



**Batley** Multi Academy Trust

# The **Batley Buzz**<sup>🐝🐝</sup>

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

**January 2025**

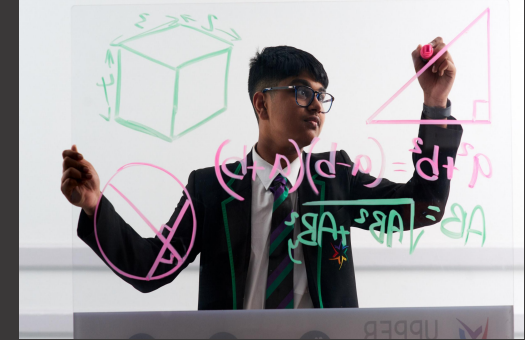
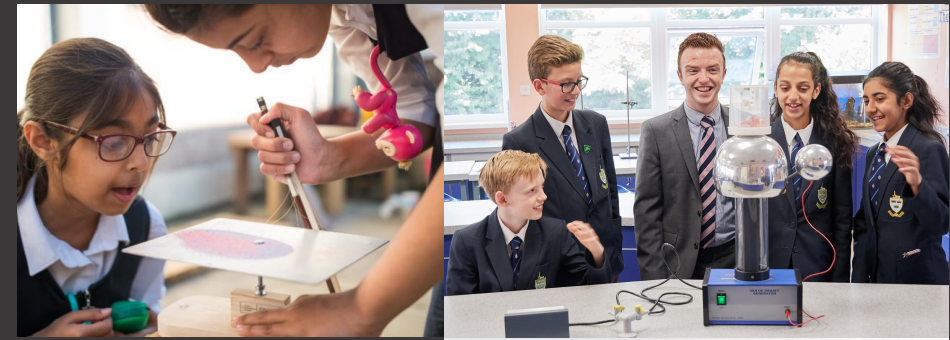
Edition 5

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



## Expressive art work

Our talented Year 2 artists have been exploring the vibrant world of Alma Thomas, an abstract painter known for her bold use of colour and patterns.

Inspired by her signature style, the learners experimented with their own pattern pieces, creating colourful artwork, full of shapes and patterns. Their creations celebrate individuality, creativity, and the joy of artistic expression!



## Fun in the snow!

Our Nursery children have been embracing the snowy weather, exploring the snow through outdoor activities.

They worked together to build a snowman, experimented with colour mixing in the snow, and even enjoyed sledging.

They have had so much fun learning through play.



## Christmas magic!

Reception learners amazed us with their singing, dancing, acting and speaking in our Christmas performance of 'Santa Claus is Coming to Manorfield'! They were so confident to perform in front of so many people and we are very proud of them all.

Our children had lots of fun learning about the celebration of Christmas. They had a party, a traditional Christmas dinner and even had a visit from the 'big man' himself! Thank you to Santa for spending the day with us and bringing joy to everyone!



## The Nativity Performance

Our EYFS production of The Nativity gave our youngest learners the chance to shine. None of us could have anticipated how wonderfully they embraced the challenge of delivering their lines, knowing their positions on stage, and remembering all of the songs. Our families were so proud of them all.



## Year 2 Time Travel

Year 2 provided us all with an excellent History lesson in the form of a performance about The Great Fire of London.

Excellent acting and narrating by all!



## Speech STARS Event

Year 5 and Year 6 learners were set the challenge of taking part in a public speaking event, talking about a topic of their choice for three minutes.

The stage was set with a panel of judges and they arrived well-prepared, albeit a little nervous. Every single learner should be proud of the way they conducted themselves, with maturity and confidence, and delivered their messages so clearly - making it extremely difficult for the judges to select the winners.

Every learner received a certificate in recognition of their achievement as well as feedback from the panel, including some Batley Girls' learners who also attended the event.

The experience really has been a fantastic opportunity for our learners to stretch their comfort zones and we are delighted that it will become an annual event!



## The Big Friendly Reading Challenge

One person from each class went to choose a new book and enjoy a hot chocolate at The Mill Village. They were selected by their teachers as they have made a genuine, new or improved interest in reading and have completed some really interesting book reviews.

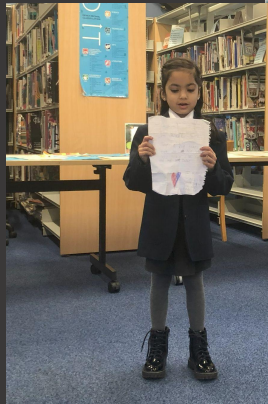
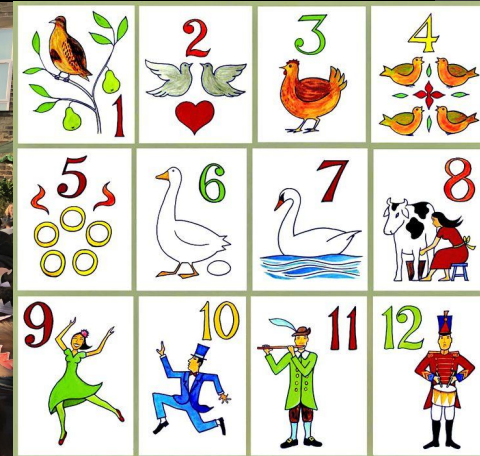


## Festive Fun

Primary Phase had a fantastic week in the lead up to the Christmas break. They took part in a number of events including Christmas parties, a pantomime and songs around the tree. The Christmas parties were an opportunity for all years to celebrate the hard work they have put in this term, and to share food with their peers in a warm and friendly environment.

The pantomime was the highlight of the week with all learners enjoying 'Dick Whittington'. Thankfully, the story had a happy ending with the main characters living happily ever after. Learners were active in the show and would reliably inform the cast that 'it's behind you!'

The week finished with a wonderful choir celebration with all learners singing a wide range of Christmas songs with their families in attendance. The learners' favourite was undoubtedly '12 days of Christmas' which had parents/carers and learners joining in with the actions.





## Confident performers

Nursery and Reception Classes performed their Christmas Show and Nativity to parents/carers at the end of last term. All Reception learners had a speaking part and the audience were in awe of their brilliant talent and confidence on stage. We had a special visit from Santa too and everyone enjoyed the seasonal singing and festivities.



## The joy of movement

Huddersfield Town Football Association are continuing to work with Year 5 classes on 'The Joy of Movement'. Here is one Year 5 class after their six week programme where they all received a certificate and five lucky learners received a pair of tickets to Huddersfield Town v Burton Albion at the end of December.



## Stage design workshop

Year 5MP class took part in the **Everybody Make: 'Alice's Adventures'** that was hosted by the **Royal Ballet and Opera House**.

The class joined a stage designer for a 60 minute Live Lesson where the learners created their own tree for the set of the ballet 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland'. This interactive design workshop bought the world-leading stage design of the Royal Ballet and Opera Live into the classroom. The class enjoyed learning about how the stage designers create a miniature set of the theatre performance scenes before it is then brought to life on a much larger scale.

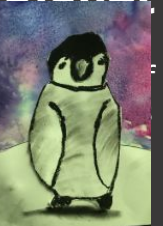


The penguins are standing together. I think the penguins are cold.  
The penguins are black and white. The penguins are a family.  
They are standing on the ice. It is cold.

## Frozen

The snow and ice at the beg the year was a great start to Topic: Frozen Planet.

## Planet



The young learners produced some great online work, relating to polar animals and their habitats. Arctic landscapes and digital art was also explored. The classes will continue to learn about changes in weather and the science behind changing states of matter.



Batley Multi Academy Trust

Believe Achieve Succeed



# Our Secondary News



BATLEY GIRLS'  
HIGH SCHOOL



Founded 1612



UPPER  
BATLEY  
HIGH SCHOOL

*Believe Achieve Succeed*



Batley Multi Academy Trust



## Third place at Top of the Bench Chemistry Competition



This was a massive achievement for our learners to gain third place in this competitive event run by the Royal Society of Chemistry. 13 schools were involved and the two schools in first and second place were Heckmondwike Grammar and Huddersfield Grammar, so this is a brilliant accomplishment for our school!

The day was split into two halves; first the learners completed a practical task in 50 minutes. Teachers were not allowed to direct learners and points were awarded for the following: organisation, team work, results and analysis. The learners worked really well as a group and their collaborative efforts meant they achieved good results which allowed them to plot a graph.

Then, there was a quiz comprised of six rounds; each with a series of questions which could either be answered individually or collaboratively. Learners engaged really well and made a fantastic attempt at all the questions.

## Public speaking support for learners at Field Lane

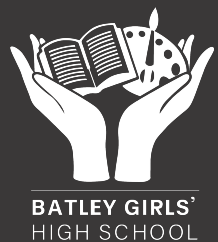
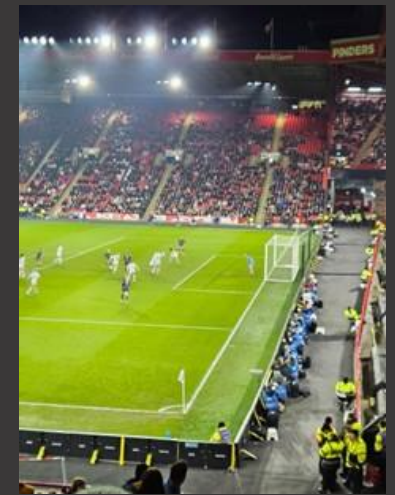
Learners from Year 8 and Year 10 supported Year 5 and 6 learners at Field Lane's Speech STARS event earlier this month. They provided top tips for public speaking as well as feedback for their younger learners. They were thoroughly impressed with the maturity and confidence with which these amazing young people spoke. We are one community.

## England Ladies FC

On a very cold night in December the Year 10 and 11 Sport Studies learners left the classroom behind and headed to Bramall Lane (Sheffield United's Football Stadium) to enjoy the cultural experience of watching England Ladies FC v Switzerland Ladies FC amongst a crowd of 24,000 fans.

England had all the play in the first half (at the opposite end of the stadium to where we were sitting unfortunately!). We then thought we would see all the action in the second half, but Switzerland had other ideas and dominated play. Our learners were very proud of the fact that they started a Mexican Wave that reached around the whole stadium.

The learners were exhausted after all that and the late night, arriving back at school tired but happy from the experience.



## Performance of Annie

The school community anticipated the arrival of 'Annie' in the final week of the Autumn term. Both staff and learners worked extremely hard in rehearsals for this production, with the audition process starting in June 2024. We were immensely proud of the entire cast and crew, made entirely up of learners ranging from Year 7 through to Year 11.

Productions are such a team effort, and the learners form amazing friendships that will last throughout their secondary school journey. This year there was a real spotlight on our younger learners, as Year 7s were cast in the roles of Annie and Oliver Warbucks. Mrs Parkes and Mrs Skivington both wish to extend their deepest pride and admiration to these learners, with so much asked of them, yet every rehearsal was full of laughter and smiles.



## Outdoor learning

Mrs Porter's secondary phase learners made these beautiful table decorations during their outdoor learning lessons this month. They then sold their creations to visiting parents and carers who came to see our wonderful performance of Annie. The money raised will be used to buy planting potatoes for the learners to grow.

In the next Batley Buzz we hope to share with you the finished picture frame, made from pine cones, decorated by the Reception and Year 1 learners. Once complete, it will take pride of place in our Visitor Reception for all to see.



## Forging links to inspire the next generation of scientists

Our Science department is excited to share our growing partnership with the University of Leeds, a Russell Group member. This collaboration aims to inspire learners through cutting-edge research and diverse career opportunities in science.

Year 10 learners attended a talk by a PhD student from the University of Leeds, who shared insights into her research and the benefits of university education as a pathway to success. Following this, a group of learners visited the university, which included a tour of science departments and exploring careers linked to medicine, such as biomedical research and drug development.

These experiences have sparked curiosity and broadened horizons, showing learners the exciting possibilities in higher education and science careers. We look forward to building on this partnership and providing more opportunities that ignite a passion for STEM.



## Baking workshop

We recently hosted a highly engaging and interactive parent/learner workshop tailored for families within our SEND provision.

The focus of the workshop was to create a positive shared experience to strengthen family relationships. This session was centred around a hands-on baking experience, where parents/carers and learners collaborated to create delicious cupcakes.

The setting combined with the activity created a supportive and enjoyable environment that encouraged bonding and teamwork, enhancing communication between families and learners. It also helped parents/carers to better understand their child's strengths and needs. The workshop was met with enthusiasm and was a fantastic opportunity for families to learn, connect, and have fun while developing new skills together.

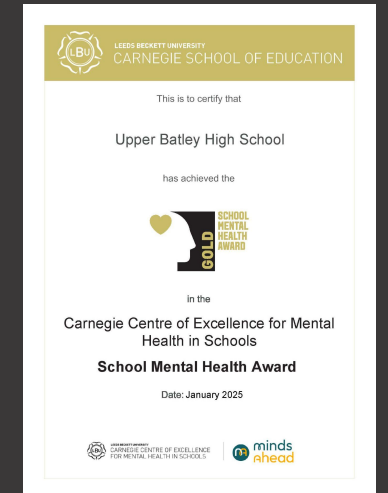
## Gold Mental Health Award Retained

We have retained the Gold Award from Leeds Beckett University Carnegie Centre of Excellence for mental health in schools where we excelled across all eight competences. You can read excerpts from the report below:

"The school has used the framework and content of the Award to excellent effect to further build and strengthen their previous Gold achievement through the ongoing development of their mental health and wellbeing (MHWB) strategies, structures, and practices."

"The holistic curriculum ('More in Common') focuses on building confidence, self-awareness and promotes character building and resilience. UBHS has created a values-centric ethos and environment that is socially, emotionally, and physically rich - where key relationships can thrive and learners feel secure in their learning."

We have also been invited to speak at a national conference on mental health later this year. We are proud of our work in this area and will continue to focus on this aspect of support for our learners, alongside the academic support we provide.



# Our Sixth Form News



# Class of 2024 celebration evening

In order to recognise and celebrate our Year 13 leavers' achievements during their time with us, we held their first Alumni celebration evening to present them with a range of awards.

Everyone gathered in the common room for refreshments and the opportunity to meet up with friends and staff they'd not seen since the summer.

A member of our alumni, and local councillor, Yusra Hussain spoke about her learning pathway and career journey sharing advice about the expectations of oneself for the future.



# Enrichment: focus on British Sign Language

**Year 12** - are working through the British Sign Language (BSL) course in their enrichment sessions. This initiative is part of our commitment to fostering inclusivity and enhancing communication skills across our school community. Learning the basics needed to hold a simple conversation with those who use BSL to communicate. Every learner will receive a certificate to recognise their completion of the course and have the option to independently complete a fast tracked Level 1 course.

**Year 13** - are involved in mini workshops delivered by key staff, to help them with the challenges of the next few months, including; exam strategies, study skills, coping with exam stress and interview techniques. In addition, they have all been signed up to the BSL course, so they can work through the course in their own time around assessments and the demands of college.



# Forensics visit L3 Biomedical Science

Year 12 and 13 Biomedical science learners visited a Think Forensic Science in Huddersfield on the 26 November. The learners participated in analysing a simulated crime scene using forensic techniques from which the evidence will be used in their forensics assignment. The learners found the session engaging and they were able to put the theory into practice.

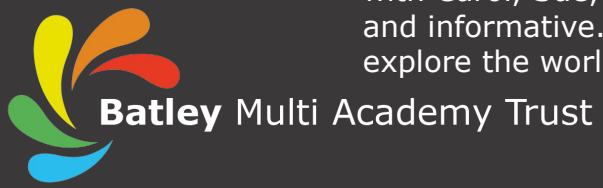
"During my experience at Think Forensic Science, I learned about various techniques used to gather evidence at crime scenes. I enjoyed working with Carol, Sue, and Yvonne, who made the experience incredibly engaging and informative. Overall, it was a fantastic and memorable opportunity to explore the world of forensic science" - Year 13 learner.



# UCAS Update

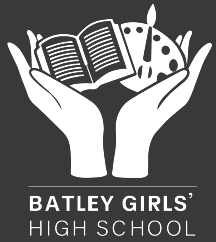
There has been some lovely successes for our most vulnerable and SEND learners at amazingly aspirational universities - Psychology at York, ODP at Huddersfield, Business at Sheffield, MLaw at Huddersfield, Nursing at Sheffield, Business Management at Leeds - we are very proud!

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





# Our Staff Superheroes



## Ceri Evans

For his dedication and service at BGHS, in particular for the exceptional pantomime performances he has directed and starred in, with his most recent execution this year standing out as a testament to his talent.

## Michaela Widdop

Michaela Widdop is the SENDCo at Healey and is recognised for all her work to support colleagues, learners and families. Michaela has been working hard on parent/carer engagement and continues to organise special events for such as, mental health training which has recently taken place.

## Fayyaz Novsarka

For successfully completing his Level 3 apprenticeship as Information Communications Technician. Fayyaz has been a real asset to the IT team during this time. Well done!

## Lisa Woods

For achieving the Platinum Award for ModeShift STARS working with learners on over 25 sustainable travel initiatives and 10 consultations initiatives. Modeshift STARS is a national accreditation programme for schools who want to improve their learners' health and wellbeing through active and sustainable travel.

## Superb site teams and volunteers across our Trust family

For their amazing support and brute strength during the first week of term when snow and ice needed to be cleared from all school sites. A huge thank you for your generosity of spirit. TEAM - together everyone achieves more.

## BGS Caretakers

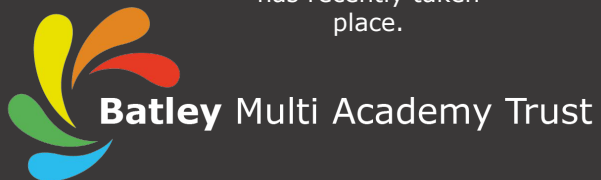
Diz Harley and Hilmija Pudic, for the exceptional work in their school, and supporting our other Trust schools to reopen quickly and safely during the snow.

## Kayleigh Hughes

For her initiative in gaining a partnership with Pocketalk for UBHS, to support EAL learners, families and colleagues. The school has also been recognised, by Pocketalk, with the 2024 Youth Changemaker Award, which is an amazing achievement.

## Michael Scurr

He is excelling in his role as an Achievement Leader at BGHS. He has also successfully developed the 'Brilliance Bucket' system for rewards, leads the Eco Group, and has contributed significantly to the development of the attendance strategy.



# 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 Business Breakfast

Reading is an essential part of education as well as wellbeing for both young people and adults. Learners from both primary and secondary schools in our Trust family talked about the importance of reading to an audience at the Batley Business Breakfast Event in December.

Field Lane learners spoke confidently about why reading matters and how important it is for learning, and a Batley Girls' learner presented the importance of a comfortable reading hub in schools to encourage young people to spend time there and engage with books and reading. We are delighted to say that a local business has pledged to donate £1000 to support Batley Girls' "The Hub" project - this money will contribute to improving the surroundings of the reading facilities in school.




## Great Lego Get Together

On Saturday 18 January the Great Lego Get Together was held at Batley Library and it was a wonderful event, full of children and families for the Great Lego Get Together. There were refreshments and a great atmosphere, with lots of people getting to know each other and sharing stories of Batley. Thanks to one of our local MPs, Kim Leadbeater MBE, who managed to secure an incredibly generous donation of Lego, children of all ages were treated to brand new Lego, and the opportunity to create their own masterpieces, now on display in the library.



## Healey Intergenerational Event

Healey host their annual afternoon tea event with The Kirkwood charity and residents from Charles Jones Court care home.

 **When? Thursday 30 January 2025, 2:00pm**  
 **Where? Healey Junior, Infant and Nursery School, Healey Lane, Batley, WF17 8BN**


Everyone is welcome.

**THE KIRKWOOD SUPPORT LIFE.**



## Recruitment Event

Interested in finding more out about training to be a teacher? Join us...

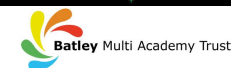
 **When? Thursday 6 February 2025, 4:00-6:00pm**

 **Where? Batley Girls' High School, Windmill Lane, Batley, WF17 0LD**



**Yorkshire Rose Teaching Partnership**

Providing high quality teacher training



In partnership with:



# The Fields

## Community Spaces at Field Lane and Manorfield



**The Fields**  
Community Spaces

### What's On at The Fields – JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2025

Days	Events	Providers	Location	When
Monday	Baby Massage	Happy Moments	Manorfield School	Mondays 1:00-2:00 pm
	Antenatal Workshop	Happy Moments	Manorfield School	3 February 2025 10:00 – 1:00 p.m.
	Vaping Prevention workshop	The Base	Manorfield School	3 February 2025 9:00-10:00 am
	Henry Programme	Henry.org	Manorfield School Field Lane School	24 February 2025 05 March 2025
Tuesday	Fields Community Event	The Fields Team	Manorfield School	25 February 2025 9:00-10:30 a.m.
	Fields Community Event	The Fields Team	Field Lane School	25 February 2025 1:30-3:00 p.m.
Wednesday	PCAN Coffee Morning	PCAN	Manorfield School	22 January 2025 9:00-10:00 am
	Stay Safe Workshop	Grassroots	Field Lane School	22 January 2025 10:00-12:00 pm
	Emotional Freedom Technique (Tapping Technique) Taster	Clear	Manorfield School	29 January 2025 9:00-10:00 am
	Project Empowerment	Kirlees wellness service	Manorfield School	Wednesdays 10:00-1:00 p.m.
Thursday	ESOL	Kirklees College	Manorfield School	Every Thursday 9:00 - 11:30 am
	Understanding Autism (Accredited)	Realise	Field Lane School	Postponed. Please get in touch if you are interested in attending.
Friday	Emotional Freedom Technique (Tapping Technique) Taster	Realise	Field Lane School	31 January 2025 9:00-10:00 am
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

### New for 2025!

#### Tiny Readers

On Tuesdays 9-10am, from 4 March we will be offering storytime with a range of books including; Peace At Last by Jill Murphy, The Tiger Who Came to Tea - Judith Kerr, We're Going On A Bear Hunt - Michael Rosen, The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle and Jasper's Beanstalk - Nick Butterworth.

#### Realise Training FREE courses

A range of courses available including; autism, IT and mental health. You will receive an accredited certification.

**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: **Staying positive**

Staying positive is not only part of the Essential Skill programme, but it is something that we live and breathe everyday with our learners of all ages.

Staying positive can mean overcoming a challenge and stretching your comfort zone in a public speaking event, being resilient and determined to achieve your goals in academia or extracurricular activities. It's also having pride in what you've achieved, recognising and celebrating even the small wins.

Being grateful for things we may sometimes take for granted, but we are lucky to experience such a library filled with books, storytime with our favourite teacher or playtime with our favourite activities.

Reading itself is a positive act. Did you know? A 2009 scientific study by the University of Sussex shows that reading for six minutes reduces stress by 68%? When you open a book to read, your brain automatically gets distracted from stress and anxiety.

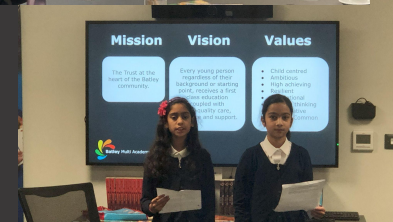
## Resilience



## Challenge



## Pride



## Gratitude



# 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 2222

[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  
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[www.batleymat.co.uk](http://www.batleymat.co.uk)

