



**Batley** Multi Academy Trust

# The **Batley Buzz**

**The Trust at the heart of the Batley community**

**March 2025**

Edition 7

Our children deserve the best.  
No child left behind - ever.  
Every school a great school.  
Creating remarkable people.



# Our Trust Vision

Every young person,  
regardless of their background or  
starting point, receives a first-class  
education, coupled with  
high-quality care, guidance and  
support.



# Our Infant and Primary News



Founded 1612

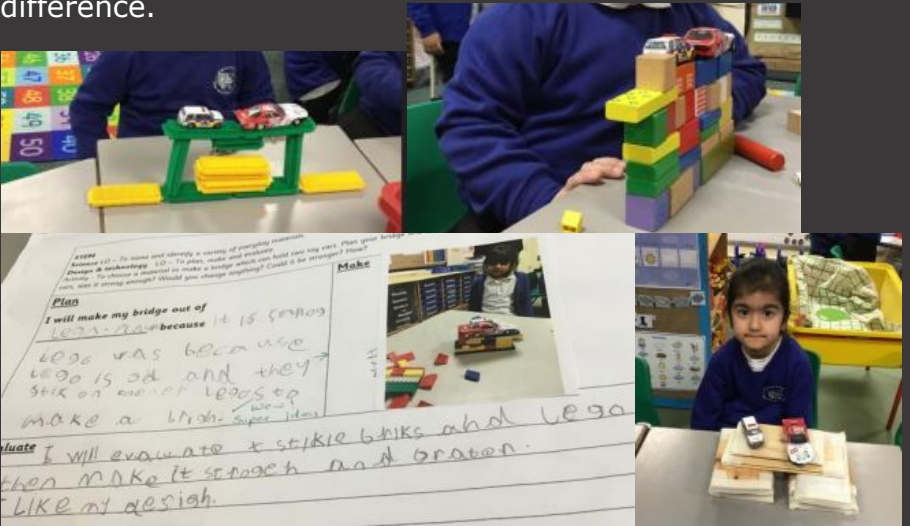




# STEM – our engineers of the future!

This week, our learners have been thinking about ways to make our school and local area safer and cleaner. They identified important issues such as cars driving too fast and littering, then designed eye-catching posters to raise awareness.

In a special assembly, we were joined by Councillor Gwen Lowe and Ashley Fothergill to celebrate their hard work. Thanks to their generous funding, two talented learners were awarded scooters for their winning designs, and many of the fantastic posters will be printed on banners and displayed outside the school, which is very exciting! We are so proud of our learners for taking action to make a positive difference.



# Chinese New Year

Nursery and Reception children have been finding out about the celebration of Chinese New Year recently, they learned a dragon dance and performed it for their parents with their own musical accompaniment!



# Spring is in the air!

Spring flowers are beginning to bloom all over our outdoor spaces at Manorfield. Children used their observation skills to notice and talk about the different colours that they see and painted these beautiful flower paintings.



# Superheroes

Reception children have loved their literacy lessons recently based on the book Supertato! His nemesis the Evil Pea has been playing all sorts of wicked tricks and children are trying their hardest to catch him. They have written 'Wanted' posters and even designed their own Super Veggie characters to help Supertato!





## Empowering the next generation of female footballers

What a great way to celebrate International Women's Day. Field Lane took part in a nationwide celebration of girls' football, highlighting the importance of inclusivity in sports, showing everyone that girls belong in football. Some of our girls who weren't sure at first really enjoyed the session so it is brilliant that it has changed their view of football.



**Impact:** as a result of this event more girls are playing football regularly and there are mixed teams of boys and girls playing together during break and lunch.



## Play in a day!

Year 6 wowed us with their 'Play in a Day' performance of Macbeth. The children learned the play and delivered the play with confidence all within one day. The children were able to take on the role of different characters - we have discovered we have some very good actors! Royal Shakespeare Company, here we come!

# MACBETH

## First Aid with Key Stage 2

Our upper Key Stage 2 learners refreshed their first aid skills with a focus on what to do in a roadside incident.

With the help of Letty Herring, from Kirklees Safe and Active Travel, they were taught how to call for help if they found someone injured; how to take care of someone who has been injured outdoors and how to perform CPR.





## World Book Day

On World Book Day, the learners had a fantastic time dressing up as their favourite characters. They spent some time in the library listening to a story, creating their own book covers and choosing their own book to take home. In class, we also drew our favourite book characters.



## Outdoor learning

Mrs Porter's most recent seasonal project involved the primary learners planting seed potatoes.

Money raised at Christmas enabled the school to purchase the compost bags and seed potatoes. One of our primary learners is even growing potatoes indoors, as you can see from the photo.

We will be looking for the first signs of growth from our potatoes soon... watch this space!



## Rocksteady



We in the Primary Phase were incredibly privileged to welcome a member of the Rocksteady team for a music workshop. We listened to a range of musical instruments being played before being encouraged to have a go ourselves.

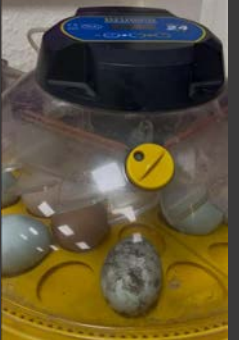
We created an amazing rock band and played our own version of George Ezra. 'It was so much fun!' 'I heard songs my mum listens to.' 'Can he come back? I loved it!' were just some of the comments from our learners!

## Chick-watch!

Our learners have had the opportunity to watch 12 eggs for the last three weeks, Ash from our IT team suggested a live stream so our learners could watch the eggs hatch.

The long agonising wait was over on Wednesday 19 March when the first chick appeared eagerly anticipated by a whole host of learners avidly watching the live stream, and naturally, more have followed.

Each year group in the Primary Phase will have the opportunity to host the chicks for a day. How egg-citing!





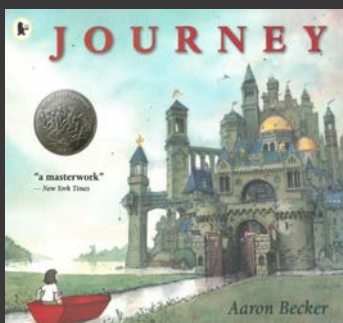


Everybody enjoyed our **World Book Day** celebrations - from dressing up as our favourite character, to classroom doors being adorned to represent books the class had chosen. Here is Mrs Dickinson as Gangster Granny!



## Book Journey

Our whole school **Book Project** this half term is based on "Journey" by Aaron Becker. It tells the story of a lonely girl who draws a magic door on her bedroom wall and through it escapes into a world where wonder, adventure, and danger abound.



Our **Paper Plate Competition** led to some fantastic creative designs of our favourite books. Each class voted for a winning design and book prizes were awarded.

Our older learners thoroughly enjoyed buddying up with younger children to read and enjoy stories together. This is something that will continue each half term.



## Fairtrade Conference at Tolson Museum

Year 5 learners had a brilliant day learning all about Fairtrade with workshops from The Fairtrade Foundation, Suma Wholefoods, Coeur de Xocolat and fairandfunky. The goodie bags that each school received were an added treat!



**Instructor led Scootering** - from Bikeability, was fantastic for our learners as they took to the streets outside of school and practiced the Green Cross Code, as well as continuing to master scooter skills and safety measures.



# Our Secondary News



BATLEY GIRLS'  
HIGH SCHOOL



Founded 1612



UPPER  
BATLEY  
HIGH SCHOOL

*Believe Achieve Succeed*



Batley Multi Academy Trust






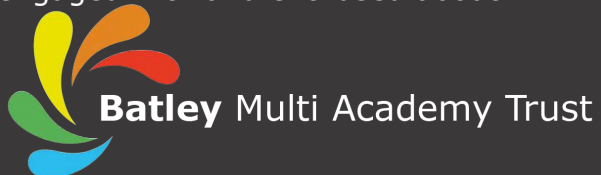
Our Alumni really engage our learners, as they can more relate to them. Since Rachael spoke to our Year 9 learners they have had a rethink and now selected the languages subjects for their options.



# World Book Day

Learners in Year 7-13 enjoyed a two-day World Book Day extravaganza where they were able to travel the continent aboard BGHS airlines. Learners immersed themselves in a range of books from around the world; they completed their Reading Passport as they travelled selecting their favourite books from each of the continents.

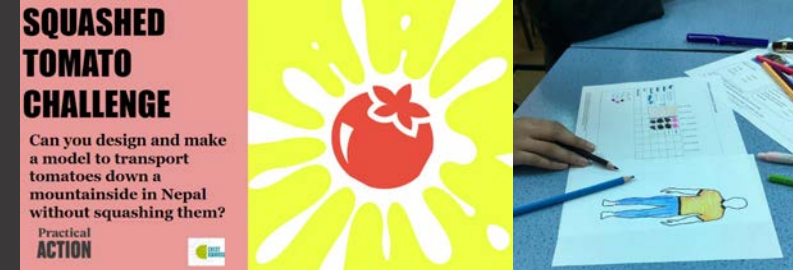
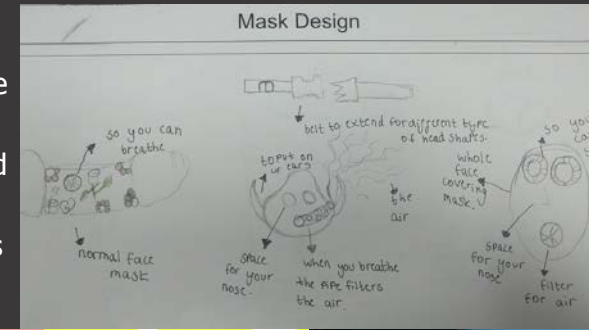
Back by popular demand, learners also decorated their form room doors to pay tribute to one of their favourite books. A learner voice activity also took place where they voted for one of three book box options in each year to add to our Reading For Learning book offer. It is important that the 'Form Tutor Reads' during daily Reading Time are books that our learners are engaged with and enthused about.

A small photograph in the bottom right corner of the slide shows a desk with a lamp, a book, and a plant.

# British Science Week

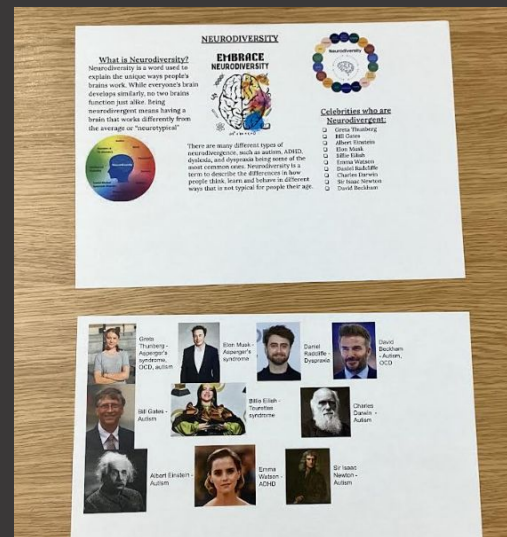
Years 7, 8, and 9 have actively participated in British Science Week, exploring this year's theme of 'Adapt and Change' through engaging STEM activities. They investigated asteroid impacts on the atmosphere, designed pollution masks, and engineered solutions for transporting tomatoes down Nepal's mountains, amongst a whole host of other activities!

The week provided a valuable opportunity to think creatively, apply scientific principles, and understand the importance of adaptation in a changing world.



# Neurodiversity Celebration Week

We have taken part in events to celebrate Neurodiversity Celebration Week. Learners across the year groups have promoted the event with posters, learner led discussions and engaged with assemblies. Neurodiverse celebrities have been recognised and their talents and unique qualities celebrated alongside those of individuals in school and in the local community. Tolerance and understanding of uniqueness and diversity lies at the heart of BGHS and we are proud to encourage our learners to believe everyone can achieve their goals.



# National Careers Week

# NCW

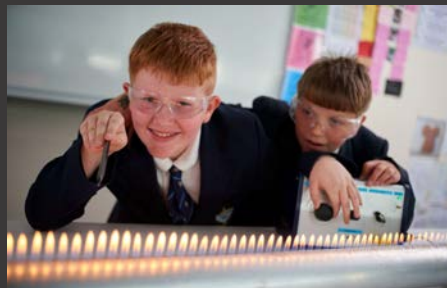


## Careers Convention

Our careers convention took place during National Careers Week to enhance this celebration of careers, education, support and guidance. It was a resounding success, bringing together a variety of different post-16 providers including; local businesses, apprenticeship providers, colleges, sixth forms, universities and uniformed services.

Our learners had the opportunity to connect directly with providers and were tasked with finding answers to pre-prepared questions in order to support them in making informed decisions about future career pathways.

Learners from Years 6 through 11 were invited, as well as the parents/carers of learners in Years 9 to 11 so they could also be informed about their child's opportunities. Feedback from all participants was overwhelmingly positive and we look forward to welcoming even more providers in future career events.



Ambitious



Forward-thinking



Resilient



Reflective



Founded 1612

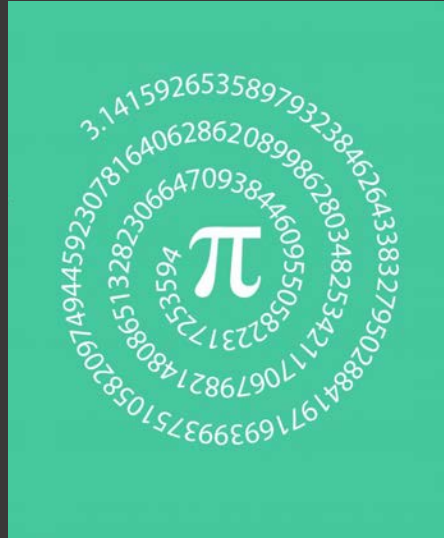


# Celebrating Pi Day

On Friday 14 March, the Maths Department hosted an exciting **Pi Recital Competition** to celebrate **Pi Day**, the annual event dedicated to the famous mathematical constant ( $\pi \approx 3.14159\dots$ ). Pi Day is marked worldwide on this day - 3rd month, 14th day - because the date reflects the first three digits of pi, according to the American date format.

Learners put their memory skills to the test, but the standout performance came from one learner, who successfully recited an incredible

**100 digits of pi from memory!** The competition was a fun and engaging way to celebrate maths, and we hope to organize even more activities for **Pi Day 2026**. Keep practicing those digits—maybe next year, someone will break the record!



## Go for your goals with Dan Freedman

As part of our World Book Day Celebrations - our Year 7 and Year 8 learners had the privilege of spending time with the inspiring author, Dan Freedman. Dan has captivated the hearts and minds of our learners with his fantastic books; full of literary treasures that fill the shelves of our school library. Dan's journey as a writer has been a breathtaking adventure, brimming with extraordinary opportunities that most only dream of! His presence ignited a real spark within our learners, who were absolutely buzzing with excitement and eager to pose their questions about his incredible career. As if that weren't enough, Dan gifted 91 copies of his thrilling books to our learners, which he kindly signed for them on the day too. It really was a truly unforgettable experience which encouraged everyone to 'go for their goals'!



# The Hepworth Wakefield

The Creatives department visited The Hepworth Wakefield gallery with a group of 15 Year 10 learners for a Creative Industries careers event. Learners were introduced to a series of challenges set by the team at The Hepworth and the University of Leeds.

Learners had the opportunity to meet professionals, learn about the breadth of careers in the arts and discover relevant skills. Hands-on workshops with practising artists and ambassadors from the University of Leeds, focused on developing skills that are integral to creative careers. The interactive session, with professionals in the creative industries, allowed learners to find out what they really wanted to know to inform them for their futures.



# Our Sixth Form News





## Careers Fair at BGS during National Careers Week

We attended Batley Grammar School's careers fair, during National Careers Week, supporting learners across our Trust family - promoting BG6 and exposing learners to the BG6 curriculum offer and our enrichment opportunities.



## STEM Summer School

Two brilliant Year 12 learners have successfully gained a place for the Into STEM Summer School at the University of Leeds for Medicine/Biomedical Science and Healthcare. These summer schools will provide our learners with an appreciation of studying a STEM subject at degree level.



## Unifrog for Year 12

Year 12 learners recently had a session delivered with Unifrog (Digital Careers platform) in conjunction with a large employer Centrica (energy and service company).

Our learners were part of a live virtual session looking at all the different career pathways associated with Centrica.

unifrog

centrica

## Informing future pathways for Year 9 BGHS learners

The Learner Leadership Academic Committee have led assemblies for Year 9 learners to help inform their decision-making process for their options.

Our BG6 learners shared their experiences of their options, what they are studying currently, and how the courses will help them in their future education and career journeys.



**Enrichment** - Year 12 have successfully completed their British Sign Language course, gaining valuable communication skills and a deeper understanding of inclusivity.



Their focus now shifts to developing essential life skills that will prepare them for the future. Through Barclays Life Skills, they will work on building confidence, improving communication, and learning practical skills such as budgeting and managing challenges. These sessions will equip them with the tools needed to navigate both personal and professional life with resilience and independence.

Applications now open!

[Apply to BG6 here](#)





# Our Staff Superheroes



**Emma Sherwood and Elly Maxwell**

Emma Leads Science and DT, and Elly leads on Maths. Together they are leading the way with curriculum road maps that every subject leader is developing. Having learned from good practice at UBHS, we are developing these as part of our curriculum planning.



**Sharon Shillito**

Sharon has done a fantastic job this year in her role as Exams and Data Manager as well as taking on a number of other roles in school as a short term measure to support colleagues. She has also supported colleagues Trust wide with the knowledge she has and we are grateful for her attention to detail in everything that she does.



**Ash Hale and Kamir Aziz**

For being intuitive and their fantastic IT support for the Batley Grammar School team. They are solutions-focussed, which really makes a difference to daily tasks providing solutions such as a live feed so everyone can see the chicks hatching!



**Arefa Karolia**

Arefa is a brilliant member of the catering team at BGHS. She delivers exceptional service in the dining hall for the learners. With a warm smile and a friendly demeanor, she ensures that every learner feels welcomed and appreciated.



**Elaine Milligan**

For her unwavering commitment to improving governance, being utterly brilliant and always finding positive solutions in her Trust governance role. We wish her all the best for her well-deserved retirement!





# Our Staff Superheroes



## **Ben Tierney, Christina Nutter, Kate Ellis, Rajinder Randhawa and Sandeep Kaur**

For literally going the extra mile for our learners; driving Manorfield children to and from school to ensure they didn't miss out on their education due to challenges these young people faced outside of school.

The family really appreciated the help provided by our super staff team, truly embodying that together everyone achieves more.

# Our Community Work ...

really means a lot to us, and we see our Trust and our schools at the very heart of our community. **Community** Makes Us and it is the **unity** in community that matters.

National Careers Week

# NCW

Across our Trust family of schools, we support **over 50** individuals with their training and development in the education sector.

## Training and Development

# 35

Early Careers  
Teachers

# 8

Aspire to  
Educate Trainees

# 13

Teacher  
Trainees

## National Careers Week

We are proud of our careers education across our Trust family of schools not only for our learners, but also the Trust-wide career development opportunities for colleagues.

As part of our mission to be the Trust at the heart of the Batley community we aim to be in the employer of choice in Batley and we also invest in growing our own to retain the talent we have.

Through The Yorkshire Rose Teaching Partnership we support an extensive cohort of individuals who wish to train and develop in the education sector.

We are also developing our career routes outside of the classroom, as schools need a wide range of services in order to flourish; from health & safety to wellbeing and premises management to Special Educational Needs. There are so many different career routes available in our schools across our Trust.

There really is something for everyone, and so many different skillsets are required, please keep an eye on our current vacancies 🙌 [Join our team!](#)

Choose us with your Tesco blue token from 1 April 2025 and support our **Community Garden Project**

### How to get involved?

When you have finished your Tesco shop in one of the **11 stores listed below**, you will be given a blue token to vote with. If we receive the most customer votes we will receive funding to realise our plans to create a fantastic space with an orchard and raised beds for our Trust family of schools as well as the local community.

**You can be a part of it and benefit from it too!**

Batley Extra Large (WF17 5DR)  
Outwood Wakefield Express (WF1 2DX)  
Tingley Westerton Road Express (WF3 1PZ)  
Crigglestone Express (WF4 3EF)  
Ardsley Express (WF3 2JA)  
Wakefield Express (WF1 4LH)  
Ossett Express (WF5 9NQ)  
Dewsbury Yorks Express (WF12 8AJ)  
Mirfield Queen Road Express (WF14 8AN)  
Wakefield Barn Road Express (WF1 5NP)  
Dewsbury Leeds Road Express (WF12 7DR)





# The Fields

## Community Spaces at Field Lane and Manorfield



**The Fields**  
Community Spaces

### What's On at The Fields - MARCH & APRIL 2025

Days	Events	Providers	Location	When
<b>Monday</b>	Henry	Henry.org	Manorfield I & N School	Every Monday 9:00-11:00 a.m.
	Gardening Club	The Fields Team	Manorfield I & N School	started 24 February 2:00-3:00 p.m.
	Fields Arts & Wellbeing Hour	The Fields Team	Field Lane J I & N School	24 March 2025 9:00-10:00 a.m.
	Fields Arts & Wellbeing Hour	The Fields Team	Manorfield I & N School	24 March 2025 1:00-2:00 p.m.
<b>Tuesday</b>	Tiny Readers	The Fields Team	Manorfield I & N School	started 4 March 9:00-10:00 a.m.
	Outdoor activities group	S2R	Manorfield I & N School	started 4 March 2:00-3:45 p.m.
<b>Wednesday</b>	Project Empowerment	Kirklees Wellness Team	Manorfield I & N School	26 March 10:00-1:00 p.m.
	Intro. to health, social & child care workspace principles	Kirklees College	Manorfield I & N School	12 March 2025 12:00-3:00 p.m.
	PCAN Coffee Morning	PCAN	Manorfield I & N School	26 March 9:00-10:00 a.m.
<b>Thursday</b>	ESOL	Kirklees College	Manorfield I & N School	Every Thursday 9:00-11:30 a.m.
	Macrame	Kirklees College	Field Lane J I & N School	started 6 March 2025 9:00-11:30 a.m.
	Project Empowerment	Kirklees Wellness Team	Manorfield I & N School	20 March 2025 10:00-1:00 p.m.
<b>Friday</b>				
For further information, you can reach us at 07497 512801 or <a href="mailto:fieldscoordinator@batleymat.co.uk">fieldscoordinator@batleymat.co.uk</a>				One-off session
				Longer running session

### Recent mindful arts and crafts sessions

#### Macramé

A series of macramé sessions are currently taking place at Field Lane. There has been a lot of interest and overwhelmingly

*"Really enjoyed meeting people and course was so well delivered. Thank you!"*

*"Amazing Course! Absolutely loved learning this skill and I have enjoyed every minute of it!"*

*"Loved the class. Lovely to spend time with the other ladies, sharing things in common."*



#### Arts and Crafts

During recent arts and crafts sessions learners were taught how to make a mandala.

A mandala is used to focus attention, for spiritual guidance, meditation and mindfulness.



**Contact The Fields Community Space Administrator for more information or to let us know what you'd like to see:**

Huda Khan  
[fieldscoordinator@batleymat.co.uk](mailto:fieldscoordinator@batleymat.co.uk)  
07497 512801

Find us at:

**Field Lane:** Albion Street,  
Batley, WF17 5AH

**Manorfield:** Manor Way,  
Batley, WF17 7DQ

# Careers: the golden thread

## Essential Skills

### Spotlight on: Problem-solving

Problem-solving is sometimes seen as a core STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) skill, which of course it is, but it is so much more than that and applies to lots of different aspects of the curriculum as well as enrichment experiences.

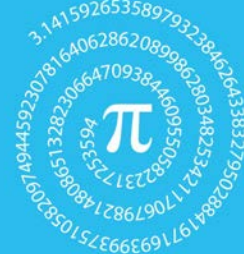
For example; our three secondary schools are engaged in an NPD (New Product Development) project in partnership with Pugata jewellery, which is giving real work experience to teams of learners taking them on the product life cycle journey. Schools recently also celebrated Pi Day, recognising that it's a number that shapes our world - from measuring circles to unlocking the secrets of the universe.

Outdoor learning and the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) are enrichment opportunities and activities that challenge learners in different ways. The young people in our primaries learn about problem-solving and patience through play, for example with building blocks.

These skills shape the resilience of our learners and build the foundations to help them adapt to the challenges they may face in their futures.

### Pi Day

*"Those who can  
imagine anything,  
can create the  
impossible."  
- Alan Turing*



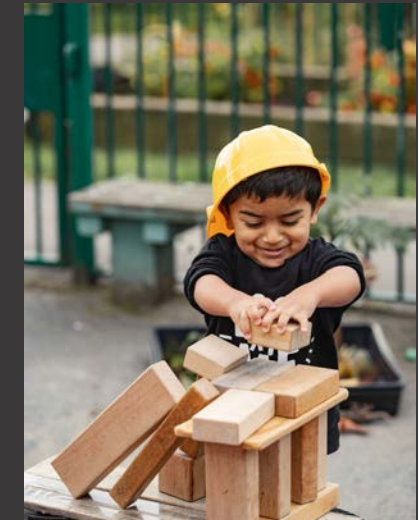
### CCF



### Outdoor Learning



### Through play



### Work experience

PUGATA



ASDA



# Great Governance

## Our Trust is governed by three key layers: Members, Trustees and Governors

**Members** are custodians of the Trust. They have a hands-off role in terms of managing the Trust and act as a 'check and balance' on the performance of the Multi Academy Trust.

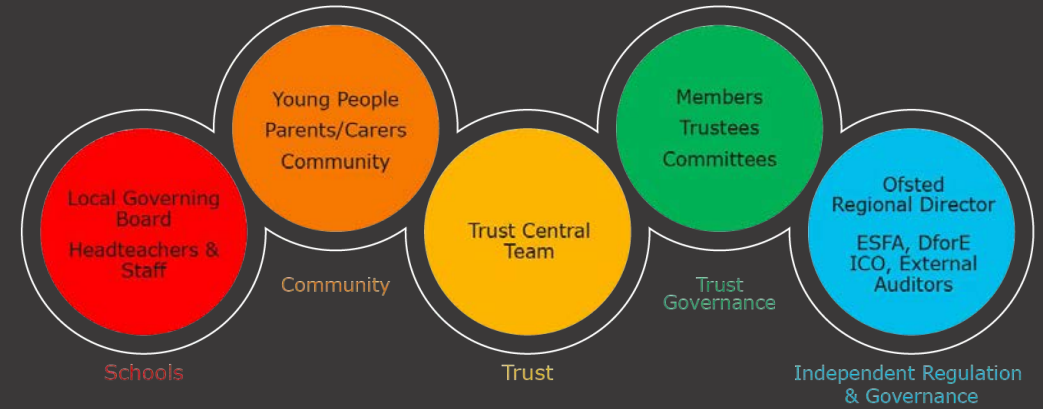
Batley Multi Academy Trust is a legal entity and our **Board of Trustees** have collective accountability and responsibility for the Trust, assuring themselves that there is compliance with regulatory, contractual and statutory requirements. The Board of Trustees provide:

- Strategic leadership of the Trust
- Accountability and assurance
- Engagement

Trustees must apply the highest standards of conduct, adhering to the Seven Principles of Public Life (Nolan Principles), ensure robust governance and effective financial management.

All of the schools in our Trust family have **Local Governing Boards** - these boards are made up of Co-opted Governors, Parent/Carer Governors and Staff Governors.

Our Governors play a key role, alongside our Board of Trustees, and act as the 'custodians of culture' and the 'caretakers of promoting and celebrating their school's uniqueness'. There are no formal qualifications required for a role in Governance, simply a passion and desire to support the young people of Batley and the wider school community. We are looking for great team players, and people with a forward thinking, solution-focused approach.



## Are you interested in finding out more about governance?

Across our Trust family of schools, we currently have the following vacancies:

2 Co-opted Governors  
3 Trustees  
1 Member

If you are interested or know of anyone who is, please contact Laura Bland on:

**[governance.professional@batleymat.co.uk](mailto:governance.professional@batleymat.co.uk)**

# Our wider links

Our family of schools  
Works closely with the  
BBEST Hub.

Take a look at  
their website for  
details of local services,  
support and activities.

We are proud to lead the  
Yorkshire Rose Teaching Partnership  
- providing high quality primary  
and secondary teacher training  
in West Yorkshire.

This consortium includes 15 local  
schools, Exceed SCITT and local  
Higher Education Institutions.

Our schools play a key role in the  
Calderdale & Kirklees Teaching  
School Hub. This Hub offers support  
to over 400 schools across our  
region. The purpose of the hub is to  
provide high-quality professional  
development for teachers and  
leaders.

We are proud to  
partner with the Global  
Equality Collective. We  
are working with them  
to support our  
approach to inclusion  
for staff and learners,  
driven by our belief  
that no child should be  
left behind, ever.





# Support & advice for parents/carers and families

Childnet International has produced a very informative resource for parents/carers to help you keep your child safe online:

[www.childnet.com/resources/parent-and-carer-toolkit/](http://www.childnet.com/resources/parent-and-carer-toolkit/)



## For young people;

### Childline

Providing help & support for under 18s.

0800 11 11

[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)



### The Mix

Provides essential support for 13-25 year olds.

[www.themix.org.uk](http://www.themix.org.uk)



## For families;

### NSPCC

Free support & advice for parents/carers worried about a young person.

0808 800 500

[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)



### Family Lives

Free, professional non-judgemental advice.

0800 800 222

[www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)



## Other specialist services;

### Get it right from a genuine site

Find out which sites are legal for downloading movies, music and games

[www.getitrightfromagenuinesite.org](http://www.getitrightfromagenuinesite.org)

GET IT RIGHT  
FROM A  
GENUINE SITE

### Ask about games

Advice and online guides about gaming and PEGI ratings.

[www.askaboutgames.com](http://www.askaboutgames.com)



# Batley Multi Academy Trust

*Our family of schools*



Batley Multi Academy Trust  
Trust Development Centre  
c/o Upper Batley High School  
Blenheim Drive  
Batley  
WF17 0BJ