



A family of eleven schools brought together by a shared vision to inspire our 3,680 children to Learn, Enjoy, Succeed.



Highlights

These images give a flavour of what our pupils have been up to during the last term.



Welcome

Welcome to all staff, parents and carers, and to those of you who are receiving this BPET newsletter for the first time.

You will be acquainted with the activities and achievements of the school your child is enrolled in, and through this newsletter we want to share the wider projects all BPET schools are involved in and celebrate everyone's achievements.

We are very proud of the progress that all schools are making as we pass the halfway point of the academic year.

Mark Greatrex, BPET Chief Executive

The Heights Primary School joined BPET

On the 1 Dec 2023, The Heights Primary School in Caversham (Reading) joined BPET.

The Heights is a non-selective, highly inclusive primary school judged 'outstanding' by Ofsted. Pupil achievement is very high, delivered by the broad curriculum and the excellent educational offer.

Headteacher Karen Edwards, said: "We are excited to start this new phase with

BPET. During the first couple of months we have already been supported by the trust and have been made to feel very welcome by the central team and other schools. We are appreciative of this and are looking forward to continue this journey of growth, collaborating and contributing to our new family of schools." [Read more here.](#)

New appointments and recruitment

Halley House School's new Headteacher, Mr Mills-Bishop, has now started in his role and is settling in well supported by long standing staff and the school community. Mr Mills-Bishop has a strong vision for Halley House which you can read more about on [their website](#). You can also get to know him a little more [by reading this interview](#).

Because of retirement or new professional paths taken, three headteacher roles have opened up. We are recruiting for inspirational headteachers for Whiteknights Primary School, The Heights Primary School and Whitehall Park School. [Read more here.](#)

Two new apprentices have recently joined the BPET central team. Ore Ayoade and Tahmima Khatoun are our new Digital Marketing Assistant and Business Support Assistant respectively. Welcome!



Training new teachers

Our vision is to offer the highest standards of education possible, not only to our pupils but also to our staff who engage in professional development opportunities all year-round.

We have taken this principle even further by working with Teach First and set up a School Centred Initial Teacher Training programme in order to train the teachers of tomorrow.

The programme is validated by Sheffield Hallam University, it is one-year long and involves a mix of live training in class, self-directed study and one-to-one support. The training is ideal for people who are eager to learn on the job.

The trainees will learn alongside our existing experienced teachers for a year before being given the chance to have their own class, should they pass the course successfully. Each BPET school is likely to have a trainee of their own.

With 15 available positions, we have already received 36 applications and are keen to receive even more to create an outstanding cohort of future teachers.

See all details and do forward to friends or family who are considering a career in teaching.

BPET Conference 2023

The annual BPET Conference saw nearly 300 delegates from our schools come together on 30 October 2023 (picture above) at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Docklands (London) for a day of learning, collaboration and networking.

The conference offered BPET staff the opportunity to choose between 40 workshop sessions led by experts, thinkers and leaders in their fields in order to upskill and feel inspired. Read more and watch the video of the day.

SEN Champion appointed

The number of pupils with special educational needs (SEN) in England has increased by 87,000 from 2022.

To support all our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators in each school, we appointed Ms Gemma Sloan, from Rivermead Primary School, as the BPET SEN Champion.

Governance review

BPET went through an external governance review. The National Governance Association concluded that our governance is strong with some space to improve local governance engagement.



Evendons pupils at No 10

In January, 15 children from Evendons Primary School (Berkshire) had the opportunity to visit 10 Downing Street, invited by the PM's wife, Akshata Murty, as part of her initiative *Lessons at 10*.

For their lesson, our pupils were offered a cooking class with Mike Beaton, also known as Commando Chef. The lunch was followed by a guided tour of Downing Street, where the children marvelled at the many artefacts within the residence and were able to hold and touch some of them.

[Read more about this great visit and see more images.](#)

Poetry competition

The BPET first ever Performance Poetry Recital Competition took place last November.

Individual classes voted on their best performers, who later performed in the semi-finals in school assemblies. Children from five different schools were then selected to partake in the finals.

The judging panel was blown away by all the finalists and named Rivermead Primary School as the overall winner. The winning performances will be submitted by video to the *Poetry By Heart* competition, offering the pupils the chance to perform at the Globe Theatre. [Read more here.](#)

Sports competitions

For the first time this year, we hosted the BPET Invictus Games, for children in Key Stage 2 who are low in confidence or with special needs. Our Sports Champions **Dan Bavington** and **Jack Briley** led the way, with the support of all schools' sports coaches.

The focus of the event was on trying out new sports (boccia, archery, new age kurling, dangerball), building confidence, feeling part of a team and enjoying the physical movement and the overall experience. Everyone received a medal. [Read more.](#)

On 26 Feb, the BPET Year 3 & 4 Boys Football tournament took place at Watling Park School. 59 boys were vying for the trophy, which went to Kilburn Grange School, but everyone showed teamwork, communication skills and most importantly sportsmanship. [Read more.](#)

RAAC Update

Last summer there was considerable media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in school buildings.

Surveys have been carried out in all our schools; on 25 January 2024 we received formal confirmation by the Department for Education that no RAAC is present in any of the BPET schools and that all our buildings are safe.