



## BIRMINGHAM SPECIAL SCHOOLS CO-OPERATIVE TRUST NEWSLETTER : September 2022

### Welcome

This newsletter is intended for all staff and governors who work across the schools in the Trust. This is our first attempt to try and share with you all the activities that the 7 schools will be jointly working on over the course of this academic year. We came together as a collective because we believe that together we are strengthening education through collaboration between staff and learners. We hope that by sending out this newsletter you will gain a better oversight of the work that we are doing at a collaborative. We want to do a lot more work together this year and here is an overview of what we have planned.

**BSSCT "Improving Trust internal partnership working and communication so that more individual staff know and value the work of the trust"**

#### SHARED LEARNER ACTIVITIES

We are planning a shared SEND Festival next June (wb. 26<sup>th</sup> June) at the MAC, when over the course of a few days our children will have chance to come together to share some of the work they have been doing over the year. The theme will be **'Proud to be ME!'**

We will work together in:

November on Anti-Bullying

February on Pride and mental health leading to a diversity pledge written by your children

March on an Eco focus leading into Mothers' day and a Forest Schools event

all leading up to **'Proud to be ME!'**

We are also hoping that **'Proud to be ME!'** will also give schools a platform to showcase YOUR children's art work, dance and drama and anything else you are proud of.

Fox Hollies have agreed to lead the event, but we need every school to identify a member of staff who will become the named contact to enable us to make this event as great as it can be. If you would like to become involved in this please ask your Headteacher for further details.

Remember to capture through photography and videos your children as they develop their work.

**BSSCT "Providing safe opportunities for independent interaction for learners to improve communication and confidence and enabling them to flourish outside of their own school."**



## Shared Staff Activities

We are planning a wider range of activities this year to enable more of you to benefit from our collaboration. Please see below for further details

### Teachers and Teaching Assistants

We are currently planning some joint CPD activities.

On offer:

A chance to visit another of the trust schools

A chance to be involved in an action research project with Birmingham University

Some bespoke training to support Teaching Assistants

**BSSCT "Developing Trust, Leadership and Staff Professional Development"**

### Leaders at all levels

Back by popular demand the 4 day leadership programme led by Chris Field

Peer to peer review of other schools

Network subject leadership

BSSCT Trustees meetings for Governors

A chance to lead any of the shared learners activities on page 1.

## A little more information on our Trust

There are seven special schools in the Trust: Baskerville, Pines, Longwill, Dame Ellen Pinsent, Hamilton, Fox Hollies and Wilson Stuart. Between us we have a range of Special School specialisms and a great deal we can learn from each other.

The Headteachers of the Trust meet together each half term to ensure that the collaboration works together as effectively as it can. There is a shared Trust Development plan with clearly defined outcomes and these have been shared with you in this newsletter as quotes so you can understand what we are hoping to achieve.

The Headteachers employ a part-time project manager (1 day a week) who ensures that governance and financial requirements are met in full and supports the admin support staff network across the schools. There is also a part time (20 days a year) who is Trust Improvement leader Tracy Ruddle. Tracy's role is to support improvements in how the Trust works and to support and/or deliver CPD.

The Trust has a collaborative portal as well as a web site and we encourage you to visit the web site to find out more.

We hope that this first newsletter is helpful and would be grateful for feedback on the content and the frequency. Please email [tracy.bgp@outlook.com](mailto:tracy.bgp@outlook.com) to give feedback or simply share with your Headteacher.

To finish here some links to some recent documents that may help your work.

1. <https://www.tes.com/magazine/news/general/ofsted-six-changes-school-inspection-september>
2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-eif-inspections-and-the-eyfs/the-eyfs-in-schools>
3. [TEACHING the Foundations of Literacy](#)

**"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much" – Helen Keller.**



Website:

[About BSSCT – Birmingham Special Schools' Co-Operative Trust \(bhamcooptrust.org.uk\)](http://About BSSCT – Birmingham Special Schools' Co-Operative Trust (bhamcooptrust.org.uk))



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