

BETTERTIMES

Bohunt Education Trust Termly Events Review

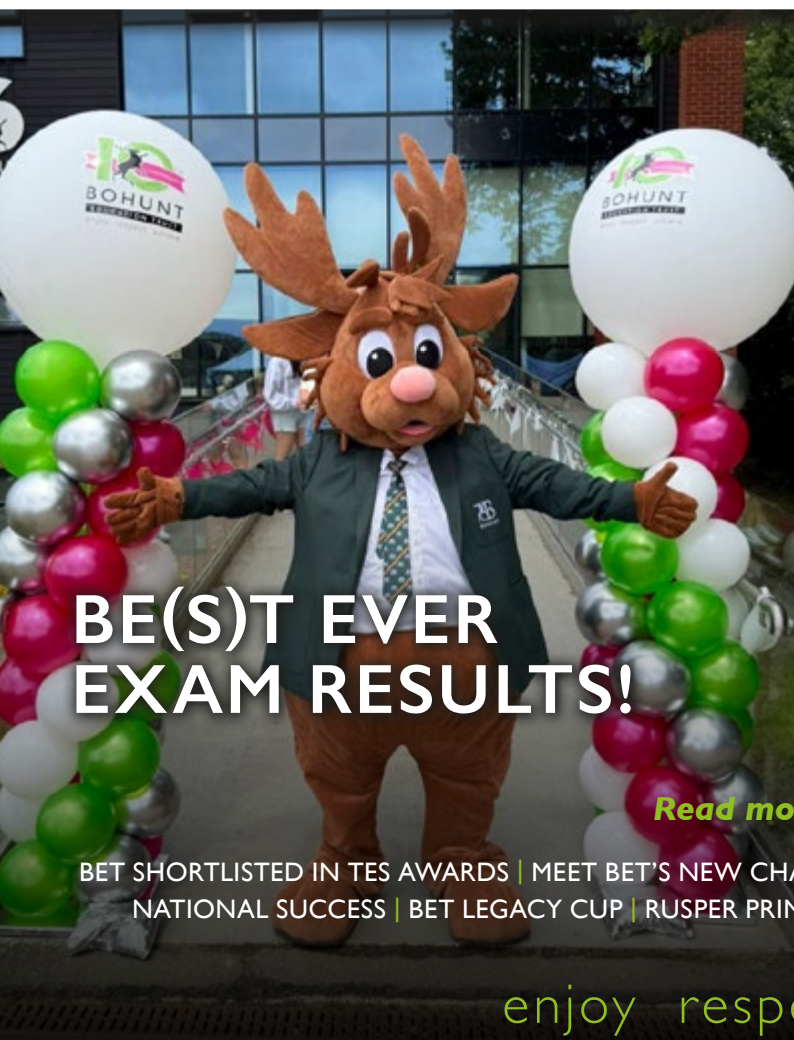


ISSUE 21 – AUTUMN 2025 – RESPECT



BET 10 INSET: EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE HIGHLIGHTS

10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION



BE(S)T EVER
EXAM RESULTS!

Read more inside:

BET SHORTLISTED IN TES AWARDS | MEET BET'S NEW CHAIR OF TRUSTEES | BOHUNT FARNBOROUGH CELEBRATES NATIONAL SUCCESS | BET LEGACY CUP | RUSPER PRIMARY JOINS BET | SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS AND MORE...



CELEBRATING
EXCELLENCE: BET
AWARDS 2025

enjoy respect achieve

GOT NEWS?

Share school updates with your marketing contact or the BET Comms team for BETTER Times.



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Acknowledgement: Ray Morton, who stepped down as chair of trustees on 31 August 2025, contributes his customary welcome to this issue. We want to thank him for his extraordinary commitment and leadership.

FUTURE ISSUES OF BETTER TIMES

We want to ensure you enjoy BETTER Times and find it a useful and engaging platform. If you have any suggestions for future content, please email the Comms team at: comms@bohuntrtrust.com

Many thanks to all this issue's contributors.





WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR OF BET

As you know, BET works hard to recognise and reward staff for their dedication and to celebrate colleagues, teams, and schools demonstrating excellence. The BET Awards, held at Old Thorns in April, allowed us to celebrate the professionalism and commitment of teachers and support staff alike. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, and I was delighted to present the Chair's Award to Andrew Wood from Steyning for his outstanding work in making cross-Trust data accessible and understandable for the Board. Congratulations to all award recipients.

Ten years on from becoming a MAT, this summer, BET was shortlisted as TES Multi-Academy Trust of the Year. While we did not win, the nomination was a significant achievement, reflecting the continued excellence of our schools, echoing Bohunt Liphook's 2014 awards for Overall School and Secondary School of the Year.

Earlier this year, we marked our 10th anniversary with a range of celebratory events across our schools. The excellent and well-planned cross-Trust INSET day on 24 June at Liphook, attended by almost all 1,400 staff, offered a wonderful opportunity to network, reflect on our journey, and celebrate our achievements. I was both honoured and somewhat overwhelmed to receive a personal award recognising my "inspiring leadership as Chair of BET."

This year's exam results were outstanding. Most BET schools achieved their best-ever GCSE outcomes, well above the national average, with disadvantaged students showing the most significant gains. A-level results were equally impressive, including 46% A & A* grades at Liphook—almost double the national average. Congratulations to all students and staff for their dedication and achievements.

Looking back, BET has faced major challenges, most notably Covid. Government uncertainty and school closures caused significant disruption and anxiety among pupils. BET responded with resilience, aided by our early adoption of 1:1 iPads, which enabled



excellent online learning. Even now, three years on, we see the impact as younger cohorts enter secondary education. Our cross-Trust collaboration, aligned curricula, and strong leadership were crucial in ensuring a consistent and effective response during this unprecedented crisis.

As we navigate this Autumn term, it is remarkable to consider BET's growth—from a single academy in Liphook in 2011 to ten schools with around 12,000 pupils. The philosophy of "One School, Ten Campuses" reflects our cohesion. I am proud of the risks we have taken: establishing three new schools (Worthing, Wokingham, Horsham), improving four RI schools (Priory, Costello, Farnborough, City Academy Norwich), and expanding Sixth Form provision, including the forthcoming Wokingham Sixth Form. Our partnership with Steyning Grammar School, a large and historic school with boarding, illustrates our ability to embrace complex opportunities successfully.

Innovation remains central to BET. Early adoption of Mandarin teaching at Liphook in 2007, now offered in six schools, demonstrates our commitment to preparing students for a globalised world.

After 14 years as Chair of Trustees (and 18 years as Governor and Chair of Governors at Liphook), I feel it is time to hand over to a younger Chair. Alistair Halliday. From 1 September 2025, Alistair Halliday will continue supporting the Executive team in providing excellent education and opportunities for all pupils. I will remain a Trustee, Member, and Liphook Governor for a few years, but this marks my final contribution to Better Times. Best wishes to you all.

DR RAY MORTON

Chair of the Trust Board



WELCOME FROM THE TRUST LEADER

Dear Colleagues,

As I write this with the autumnal rain lashing against my window, I find myself, somewhat inevitably, turning my thoughts to the glorious summer of 2025. Beginning with the magnificent BET 10 celebratory INSET day in June. The feedback has been incredibly positive and our speakers and workshops really helped to move us forward in our thinking and our mission to change the life-chances of all children in the communities we serve.

I would also like to say thank you and pay tribute to you all for your efforts in the past academic year. My excitement levels were rising higher and higher on separate Wednesdays in August as the A-Level and GCSE results – Election Day like – were arriving into the office. It is quite remarkable to think that eight of our nine schools improved their performance from last summer, many breaking previous records.

The most significant improvement was in the performance of our pupils eligible for the Pupil Premium. Last summer we were only 0.3% ahead of the national average for BASICS 4; this summer we have increased this vital measure. Basics 4 is up 6% and Basics 5 is up 8% - and we suspect the national figures will be lower than last year. Whilst there remains further improvement to close the gap to their more economically advantaged peers, it is clear to me that much of the work introduced five years ago has started to make a significant difference to children's lives.

Continuing the celebratory and congratulatory theme, I would like to pay tribute to the Chair of our Trust and cohabitee of this seminal page, Dr Raymond J Morton (Ray). As those of you in the A3 Cluster marquee will have witnessed, Ray has taken the difficult decision to retire as chair having held the role since BET's advent in 2014. Prior to this Ray was a long-standing Chair of Governors at Bohunt School during a 36-year association with the School.

I shall be forever grateful to Ray for exercising peerless judgement and discernment in appointing me as Headteacher of Bohunt School in January, 2009. The governors took a risk at a time when it was highly unusual to find a secondary school head in their early thirties and I would not have enjoyed the leadership journey half as much, or as enduring, had it not been for Ray's wise counsel, ambition and absolute determination to secure the best possible outcomes and experiences for all our children.

I hope you will enjoy reading the interview with our new Chair, Alistair Halliday, who will be known to many of you already having served a significant apprenticeship as Vice Chair of the Trust. Alistair shares Ray's passion for education and ambition for the future.

The summer of 2025 was a vintage one and I look forward to the year ahead and wish you continued success in all that you do to raise up our young people.

Thank you,

NEIL STROWGER

Trust Leader of BET



INTERVIEW WITH ALISTAIR HALLIDAY, BET CHAIR OF TRUSTEES FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2025

How long have you been a trustee at BET, and what connections do you have to the Trust?

I've been a trustee for about ten years, since BET was founded, and have served as Vice-Chair throughout. About five years before that, I became a governor at Bohunt School, Liphook. My two daughters, Kate and Laura, were educated at Bohunt and did really well there, which motivated me to give something back. My wife, Monica, started teaching there in 1983 and only retired five years ago, so our family has had a long association with the School and the Trust.

What attracted you to become Chair of Trustees?

I've always been a huge supporter of BET and the value it brings to schools. Having been Vice-Chair since the beginning, I've been part of the journey as the Trust has grown from one school to ten! I've learned a lot about the challenges and opportunities. When the chance came to step up as Chair, it felt right – I'd like to think I can make a difference, harnessing experience I've had from work in government, the private sector and now the charity sector, to add value. It's a real honour.

What's your vision for BET over the next few years?

It's about building on what we've achieved over the last decade. Sustainable growth is important, as is continuing to strive for the best outcomes for all our students. For me, it's also about ensuring leaders are supported and that staff and students feel fulfilled and can reach their potential.

What are your main priorities as Chair for the coming year?

One priority is strengthening the Board. We've brought in excellent new trustees recently, and I want to ensure they feel well supported, inducted and able to use their skills fully. A high-performing board can really support – and challenge – the executive in the right way. I'd also like trustees to act as ambassadors for the Trust, using networks to help raise BET's profile and connect with key stakeholders. That can only help the Trust go from strength to strength.

How do you see the role of trustees in supporting schools and staff?

Trustees act as a 'critical friend': supporting and advising the executive, while also offering constructive challenge. A well-functioning board can really help the Trust move forward. Trustees also bring outside perspectives and networks, which can be a real asset.

What have been the highlights of your time with BET so far?

One of the biggest highlights has been watching BET grow from a single school into a thriving Trust of ten. Seeing our ethos and vision embraced across all schools, and knowing that more and more students are benefitting, has been hugely rewarding. It's also been inspiring to see schools supporting each other, sharing expertise and overcoming challenges together – that sense of collaboration and collective achievement has really stood out for me.

What message would you like to share with staff, students, parents and the wider BET community?

I am thrilled to be taking over as Chair, and would like to pay tribute to Ray Morton, who has done an amazing job for the past 10 years. I'm looking forward to visiting more of our schools, meeting students, staff and governors, and seeing the BET ethos in action. I absolutely share the ethos and values of the trust and hope everyone will find me engaged and approachable as the Chair of Trustees.



What motivates you to work with BET?

It's about making a difference. Trustees give their time voluntarily, and the reward comes from knowing you're contributing to something that matters! Quite a few have busy jobs; some are retired – but all are motivated to support this important enterprise. I've seen first-hand the benefits of BET: schools sharing expertise, supporting each other, achieving efficiencies so more resources go where they're needed most and following strong governance. It's hugely fulfilling.

When you're not working, how do you spend your time?

I keep active with cycling – both road and mountain biking around Liphook and further afield. A group of friends and I, the 'Liphook Crankers,' cycle regularly and even go to Mallorca each year. Music is another passion: I play piano, guitar, and accordion in a ceilidh band, and I'd love to improve my guitar playing. I also enjoy reading history, cooking and watching rugby. Most importantly, I spend time with family. I have two young grandsons who are a real joy – they keep me busy in the best way. Family gatherings, holidays and time together are central to my life.

Finally, what inspired you to first get involved with BET – and what inspires you now?

It started with my daughters. Bohunt gave them a fantastic education – not just academically, but in confidence, friendships and opportunities – and that motivated me to get involved as a governor and then as a trustee. That sense of wanting to give something back still drives me. I want many more young people to benefit in the same way my own children did, and I am honoured to contribute to that.

BET EXAM SUCCESS: A VINTAGE YEAR

BET PROUDLY CELEBRATED A VINTAGE YEAR OF ACADEMIC SUCCESS IN 2025, WITH OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS ACROSS BOTH GCSE AND A LEVEL RESULTS THAT REAFFIRMED THE TRUST'S COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE, RESILIENCE, AND HOLISTIC STUDENT DEVELOPMENT.



At GCSE level, BET's family of schools demonstrated remarkable progress, with nearly all schools surpassing national benchmarks and setting new personal bests. Disadvantaged students showed especially significant improvements, highlighting BET's dedication to inclusive education. Highlights across the Trust included Bohunt School in Liphook's highest-ever results with nearly 90% of students achieving grade 4 or above in English and maths and more than a third of grades at grade 7 or above. Steyning Grammar School achieved record-breaking outcomes across core subjects and the arts, while Priory School attained some of its best results in four years. Bohunt Horsham reported 90% pass rates in maths and English, including a 100% pass in statistics. The Petersfield School, Bohunt Farnborough, The Costello School, Bohunt Worthing, and Bohunt Wokingham all posted exemplary results, with many students earning top grades (7-9) in key subjects. Nationally, 21.9% of GCSE entries attained grades 7 or above, with BET schools often exceeding this, demonstrating their position as leaders of educational achievement.

Meanwhile, BET's sixth forms continued the tradition of excellence with exceptional A Level results. At Bohunt Sixth, 46% of exams were awarded A* or A grades—almost double the national average—enabling students to secure places at prestigious universities including Oxford, Cambridge, Bristol, and UCL, as well as competitive apprenticeships with top employers like BAE Systems. Noteworthy individual successes included Jake, who went to Oxford for Economics with AAAA grades, and Sally, who was accepted by Cambridge with AAAB grades. At Steyning Grammar School Sixth Form, students excelled in A Levels and Applied qualifications, progressing to top universities and apprenticeships in diverse fields such as Art Foundation,

Computer Science at Warwick, and degree apprenticeships with the police force.

Neil Strowger, Trust Leader, said, "These results were testament to the exceptional hard work and perseverance of our students and staff. This truly outstanding set of results highlighted the dedication within every BET school and sixth form. I was immensely proud of the entire class of 2025 and wished them every success in their next steps."

The 2025 exam achievements across BET's schools and sixth forms underscored the Trust's ethos of 'enjoy respect achieve,' nurturing confident, resilient game-changers prepared for life beyond school. With such a strong foundation, Bohunt Education Trust continued to position itself as a beacon of educational excellence in the UK.

This vintage year of GCSE and A Level success reinforced BET's pride in its students' accomplishments and the exceptional teaching and support that underpinned these results, setting a high standard for future cohorts.



Images continue over...





BET 10: EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE

BOHUNT EDUCATION TRUST MARKS 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY WITH INSPIRING INSET DAY



At the end of June, Bohunt Education Trust (BET) celebrated a significant milestone—ten years of educational excellence—with a dynamic Trust-wide INSET day focused on Equity and Excellence. Bringing together nearly 1,400 staff from all ten schools, the day was a powerful celebration of shared purpose, professional learning, and the remarkable journey of the Trust since its inception.

Founded on the core ethos of, 'enjoy respect achieve', BET has grown from a single school to a family of ten over the past decade, united by a commitment to innovation, inclusion, and ambition for every young person.

The day began with an exceptional lineup of keynote speakers. Professor Robert Coe, a leading education researcher, explored

the science of great teaching; Lee Elliot-Major OBE, Professor of Social Mobility, challenged attendees to think deeply about equity in education; and Olivia Breen, Paralympian and proud Bohunt alumna, delivered a heartfelt and uplifting talk on confidence, resilience, and the impact of education on her journey.

Midday brought a celebration of community and connection. Staff gathered outdoors in the sunshine for a relaxed lunch featuring food vans, student band performances, and a festival-style atmosphere that reflected the unity and shared joy across the Trust.

The afternoon featured a wide range of workshops and collaborative sessions. Staff explored innovative practices, exchanged ideas, and deepened their understanding of how



equity and excellence can shape the future of teaching and learning.

Reflecting on the event, Olivia Breen said,

“It was amazing to come back to Bohunt. I loved being part of the celebration and speaking to the staff who do so much for students every day. Bohunt gave me so much confidence when I was younger, and it’s brilliant to see that same energy and belief still going strong. I can’t wait to see what the next ten years bring!”

Neil Strowger, Trust Leader of BET, said:

“As we look ahead, BET’s commitment to our founding ethos—enjoy respect achieve—remains unwavering. Over the last decade, we have built an unshakable foundation, which enables us to positively impact the lives of the young people we serve—now, and for generations to come.”

Chair of Trustees Ray Morton added:

“Today was a powerful reflection of what can be achieved when passionate people work together with a shared purpose. I have no doubt the next ten years of BET will be even more ambitious, innovative, and impactful for the young people we serve.”

The day also welcomed a range of exhibitors, including Academia, Jamie’s Farm, Lodge Hill, and Green Power, who showcased exciting opportunities to support both staff development and student enrichment.

Feedback from staff captured the spirit of the day:

“The day felt relaxed yet purposeful. It was lovely to hear from Olivia Breen – she was a joy! Equity as a theme is refreshing and a strong overall narrative.”

“Bringing schools together to share experiences demonstrates BET’s values so well. This kind of collaboration is invaluable for teaching staff.”

It’s important to recognise that the success of the event would not have been possible without the hard work, support, and dedication of staff from across the Trust. Their behind-the-scenes efforts made the day both meaningful and memorable for all involved.

Throughout the year, schools across the Trust have also marked the 10-year anniversary with local celebrations, including sponsored walks, tree-planting, and time capsule projects—all reflecting the Trust’s commitment to community, collaboration, and growth.

As BET looks to the future, the focus remains clear: to deliver exceptional education through a culture of high expectations, inclusion, and continuous improvement—for every learner, every day.



BET AWARDS 2025:

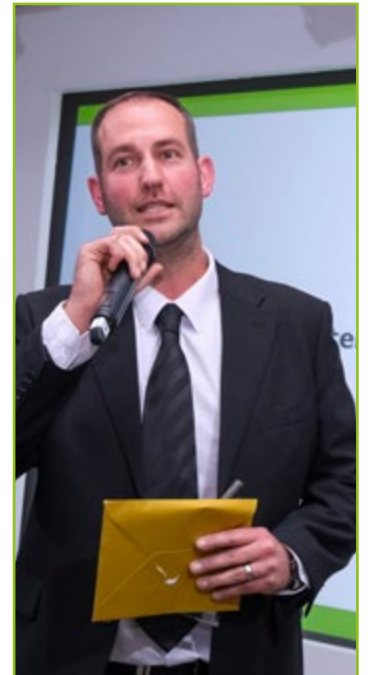
CELEBRATING STAFF EXCELLENCE



From start to finish, the atmosphere was filled with pride and energy — a true reflection of the values that unite us across Bohunt Education Trust. The evening recognised the individuals and teams who go above and beyond to make a difference every day, whether in the classroom, behind the scenes, or within the wider school community.

Congratulations to all our winners and finalists. Your commitment to excellence, innovation, and student success embodies everything BET stands for.

And to all staff across the Trust — thank you. The work you do every day continues to inspire, uplift, and transform lives.



BET SHORTLISTED AS BEST MAT OF THE YEAR IN TES SCHOOLS AWARDS 2025

BOHUNT EDUCATION TRUST (BET) WAS THRILLED TO BE SHORTLISTED AS A FINALIST IN THE NATIONAL AND RENOWNED TES SCHOOL AWARDS 2025 IN THE BEST MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST CATEGORY.



This accolade recognised BET's outstanding leadership, innovation and commitment to delivering high-quality education across its family of schools.

This year marks a special milestone for BET as it celebrates its tenth anniversary, having grown from a single school, Bohunt School, in Liphook, Hampshire, to a thriving multi-academy trust with ten schools across the South of England.

In 2024, BET expanded its provision by opening its first primary school in Horsham, extending its commitment to providing excellent education for children aged four to 18.

The TES Schools Awards celebrate the outstanding contributions of teachers, schools and trusts in both state and independent sectors. BET's nomination follows its historic achievement in 2014 when Bohunt School won both Overall School and Secondary School of the Year awards.

Neil Strowger, Trust Leader of Bohunt Education Trust, said:

"Being shortlisted for Best Multi-Academy Trust of the Year is a tremendous honour. We are delighted to be acknowledged as one of the very best education providers in the country. This recognition reflects our ethos of 'enjoy respect achieve', which inspires everything we do and empowers our students and staff to be game-changers and to thrive together."

Ray Morton, Chair of Bohunt Education Trust Board, said:

"From our origins as a single school to a thriving family, this recognition is a testament to our shared vision and determination to innovate and excel in education. It reflects the incredibly hard work and passion of our leaders, staff and students."

OFSTED CONFIRMS BOHUNT WOKINGHAM ON ITS WAY TO OUTSTANDING.

AT THE END OF 2024, BOHUNT WOKINGHAM UNDERWENT AN 'UNGRADED' OFSTED INSPECTION.

Whilst this new style of inspection does not give the school an overall 'effectiveness' grade, it does assess the schools progress since the previous inspection. Headteacher, Jen Comber, was extremely proud to share that inspectors recognised significant improvements across all areas of the school. Their positive feedback confirms that the school is firmly on track to achieve an Outstanding rating in its next graded inspection.

Inspectors were impressed by the staff's "ambition for what pupils can, and will, achieve". Owing to Trust's "broad and ambitious curriculum" all students achieve "very strong outcomes" in a range of subjects at GCSE. The report also highlighted how staff benefited from high-quality professional development through the Trust's partnership.

The report highlighted that, in lessons, "pupils focus on learning and show very positive attitudes", which are fostered by the strong relationships between staff and students and stated that, "pupils enjoy coming to school", underscoring the positive culture nurtured by the leadership team and staff.

The School's exceptional enrichment programme, designed to engage and inspire all pupils, was noted as a standout feature. These activities not only complement the curriculum but provide pupils with diverse opportunities to develop their skills and passions, a core part of achieving the school's vision of creating "game-changers". Additionally, the school's commitment to ensuring pupils are well-prepared for their next steps in life was described as going "above and beyond".

Significantly, the report recognised the efforts of leaders and staff in driving continuous improvement since the last inspection. This reflects the school's steadfast commitment to maintaining and building upon its high standards.

Jen Comber, Headteacher at Bohunt Wokingham, said:

"We are thrilled with the results of the inspection. This report is a testament to the dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm of our pupils and the support of our entire school community. Our students and staff are rightly very proud of their school and the fantastic opportunities open to them here. At Bohunt School Wokingham we want our students to achieve academic success alongside developing those skills that will make them 'game-changers'.

We look forward to welcoming Ofsted again when they return for a full inspection, when we hope the many outstanding qualities of the school will be further confirmed."

Andrew Popple, Chair of Governors for Bohunt Wokingham, said:

"Bohunt School Wokingham's governors and leadership team

are, as Ofsted's report states, committed to challenging school leaders in a supportive way. I am incredibly proud of the staff, students and governors for fostering such a strong sense of community here at Bohunt School Wokingham. It is fantastic to see Ofsted recognise the hard work of everyone involved. Ms Comber and her staff have done a superb job for Bohunt School Wokingham and we thank Bohunt Education Trust for their continued support".

Neil Strowger, Chief Executive Officer, Bohunt Education Trust commented:

"We are thrilled that Ofsted has recognised the continued success of Bohunt School Wokingham with this report, which is a fitting tribute to the commitment, passion and hard work of students, staff and the whole school community. Collaboration on best practice and raising standards and expectations is fundamental to Bohunt Education Trust's ethos of 'enjoy respect achieve' and of our expectations across all BET schools.

We look forward to working closely with all at Bohunt School Wokingham and to build on its success as it continues on its journey to Outstanding."

As Bohunt School Wokingham celebrates this achievement, it remains focused on delivering a first-class educational experience, ensuring that all pupils thrive academically, socially, and personally.



BOHUNT FARNBOROUGH RECOGNISED AS ONE OF THE TOP 5% MOST IMPROVED SCHOOLS IN THE UK

BOHUNT FARNBOROUGH IS IN THE TOP 5% OF THE MOST IMPROVED SCHOOLS IN THE UK, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION (DFE) LEAGUE TABLES.



It has moved 155 places up the school rankings since last year and continues to make strong progress, most notably in English and maths.

This distinction highlights the school's significant advancements in academic performance and commitment to student success.

In addition to the national achievement, Bohunt Farnborough is now recognised as the most improved school in the local area, surpassing nearby institutions. The school's impressive improvement is a testament to the dedication of its staff and students, where the culture and ethos of Bohunt fosters an environment where academic excellence is prioritised.

Bohunt Farnborough is not only celebrating its academic achievements, but is launching several initiatives to enhance the student experience. The school is introducing the Big Expedition programme for adventure and personal growth, along with an outdoor learning provision to encourage engagement with nature. The Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) programme will promote teamwork and community service, while ERA Week activities will enrich the curriculum. Earlier this month, the school held its first carol service, bringing together students, staff and families.



Headteacher Daryl Bond, who joined Bohunt Farnborough on 1 January 2025, said,

"I am thrilled to be joining the school at such an exciting time. Bohunt Farnborough's remarkable improvement is a testament to the hard work of students and staff. I look forward to building on this success and continuing to provide exceptional educational opportunities for our young people."

Neil Strowger, Trust Leader of BET, said:

"We have ambitious goals for the Bohunt Farnborough community. Since joining BET, our schools have collaborated closely, demonstrating a commitment to excellence. This partnership enables us to nurture Bohunt Farnborough students as 'game-changers' and provide them with the exceptional educational opportunities we offer learners across the Bohunt family."

Bohunt Farnborough's continuous improvement underscores its mission to equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary for future success, making it a leading choice for families in Farnborough and beyond.



BET LEGACY CUP

TO MARK THE 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOHUNT EDUCATION TRUST, ALL NINE TRUST SECONDARY SCHOOLS TOOK PART IN A NEW COMPETITION - THE BET LEGACY CUP.



450 students from 9 different schools across the Trust took part in a sporting event at Bohunt Liphook.

The BET Legacy event saw the students competing in a carousel of activities ranging from tennis and badminton, to ultimate frisbee and spike ball, all coming together for a special 6x100m relay to end the day.

It's the biggest event of its kind since the Trust was created. Congratulations to The Petersfield School who were crowned overall winners.

Mr Waterfield, who organised the event, said

"The highlight of the day was seeing so many students collaborating and working together, all in a vast variety of vibrantly-coloured t-shirts, really highlighting what it truly means to be a PE teacher here in the Bohunt Education Trust!"



RUSPER PRIMARY SCHOOL IN HORSHAM OFFICIALLY JOINS BET

THE PARTNERSHIP, WHICH TOOK EFFECT ON 1 MARCH 2025, BRINGS TOGETHER RUSPER PRIMARY SCHOOL'S STRONG COMMUNITY ROOTS WITH BET'S INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO EDUCATION.

BET, a high-achieving family of ten schools known for its commitment to high quality education, welcomes Rusper Primary School as its newest member, further strengthening BET's primary education expertise, and complementing its established provision at Bohunt Horsham Primary.

Lisa Wright, BET's Director of Primary Education and Headteacher of Rusper Primary School, commented:

"We are thrilled that Rusper is beginning this new chapter as part of BET. The partnership will bring exciting opportunities for our students and staff, enhancing our ability to provide an outstanding education."

Neil Strowger, Trust Leader at Bohunt Education Trust, said:

"We are delighted to welcome Rusper Primary School to the BET family, and excited to see the school's strong, community roots flourish alongside our innovative approach to education. The school's values reflect our own ethos of 'enjoy respect achieve' which, in the primary setting, translates to, 'play care grow'. Together, we will empower students to become game-changers, fostering a love of learning and a commitment to being the positive change they want to see in the world."



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT...



PRIORY UK NATIONAL MATHEMATICS SUMMER SCHOOL RESIDENTIAL

Earlier this year groups of Year 7, 8 and 10 students entered the UK Mathematics Trust Intermediate Challenge. Priory students consistently outperformed many other schools in the country including Eton College in the KS3 category.

Priory's Year 8 class attained 7 gold certificates, performing among the best 25% of all entrants this year nationally.

Millie B, Josh L, Lucas S, Harper T: Gold certificate

Josh H & Gabby Z: Gold certificate & joint best in school

James R: Gold & a national merit in the next round

Having secured a Gold certificate and achieving the highest across the school Josh has subsequently been invited to take part in the follow up round - the Pink Kangaroo Challenge, but more excitingly, Josh has been invited to the prestigious UKMT Summer School in July in Bradford, Yorkshire. The National Mathematics Summer Schools are designed for young people with an interest in maths. They promote mathematical thinking and provide an opportunity for participants to meet other like-minded students, volunteers and maths teachers

Josh is the first Priory Student to be invited in at least 23 years, and is the first BET student to be invited so far. Mr Vaughan met with Josh to congratulate him and talk about this exciting upcoming opportunity.

Josh said, "I spend my free time with my friends and family. They are very important to me and are the people that push me forward to improve and keep working hard. I try to put aside time to work on my schoolwork and complete homework. I enjoy doing sports like tennis and badminton even though I'm not very sporty. I'm hard working and dedicated. I always try to complete any challenge I'm faced with and will keep trying until it is done. I always work my hardest and I will keep going even if I make mistakes. When I was offered a place at the Maths residential I was incredibly happy and proud. I had always been good at maths and always put effort in in lessons but was still partially shocked that I was invited to the residential. My favourite subject isn't actually maths but instead Science. More specifically I really enjoy physics as I like learning about the world and how everything works. After leaving school I want to train to be an engineer, allowing me to use maths and physics to better the world and help people in need. I always follow my ambitions and as Eleanor Roosevelt said "the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of dreams".



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT...



SPOTLIGHT ON CREATIVE PERFORMING ARTS (CPA) AT COSTELLO



Head of Muhammad Ali House, Mr Spacagna caught up with Year 7 student Ayrton English and his mum Julia, to talk to him about his experience in the Theatre and the world of Performing Arts.

Where did all of this start?

Julia said "Ayrton's love for performing began at a young age when he joined the local Theatre 4 Kids (T4K) group. Recognising his passion and natural stage presence, his teacher, Laura-Jayne, who also happens to be a former Costello student, had recently established a talent agency.

After one particularly memorable Christmas performance, I asked whether Ayrton might be a good fit, and the rest is history!"

With the unwavering support of Laura-Jayne and Julia, Ayrton's confidence and talent have flourished.

Can you share a little bit about your performances to date?

"In December 2022, I secured my first major role as Tiny Tim in A Christmas Carol, performed at Middle Temple Hall in London." The performance of A Christmas Carol was put on by the company Antic Disposition. Ayrton had two roles in this play Tiny Tim and a smaller part as Scrooge too which had no lines and just facial expressions and dance which he said was a challenge but very fun. As his first role with adults it was very nerve-wracking but he had such a fun time and it made him want to do more! Ayrton's mum said "His dedication and hard work then led him to an incredible opportunity in 2023/24, travelling to China to perform in Love Never Dies, the sequel to The Phantom of the Opera." Ayrton said "One of my most cherished memories from this experience was celebrating New Year's eight hours ahead of my family back home!"

Ayrton's journey didn't stop there. Upon returning to England, he landed a role in the iconic production of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and even made an appearance in a Netflix series starring Otis Milburn. He said it was really interesting to see how sets are created



on a larger scale and he found it amazing how such a small space can be made to look really big with clever camera angles and that they never get the shadow of the camera in. In particular he said the house in the show looked normal but from the outside it was a wooden box and any scenes with the outside of the house were filmed in a different location. When he wasn't in a scene he got to chill out in his own cosy caravan space!

How do you feel when you are on the stage and performing?

"I love the amazing atmosphere when I'm performing at a theatre, from the carefully tip-toeing around the massive props backstage right through to the audience applause during the curtain call, it's amazing to be a part of it."

What does the future hold?

In the future, Ayrton hopes to do more TV acting, as his taste of this in the Netflix series have inspired him to want to do more. He also has a big love for Star Wars and would love to do something including sword fighting as it could be similar to lightsaber battles.

He also mentioned he enjoys green screen acting as you get told what will be on the screen and then have to act around it.

A few final words from Mr Spacagna

I am incredibly proud to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our students. Our motto, "I'll show you how great I am," truly reflects the spirit of our community, and Ayrton's inspiring journey in the performing arts is a shining example of this!

His story is a testament to resilience, passion, and the extraordinary potential of our students. We couldn't be prouder of his accomplishments and are excited to see what his future holds!



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT...



COSTELLO SCHOOL SHINES WITH SPECTACULAR PRODUCTION OF 'BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR.'



The Costello School captivated audiences this year with a sold-out run of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast Jr.*, marking the school's second major musical since reviving its performing arts tradition last year.

Over 60 students from Years 7 to 10 auditioned, resulting in a dynamic, double-cast lineup that showcased the breadth of talent across the school. The three-night production drew enthusiastic crowds, including parents, friends, staff, and the Mayor of Basingstoke.

The show was a true community effort. Under the direction of Ms Acheson (Drama), Mrs Wagstaff (Music), and Mrs Adair (Choreography/Producer), students delivered polished performances and memorable musical numbers. Mr Spacagna (Art & Photography) led the creation of stunning sets, while Mr Saunders (Creative Arts Technician) and his student tech crew ensured seamless lighting and sound. Students also managed front-of-house duties, contributing to the warm, welcoming atmosphere each evening.



Student cast members shared their excitement:

"I'm so excited to be playing the part of Belle! It's a dream come true," said Beth (Belle).

"Through playing the Beast, I've enhanced my skills and made new friends," added Angus (The Beast).

"This has been one of the best experiences so far!" said Alfie (Gaston).

Mrs Adair, producer and choreographer, said:

"Beauty and the Beast has been a true labour of love — every member of the cast, crew, and staff poured their hearts into this production. Their teamwork, resilience, and creativity have been inspiring."

Mr Conway, Headteacher of The Costello School, said:

"This production is a shining example of what makes Costello School special. Our students' passion, dedication, and talent—supported by our outstanding staff—have brought our community together and created memories that will last a lifetime. I am incredibly proud of everyone involved."



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT...



OXFORD BOUND: SCHOLARS CELEBRATE BRILLIANT CLUB GRADUATION

On the 12th of May, twelve Year 8 students celebrated a significant academic milestone as they 'graduated' from The Scholar's Programme, a six-week course designed to challenge and inspire young learners. The programme is run by The Brilliant Club, a charity dedicated to supporting students' academic potential and broadening access to Higher and Further Education.

Each term, the programme is led by a PhD researcher from a UK university, who designs and delivers a university-style course based on their own field of study. Throughout the six weeks, students are guided through complex academic concepts and taught how to plan, structure, and write a 1,500-word essay using university-level skills.

To mark the completion of their hard work, students were invited to Balliol College at the University of Oxford. Despite a quiet journey with no working radio, spirits remained high as the students sang together and enjoyed a tour of the historic college. The day culminated in a formal graduation ceremony where students received their certificates alongside peers from other participating schools.

This achievement reflects the students' dedication and enthusiasm, and we couldn't be prouder of their commitment and success.



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT...



BOHUNT HORSHAM HITS THE GROUND WALKING FOR BET10



To launch the celebrations marking the 10th anniversary of Bohunt Education Trust, over 900 students from Bohunt Horsham laced up their trainers, grabbed their hats, and soaked up the sunshine as they took on a 12km sponsored walk — all in support of Chestnut Tree House.

Chestnut Tree House is a remarkable charity that provides hospice care and community support to children and young people with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions.



From the very first step to the final stretch, students demonstrated incredible determination, resilience, and heart. Together, they raised over £4,500 — an outstanding achievement for a truly worthy cause.

A huge thank you goes to Ms McEvansoneya for her fantastic organisation, and to everyone who has donated so far. Your generosity is helping to make a real difference.



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT...



BOHUNT HORSHAM: A NEW ERA OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT

This year marks a milestone at Bohunt Horsham as the school proudly celebrates the full establishment of its four dynamic communities; Phoenix, Griffin, Pegasus and Noctua. These communities have brought a new sense of identity, camaraderie and friendly competition to students, fostering an environment where everyone can thrive under the ethos of Enjoy respect achieve.

The introduction of the community system has reshaped student life, offering a platform for all to engage in various activities, showcase their talents and support one another. Through a wealth of opportunities across different disciplines - sport, literature, mathematics, and charity events - students have found new ways to challenge themselves, grow and excel together.

The competitive spirit has been ignited through thrilling sports tournaments; Dodgeball, Basketball and Benchball, where teamwork and determination shine. English writing competitions have allowed students to express creativity through stories, poems, World Book Day potatoes and Reading Plus, while mathematics challenges have tested problem-solving skills and strategic thinking. Staff members have even represented their communities through participating in Staff Family Fortunes and The Masked Singer. More than just an avenue for friendly rivalry, these events have instilled a deep sense of pride and commitment to each community.

Beyond academics and athletics, Bohunt Horsham's communities have embraced the spirit of giving through charity initiatives. Fundraising challenges such as Beat the teacher, Bake sale, Raffle and Say Something Funny for Money, as well as our community service efforts - Remembrance Sunday Parade and donating unwanted gifts to those less fortunate - have demonstrated the school's commitment to social responsibility, teaching students valuable lessons in empathy and leadership.

To further strengthen the identity and leadership within each community, Bohunt Horsham has introduced dedicated student representatives who serve as the face of their respective communities. Each community is led by a Community Captain and Vice-Captain, alongside Sports Captains and their Vice Captains, who play a pivotal role in encouraging participation, fostering unity and driving success across all activities.

With each Community striving to earn points and recognition, students have exemplified what it means to be part of something bigger than themselves. Their enthusiasm and dedication are a testament to the school and Trust's vision, proving that through collaboration and perseverance, every individual can contribute to collective success.

The inaugural year of the community system at Bohunt Horsham has already shown its impact, strengthening bonds between students and creating a legacy of teamwork, resilience and achievement. As the school continues to build upon this foundation, there is no doubt that Phoenix, Griffin, Noctua and Pegasus will continue to inspire and empower students for years to come.

With this new tradition firmly in place, the future of Bohunt Horsham shines brighter than ever - one filled with passion, unity and the unwavering spirit of Enjoy respect achieve.



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT...

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADER INSPIRES BOHUNT SCHOOL, LIPHOOK!



Colin Butfield, a leading environmental storyteller and producer, captivated students at Bohunt School last week with insights into his work alongside Sir David Attenborough and Prince William. He shared the challenges and creative decisions behind crafting compelling climate narratives, emphasising the importance of storytelling in driving global awareness. Students then participated in an interactive project based on his upcoming collaboration with Attenborough, stepping into the role of a production team to experience first-hand the complexities of bringing these urgent environmental stories to life. The students' enthusiasm was evident, with lively discussions and a flood of thought-provoking questions, highlighting the students' deep engagement and passion for the topic.

Colin Butfield is an internationally recognised environmentalist, Executive Producer of The Earthshot Prize: Repairing Our Planet, and former Director of Campaigns at WWF. With decades of experience tackling some of the world's most pressing environmental challenges, Colin has been instrumental in leading global campaigns to protect nature and address climate change.

The event was part of the Bohunt Scholars' Speakers series, run by Bohunt Scholars' Lead, Owen Godfrey, where speakers who are leaders and innovators in their fields, are invited to come in and talk to the students on a variety of topics. Bohunt is committed to offering students a diverse and innovative super-curricular enrichment programme.

Colin said, "What happens in the next 20 years will determine the future stability of our planet. As such it was a privilege to speak with students who are both knowledgeable and passionate about their world. When they enter the workplace most careers- from science to finance, from healthcare to construction- will be in part connected to how we tackle climate change and restore the natural world, so it's encouraging to see Bohunt providing opportunities for students to explore and discuss the world around them."

Randall Jull, Head, said, "It is testament to the work of Mr Godfrey and others that we are able to provide further innovative and captivating opportunities for our young people, helping shape their minds and ambitions to create game changers of the future. My thanks go to Colin for giving his time so willingly, and being so inspiring to the next generation, who are custodians of this fragile but beautiful planet."

Arabelle K, student, said

"I found the talk incredibly motivating and positive which gives me hope for our future, concerning the environment. It was engaging and interesting, I was very captivated by the speaker and the content. I now feel inspired to look for a career that can improve the state of our environment and care for the animals within it."



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT...



SOUNDS OF BOHUNT BY ROSIE FREEMAN, SIXTH FORM

A collection of Bohunt Liphook and Bohunt Sixth Form students participated in 'The Sounds of Bohunt', a two-hour live performance in the Hatfield Theatre, on Wednesday 2 April. I put it together along with another Sixth Form Student, Josh H, as part of our CAPA course (an extracurricular music course). The evening was an amazing display of talent, a great experience for bands, duets and soloists — and a delightful show for all those watching as friends, family and teachers.

The showcase was a huge success — the audience appeared to be engaged and enjoying the performances, and the performers themselves had a great time showing off their love for music. There was a strong sense of dedication to practicing and getting involved in the setting up, final rehearsal and performance process. There was an amazing variety within the performance — from pop, to rock, to even musical theatre, there truly was something for everyone. Overall, the experience was unforgettable — well done to all those involved!



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT...



KEY STAGE 3 LEADERSHIP SUMMIT HELD AT SGS



At the end of April, Steyning Grammar School had the pleasure of hosting our Key Stage 3 Leadership Summit at SGS. Its fantastic boarding school site was taken over by Year 7 and 8 students who had been invited to participate in the event; working together on developing their leadership skills.

SGS also welcomed three fantastic external speakers on the day: Jo Wood, Senior Leader at the RSPCA, spoke about the history of the organisation and how they have led change for more than 200 years. Jo shared her journey as a leader and shared some key skills students could develop as they continue in student leadership roles.

Natalie James, Director and owner of Research Coach spoke about her experience as a leader and business owner, and shared some thought provoking questions for students to reflect on their journey.

Natalie shared with students that when she was their age she was fearful to speak up in class and was "very anxious about lots of things".



The third speaker was Rob Maynard, Restauranter and SGS Alumni, who shared with students some of the highlights of his journey from SGS student to successful entrepreneur.

The students also completed team building challenges - with some fantastic leadership skills shown during the tasks. The day ended with students presenting on areas of development they would like to see as a student body.

Assistant headteacher Emer Nicholson Harris said, "It was wonderful to see how the students engaged in the day, grasping the opportunity to step up into the leadership role and work together to help us develop student-led ideas. They demonstrated each of the SGS characteristics we support our students to develop and we are very proud of them. We look forward to continuing this work over the coming months."



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT...



TPS GO GREEN



At TPS, the 'Go Green' mission to reduce the school's carbon footprint took a huge leap forward in March with the installation of further solar panels.

Miss Wallace and some of the Eco Committee students took to the roof of the Studio with Mr Marande to check on the progress. The contractors spent time explaining how the installation work they are undertaking will triple the school's solar capacity to 322 kW hours of renewable energy!

It was an incredible, hands-on (and helmets-on!) experience for the students to actively engage with the school's eco-friendly initiatives. Joe T (Year 10) shared - "It was great to see what the Eco Club has achieved in person" - and he was thrilled to witness the progress the school has made since he joined in Year 7. Alannah C (Year 8) stated that she was "excited to go up again", highlighting how unique and interesting this experience was for the Eco Club members.

While discussions about making TPS greener are always ongoing, seeing real, tangible changes help to keep that momentum and motivation growing. The school's investment in solar panels will not only reduce energy costs, but also significantly cut down our carbon emissions. By harnessing clean, renewable energy from the sun, the school is helping to combat climate change and reduce its environmental footprint. We are proudly shaping a greener, brighter future for generations of TPS students to come!

Indeed, students were so enthusiastic they offered to return to help with the bi-annual panel clean! We look forward to sharing further updates on this exciting journey to sustainability.



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT...



WORK ON BOHUNT WOKINGHAM'S NEW SIXTH FORM IN ARBORFIELD IS UNDERWAY AS GROUND WAS BROKEN ON THURSDAY 10 JULY.



The event was attended by Wokingham Borough Deputy Mayor, Rob Comber, Bohunt Education Trust Executive Headteacher Mark Marande, Bohunt Wokingham Headteacher Jen Comber, representatives from Wokingham Borough Council and the project's contractors Francis Construction.

Bohunt Wokingham Sixth (BW6) is a collaboration jointly funded by Wokingham Borough Council and the Bohunt Education Trust. The significant expansion project will provide 300 places for sixth form students and will enhance educational opportunities for the Wokingham Borough community.

Now that this project has entered its ground breaking milestone, Bohunt Wokingham Sixth is expected to open in September 2026.

Bohunt Wokingham Headteacher, Jen Comber said:

"Today marks a significant milestone in the creation of Bohunt Wokingham Sixth. The expansion of our school will allow us to provide high quality post-16 education for our students. Our founding cohort will join in September 2026 enjoying our brand new, premium facilities. We pride ourselves on knowing our students as individuals allowing us to achieve unrivalled outcomes as a result of exceptional teaching. We are very much



looking forward to watching the building progress over the coming months and will be regularly sharing the progress with our community."

Bohunt Education Trust, Neil Strowger, Trust Leader said:

"Bohunt Wokingham Sixth will open up new opportunities for young people to enjoy, respect and achieve their potential, helping them gain the skills and confidence they need for the future. This sixth form reflects our commitment to excellent education for all and we can't wait to see the difference it will make in the community."

Executive member for children's services Cllr Prue Bray said:

"As part of the Borough's aim to broaden post-16 opportunities for young learners, the new sixth form will be a fantastic addition to our local school offering and provide spaces for pupils wishing to continue their education from secondary schools in the borough, including Bohunt Secondary School. Continuing education is important and we want to make it easier for parents and guardians by offering another secondary school sixth form to help pupils thrive. We are delighted to be partnering with the Bohunt Education Trust for this much-needed sixth form which will help us achieve this ambition."



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT...



THE GIRLS' NETWORK AT BSW: INSPIRING FUTURES THROUGH MENTORING

This year, Miss Brugnoli proudly introduced The Girls' Network to Bohunt School Worthing. The Girls' Network is a national organisation committed to ensuring that no girl has her future limited by gender, ethnicity, background, or parental income. Their mission is to empower girls to realise their ambitions, discover their self-worth, and develop the skills and confidence to shape their futures.

At BSW, over 30 students are now receiving one-to-one mentoring from professional women working across a wide range of careers. The impact of this initiative has already been incredibly positive, helping our students broaden their horizons and build meaningful connections.

As part of our International Women's Day celebrations, a group of Girls' Network students visited Worthing Hospital to learn more about careers in the healthcare sector. Two of those students, Imi and Lakshmi, share their experience:

"A few weeks ago, some of us in The Girls' Network attended an educational day at Worthing Hospital. We learned about the variety of roles within the NHS — from groundskeepers and recruitment staff to nurses and consultants. One highlight was meeting Tori Cooper, Chair of the NHS Women's Network, who spoke to us about her journey and experiences as a woman in the healthcare system."

"We had an amazing lunch with the inspiring women who spoke to us, followed by hands-on activities — our favourite was learning CPR to the beat of songs like *Pink Pony Club* and *The Imperial March* from *Star Wars*! We also explored topics such as pelvic health, patient monitoring, and career pathways into healthcare. It was a fantastic experience that answered so many of our questions. We're so grateful to all the brilliant women at Worthing Hospital who made it possible — thank you!"

The Girls' Network has already made a lasting impression on students at BSW, and we're excited to see the continued impact of this inspiring programme.



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT...



“ONE CHILD, ONE TEACHER, ONE BOOK AND ONE PEN CAN CHANGE THE WORLD.”



Malala Yousafzai is a 27-year-old woman who stands up for women's rights/activist for girl's education. When Malala was 15 she got shot in the head by a group called the "Taliban" but she got into an English hospital safely. Malala is one of many women's rights activists but her story really stood out to me. The fact she grew up with very strict rules – from who ran the country – and then getting a terrible injury, she did not let that stop her. Malala and her dad set up something called "MALALA FUND", an organisation to support girl's education. I believe that Malala is an "AMAZING" person and she has shown that boys and girls should have equal rights but has done it in such a positive way! Malala is a beautiful, amazing, strong woman that every young girl can look up to!

I found out about Malala Yousafzai in Year 4 when I got one of my first "Little people, Big dreams" books. The author, Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara makes beautiful books about amazing people, whether it's gymnasts, scientists or people who stand up for rights, every individual has their own book, own time and own place. You can achieve anything you want if you try!

By Eden, age 11, Rusper Primary School

What real life game changers have taught me about Respect

When I was in year 3 I found out about Little People, Big Dreams books and they have taught me a lot about respect. My favourite is Lewis Hamilton.

One kid, one wheel, one wish. I, like many other people, love FI. One of the drivers I like is Lewis Hamilton because of his confidence and respect to all of his team mates. Even though he went through tough times during his childhood, he always loved and respected his parents and now look where he is! Driving in FI for McLaren and Ferrari. He also speaks out publicly about racism, LGBTQIA+ rights, children's welfare, animal and environmental concerns and he pushes for increased diversity in motorsport, all by using his fame! He even earned a knighthood from the Prince of Wales for his outstanding achievements (what a model!). Don't forget, be like Lewis – ignore the haters no matter what, they are just jealous of your respect for people!

By Freya, age 11, Rusper Primary School

MENOPAUSE MATTERS AT BET



For more
information,
scan here



Brain fog? Hot flushes? Heart palpitations?

Menopause symptoms can make work more challenging but
BET offers lots of support and advice.



Need to talk?

Speak to your line manager, your school's Menopause
Champion or your HR department.



For more support and advice, see the
Menopause Policy on the BET People site.



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