



Batley Multi Academy Trust

The **Batley Buzz**^{🐝🐝}

The Trust at the heart of the Batley community

December 2024

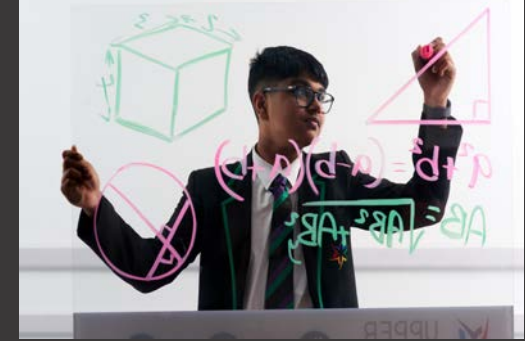
Edition 4

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



Owl workshop

Our Year 1 learners have been exploring the dark this half term.

Listening to the stories 'The Dark' by Lemony Snicket, 'Beegu' by Alexis Deacon and 'Owl Babies' by Martin Waddell and Patrick Benson.

The learners have also been researching facts about owls by using non-fiction texts. Following this, we will be producing our own class non-fiction book. Our learners enjoyed an owl workshop to enhance their learning. Our learners got to know lots about owls and even got to hold them too! What a treat!



Visit from PC Rhodes

We were very lucky to have a visit from our local Police Officer, Kia Rhodes, who delivered an assembly to our Key Stage 1 learners about her life in the police. We are very lucky to have a female PC, as we want to ensure that genders are represented across the workforce so our learners do not feel limited by jobs for certain genders. Kia also talked about the role of the police in helping and supporting our community, we want our learners to understand who is there to help them if they are ever in need.



Random acts of kindness

We have been exploring kindness, linked to our school values of respect and nurturing. In our assemblies we have unpicked how this can look in our everyday life and have looked at random acts of kindness as a focus. Our learners were wonderful during our random acts of kindness week, drawing beautiful illustrations for the adults in school and their peers, bringing in buns to share and ensuring they held doors open for others.

We are proud of how our learners are becoming kind and caring individuals.



Oracy in Action

There have been lots of opportunities for children to speak in front of an audience this term. Three learners from Year 6 took part in a public speaking event at Batley Girls' High School in front of secondary school learners, staff and representatives from universities. They were excellent and received lots of positive feedback!



Interesting visitors!

We had the pleasure of hosting special visitors at Field Lane - four beautiful owls and a hawk! Our Early Years learners expressed a keen interest in exploring nocturnal animals as part of their 'Night and Day' topic. Meanwhile, our Lower Key Stage 2 learners are studying Harry Potter, aligned with their 'Light and Dark' theme.



Trimming a tree for Batley Parish

One of our Field Lane grandparents donated a Christmas tree to the Batley Parish Church celebration and we were invited to go and decorate it.

Learners in Years 1 and 3 made the decorations and had a wonderful time!

Year 3 presents... The Sorting Hat!

Year 3 treated the whole school to a spectacular assembly about Harry Potter.

All the learners were confident to speak in front of such a large audience. The performance included singing, dancing and even a talking sorting hat!

There was also an important message in the performance: choosing kindness and having a choice between right and wrong.



Culture and Community Day

To celebrate the diverse range of cultures in our school and in the local community, the Learner Leadership Team organised a Culture and Community Day.

Learners were encouraged to share their culture by wearing cultural dress and cooking recipes from home in a Bake Off Competition. Classroom based activities took place for primary and Key Stage 3 learners, including culture based lessons on different countries around the World. During lunchtime, the Graves Hall was decorated and learners could purchase and enjoy treats from the Bake Off and have fun in the photo booth.

Our Senior Leadership Team joined in with celebrations by organising a prize draw to reward great punctuality to school.

Learners and staff donated kindly on this day to participate in the celebration and, across both primary and secondary phase, over £1,000 was raised for Candlelighters which is a charity close to the hearts of the school community.

Thank you to the Learner Leadership Team for their fantastic efforts and all who helped make this day so special.





Healey learners shine bright at Batley lights switch on

Learners and staff had a wonderful time participating in the Batley lights switch on event. Their voices filled the air with joy as the community gathered to celebrate the start of the festive season!

Mental health training for staff to support wellbeing

Our associate colleagues were provided with mental health training to increase their knowledge in supporting their own as well as others' wellbeing. Plans are already underway to extend this training to parents and carers.



Kind donation to Salvation Army Christmas Toy Appeal

Over the last few weeks, we have been collecting toys for the Salvation Army, in order to spread the joy of Christmas to families whose children may otherwise not receive a gift.



Year 6 learners build Anderson Shelters with parents/carers

Our school hall was packed with learners, their parents/carers and a healthy buzz of competitiveness, as they worked in small teams to build model Anderson Shelters. This was a wonderful celebration near the end of the Year 6 topic on World War II.

Over the course of the term, our Year 6 learners have created excellent pieces of writing and creative art work all about World War II. They also visited Eden Camp where they saw a real Anderson Shelter.



Our Secondary News



BATLEY GIRLS'
HIGH SCHOOL



Founded 1612



UPPER
BATLEY
HIGH SCHOOL

Believe Achieve Succeed



Batley Multi Academy Trust



Financial literacy session with Lifesmart

Earlier this month learners were given the chance to work with the company LifeSmart and take part in lessons on financial literacy. The lessons were delivered in the form of a game and the learners were taught about saving and navigating financial risk. The sessions were very informative and the learners were very competitive! Ali Zafar, the founder of LifeSmart, also delivered an inspirational assembly to our Year 12 learners where he explained his own career journey and the benefit of working in the financial sector.

Financial literacy continues to be an area of real focus for our personal development provision and we look forward to working with LifeSmart in the future.



The Great Debate

At the end of November, 20 learners from across three different schools competed in the 'Great Debate'. The brief they had been given was to address the following question: *How can your local history tell a global story?*

Contestants from Batley Girls' High School, Upper Batley High School and North Halifax Grammar School had to deliver a 5 minute speech answering the question and convincing a panel of judges from Newcastle University, Bradford University, Leeds Beckett University and Huddersfield University. The speeches addressed a range of topics from The 'Shoddy' trade, to Joseph Priestley and Fox's biscuits. The winning speech was given by a Year 10 learner from Batley Girls' High School who explained the global significance of our local area and the textile industry. She will now go through to the national semi-final in February. We wish her the best of luck!



Christmas Card Competition

One of our Year 7 learners was the runner up in Kim Leadbeater MP's Christmas Card competition, which included entries from across the Spen Valley. She will be receiving a letter from Kim to formally congratulate her. In the meantime, a big well done from us!



Winter Wonderland in the LRC

Come and enjoy one of the '24 days of Christmas' new titles by the fireside this Christmas! Learners at BGHS have been frantically posting their name into 'Santa's Mailbox' to be in with a chance of unwrapping one of the Winter reads each day.

Ms Din-Manning has done a fantastic job of creating a bigger and better 'Grinch's Escape Room' in the LRC with slots filling up in a matter of days. We look forward to rewarding learners for their efforts during the Christmas Extravaganza day on Thursday 19 December, where all will be revealed...!



Celebrating the success of our learners

Henry in Year 9

On Saturday 30 November and Sunday 1 December, Walsall Gala Baths hosted the Water Polo Open Inter-Regional Championships 2024. Henry, who plays for the North East Steelers, competed in the U14s event earning a silver medal in the final against the North West. They played a series of tough competitors in the group stage including a win against IRE to make the final.

Henry was introduced to Water Polo by his swimming teacher who played for the Huddersfield Otters. He recommended the sport to Henry who also joined the Huddersfield Otters and then received an invitation to join the North East Steelers. Congratulations to Henry on this fantastic achievement and by demonstrating that commitment, hard work and resilience is rewarded.

Isaac in Year 7

We would like to highlight the remarkable efforts of Isaac who is currently fundraising for Motor Neurone Disease (MND). Isaac has organised a variety of fundraising activities over the years and has already raised a significant amount towards supporting research into MND. Isaac's current challenge is to complete 777 rugby drop kicks and next week he will complete 777 drop kick conversions.

Isaac's total fundraising has just passed £7,000 which is fantastic! Isaac has shown incredible initiative and compassion by taking it upon himself to raise awareness and funds for this important cause.

If you would like to support Isaac, please visit his [Just Giving](#) page.



BBC Bitesize Careers' Tour



Earlier this month BBC Bitesize and their Careers Tour 2024/25 spent the day in school with our secondary phase learners. BBC Bitesize are currently touring the UK aiming to inspire learners about their futures by introducing them to a range of different career options and talented individuals from our local area.

Dan Jarvis (Senior Education Consultant at the Huddersfield Town Foundation), Joel Orme (a Freelance Series Producer) and Elisha Speck (BBC Bitesize Researcher) discussed their career path with the BBC Bitesize host, covering a variety of topics such as relevant qualifications, personal anecdotes, advice on work experience and soft key skills for the workplace. Learners were also given the opportunity to interact with the panel in a Q&A session.

The Batley Grammar School learners impressed with the quality of their questions, their confidence and maturity, and their engagement with the host and the panel.

We hope to welcome back the panel at our Careers Convention on Tuesday 4 March 2025.



A 'Grand' visit for Year 7

We took 30 Year 7 learners to have an insight into the operation of Leeds Grand Theatre. Learners had a full tour of both front of house and backstage; exploring the royal box, the costume change area and even stood on the stage.

During the visit a variety of career options were discussed, from Theatre Usher to Lighting Technician, Programme Manager to Dresser. Learners then got to delve further into these careers in a 'World of Work' workshop, planning how to stage, light and costume dress a theatre production of their choice.

On the way back to school, one learner said that they loved the building, and if it was ever for sale that they would want to buy it and put productions on! Clearly an inspirational visit for at least one of our learners.



Artefacts immerse learners in history

Year 7 learners took part in the Kirklees Museums, 'Museums into Schools' project, an exciting initiative designed to bring history to life through real artefacts. The session gave learners a unique, hands-on experience with artefacts from the Anglo-Saxon and Viking eras to objects used during the World War I.

At the end of the session, each learner had the chance to select one object that spoke to them. They then crafted short stories centred around their chosen artefact. This encouraged them to think beyond dates and facts, imagining the lives, feelings, and stories of people from history. The learners connected with history on a personal level, bringing it vividly to life.



Top of the Bench Competition

Four learners from Years 9, 10, and 11 represented our school in the Royal Society of Chemistry's *Top of the Bench* competition. The event is designed to inspire and excite learners about chemistry. Competing in the Huddersfield Heats against 11 other schools, our learners performed exceptionally well. They worked as a team during both the practical examination and a team quiz, narrowly missing the top spot by only a few points against the most competitive schools in the region. We are so proud of their teamwork, outstanding knowledge, and practical skills.



Healey's Christmas Market

Earlier this month three learners from our school's Bee Club helped to run a stall at Healey's Christmas Market in Batley. Bespoke Batley honey and candles were available, and these had been produced during Bee Club. This was a fantastic opportunity for them to showcase their knowledge, engage with the community, develop teamwork skills, and embrace the festive spirit.

Our learners were absolutely amazing, and we are extremely proud of how they managed the stall. They raised a total of over £600, which is incredible! We also received some wonderful feedback from members of the public.

Our Sixth Form News



Bradford Crown Court visit

At the end of November, a group of BG6 learners considering legal career pathways, or with an interest in the law, visited Bradford Crown Court.

During their visit, the learners met with Senior Judge Rose who explained how cases come to court and are processed through the courts. He explained how all those over the age of 18 could be called for jury duty and how this works.

After this, learners were able to enter the public galleries and see real life cases in action. We observed a variety of cases including opening statements and sentencing.



Charity work: embodying our value of generosity

Charity work is incredibly important to our BG6 ethos and our learners are active in supporting charities in our local community. This year so far, our learner leaders have been involved in raising money for Save the Children as well as donating items for Batley Food Bank. They truly embody our value of generosity, as well as demonstrating a sense of maturity and interest in people and challenges in the wider world.



UCAS Update

This term has been very busy for our BG6 learners applying for university courses through UCAS. Our learners have received offers for a wide range of courses from Law to Neuroscience and Pharmacy. We have also had two learners who have been successful in securing interviews to study Law at Cambridge University and Biology at Oxford University. Well done everyone!



Applications now open!
[Apply to BG6 here](#)

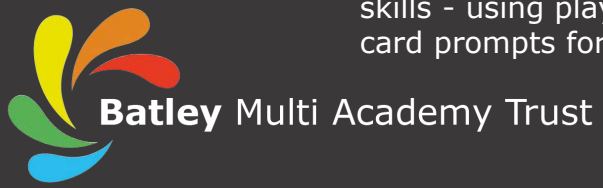
BG6 taster day for Year 11

Year 11s were able to attend six sessions for any subject on offer, including subjects new to them such as: Criminology, Business Studies, Applied Science and Health and Social Care (Level 2 or Level 3) as well as enrichment and careers sessions. They had break and lunch in the BG6 common room to provide the full BG6 experience. The day also included an wellbeing activity combining team building with creative skills - using play doh to make items based on card prompts for team members to guess.



Progression Module Graduation

Year 13 learners were invited to celebrate their achievements at an event hosted by Leeds Beckett University. 65 learners, joined by peers from other local colleges, graduated from Progression Module.



Our Staff Superheroes



Nita Gosal

A teacher at Manorfield, for developing our curricular plans to ensure that we can adopt the new locally agreed RE syllabus. This has been a huge body of work, and Nita has had a huge impact.



Rajinder Randhawa

For leading the development of our Trust SEND provision, which now features as a case study for best-practice in a recently published book, *Beyond Boundaries*, by Natalie Packer and David Bartram.



Janice O'Hanlon and the Wellbeing Team at BGHS

For going above and beyond to ensure everyone was truly entertained, and challenged, as well as having sufficient refreshments to fuel their brains during the Trust Quiz. A great part of our wellbeing offer for our colleagues.



Terri Halliday and Jeanette Dent

For organising and supporting Bee Club learners at UBHS to have a stall at Healey's Victorian Christmas Market in Batley.

Terri is a Science Technician and Jeannette is a volunteer at UBHS, as well as a Governor at Field Lane.



Maureen Wainwright

Maureen has worked at Manorfield as a lunchtime supervisor for over 20 years and is now retiring. We wish Maureen all the best in her well deserved retirement.





Our Staff Superheroes



**Alison Rout, Charlotte Dunkley, Emma Fox, Julie Coates,
Katy Halliday, Kim Bradshaw and Michael Scurr**

Huge congratulations to colleagues from Batley Girls' High School, Upper Batley High School and Manorfield Infant and Nursery School for successfully completing their NPQs (National Professional Qualifications).

Your hard work, dedication and commitment is superb, and developing evidence-informed practice is so important in our schools as we provide a great education for all our young people.

Well done and congratulations on your success!



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.

Batley Schools Choir sing for the Batley community

Teachers of music, and learners from our Trust family of schools all rehearsed a suite of songs to perform for the Batley community to celebrate the Batley lights switch-on event. This wonderful event demonstrates our pride to take part in events within our community and how collaboration is key to the success of these events.

Learners sang festive and seasonal songs and were able to build their self-confidence by singing in front of a crowd from the local community. They had been practising the songs in the weeks leading up to the event, which shows their commitment, hard work and teamwork to support each other in learning and performing the songs as a group. Well done everyone!

Some of you may have even recognised Santa's Elf was none other than our very own Ms Rodrigues! We can't wait until 2025 to perform for the town again.



Trust Quiz

A huge thank you to Janice O'Hanlon and the Batley Girls' Wellbeing Committee for hosting another amazing Trust-wide quiz. It was well attended, as teams came together from across our Trust family. There were some challenging and interesting questions, festive treats and plenty of good humour! The winning team was The Old Batelians! Really well done to them and everyone for joining a terrific Trust event.



The Fields

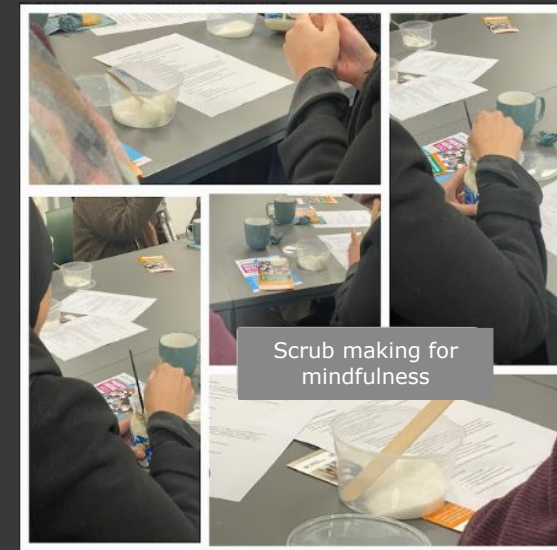
Community Spaces at Field Lane and Manorfield



The Fields
Community Spaces

Recent events at The Fields

- At the end of November we ran our regular community event where we had Realise Training introduce free taster sessions - they will be providing on Understanding Autism and Essential IT skills for the community at both locations from January 2025. Sky Positive Minds also attended and spoke about spirituality and mental health. Back by popular demand, was body scrub making for mindfulness.
- We also had a self defence workshop called Women Stay Safe Workshop at Manorfield with Grassroots. 12 women attended and enjoyed it so much they asked for a follow up continuation course.
- We're currently running a healthy eating support programme with Kirklees Wellness Team, holding sessions in both Urdu and English at each site. These sessions are running until Friday 20 December.



New for 2025!

Realise Training will be running **FREE courses** from January 2025 and you will receive an accredited certification.

There will be a range of courses available including; autism, IT and mental health.

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
07497 512801

Find us at:

Field Lane: Albion Street,
Batley, WF17 5AH

Manorfield: Manor Way,
Batley, WF17 7DQ

Careers: the golden thread

Commitment

Essential Skills

Spotlight on: Creativity

We focus on Essential Skills across all our secondary schools, those transferable skills that learners can use both throughout their educational journey as well as in the workplace. In our primary schools foundations are built in these skills' areas to feed into essential skills as part of transition. Creativity is evident in a variety of ways across our Trust family.

Batley Trust Choir sang at the Batley Lights switch on, which meant lots of rehearsals to practice the songs and exercising those skills on stage in front of a crowd.

Trips also enhance creative expression and mindset to help forge an interest in careers which are sometimes lesser well known. For example, in production at The Grand Theatre and Pugata jewellery designs.

All our schools are putting on a range of performances this month, including Batley Grammar's production of Annie, which has meant months of rehearsals.

Practice



Confidence



BATLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL
founded 1812

Proud to be a part of
Batley Multi Academy Trust

Presents... **Annie**

Tuesday 17 December 2024
Wednesday 18 December 2024

Doors open at 6:30pm
Performance begins at 7:00pm

Adults £7
Child £4
Family (2x Adults & 2x Children) £20

Tickets available from Batley Grammar School Reception
Carlinghow Hill, WF17 0AD & via ParentPay

ANNIE

Book by THOMAS MEEHAN Music by CHARLES STRAUSS Lyrics by MARTIN CHAMNIN

Original Broadway Production Directed by Martin Chaminin
Presented on Broadway by Minskoff
Produced by Irene Meyer, Stephen S. Friedman, Sara Alan, Alan Nussbaum and Associates Inc.
The John G. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, Special Production
Based on "Little Orphan Annie" by permission of The Tribune Media Services Inc.
This production is presented by arrangement with
Music Theatre International

All authorized performance materials are used as supplied by MTI
www.mti Shows.co.uk

Performing

PUGATA

Aiming High

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/



For young people;

Childline

Providing help & support for under 18s.

0800 11 11

www.childline.org.uk



For families;

NSPCC

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

0808 800 500

www.nspcc.org.uk



The Mix

Provides essential support for 13-25 year olds.

www.themix.org.uk



Family Lives

Free, professional non-judgemental advice.

0800 800 2222

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

GET IT RIGHT
FROM A
GENUINE SITE

Ask about games

Advice and online guides about gaming and PEGI ratings.

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

01924 942076
www.batleymat.co.uk

