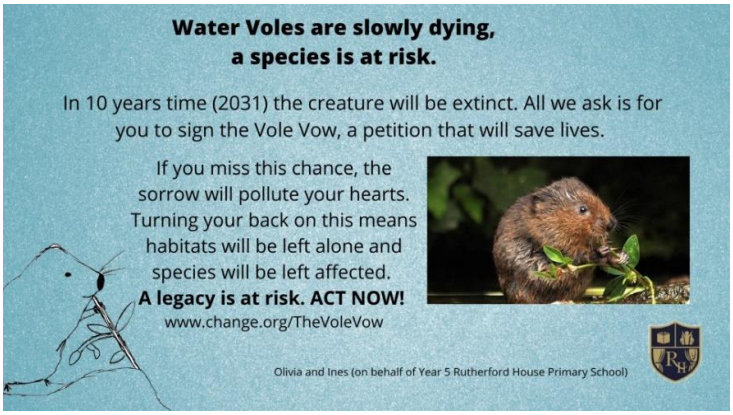
The theme was 'The lungs of London' and students could interpret the theme in any way they wanted to, using art, poetry, a story, or combination of formats to produce an A4 poster.

Year Five Pupils Campaign to Save The Vole

Inspired by Ratty, when reading The Wind in the Willows the Year 5 classes at **Rutherford House School** researched and found that, at the current rate, The Water Vole will be extinct from the area of Wandsworth and Richmond by 2031. So they decided to start a petition and write letters to their local Councillors and MP, the Mayor of London and the Prime Minister.

Originally hoping for just 1,000 signatures the campaign now has over 50,500 and that number continues to rise. Local station Radio Jackie was first to carry the story, then The Naturewatch Foundation, OVO Energy joined in. However, it was when the ITV London weather reporter Sally Williams heard about it and came to into school to film for the ITV London news! After that local papers shared the campaign on twitter #SavetheVole #TheVoleVow and the petition is now looking for 75,000 signatures

Please do visit and sign.



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Evendons School Trips

Pupils in each year group at **Evendons Primary School** have enjoyed a school trip, on-site adventure or far away residential this term.

The trips are additional to the wealth of outdoor learning which takes place at school, embodying the school values and ethos.

Pupils get to learn through their environment with music and movement on the sports court, reading in the woodland circle and science includes pond dipping or bug hunting!

Braywick Court School became rather famous in the media after England qualified for the Euro 2020 final and Mrs. Donnelly tweeted that there was the option for pupils to register up until 10.30am on the Monday after the game. The article shown was in The Daily Mail.

As a school, they are famous for outstanding teaching and learning and we know they have done lots of that this term too, including having an Enterprise Fair, Bikeability Courses, Den Building, Carpentry and being awarded Blue Peter Climate Hero Badges!

Classes to start

SCHOOLS across England are allowing children to come in late on Monday after the Euro 2020 final – but Ofsted's chief has warned pupils should not miss out on education.

Many headteachers have announced later registrations to let students have a lie-in if they stay up late to watch the England versus Italy game at Wembley.

However Amanda Spielman, the education watchdog's chief inspector of schools, yesterday said she 'very much' hoped that 'every school will teach a full day'. Schools in areas including Berkshire, Hertfordshire, Herefordshire, Lincolnshire, West Midlands, County Durham, West Yorkshire, Lancashire and London are offering shorter days.

By Sarah Harris

Gemma Donnelly, head of Braywick Court School in Bray, Berkshire, has told parents that children will not be marked as late if they are in by 10.30am.

Parklands primary school in Leeds has informed families that children can start from 10am to avoid absences. Headteacher Chris Dyson said staff would be

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Kilburn Grange School have been super creative this term, sculpting with clay, making digital music and role playing the battle tactics of the Roman Empire!

There has been lots of core learning and sport ensuring a broad, enriched curriculum for all including …

How does light Travel?
What are the layers of the Earth?
The life cycle of a plant!
Making Bread
Making Bird Feeders

PSQM
Primary Science Quality Mark
Valid 2021-2024

The staff and pupils at **Halley House School** are so proud to have been awarded the PSQM 'Primary Science Quality Mark' for the studies they have been doing for the past 18 months. It is great to see the sustained scientific work recognised!

They are also very proud to have a new school library, designed and created by the wonderful Friends of Halley House (PTA).

They also received a fabulous donation of 'A dinosaur Ate My Sister' books from the Marcus Rashford Book Club!

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It's great to be outside! We as a trust are so pleased all of our schools have been able to have some form of Sports Day – either onsite or at local community facilities.

These pictures are from **Watling Park School**, where pupils used the field, the playground and the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) for different activities!

We will post a full montage of sports day images from all schools, on our news page, when events are completed, which will be after 21st July when Deer Park have their sports day!

Whitehall Park School started a campaign to 'Save our Cockerel' in the spring, raising funds for the historic statues restoration. This term, Amy, has been making great progress on the project and he will soon be returned to his former glory!

Year 6 pupils have had fun filming their end of primary school production, using a green screen and designing their own scenery.

Year 1 have had lots of fun with shapes, focusing on 2D and 3D, they have worked well together in teams!

Year 4 sent a huge Thank You to The Reading Agency for a donation of books, helping them to enjoy a week long project which was inspired by the novel 'In My Blood It Runs'.