

# BFS News



16th Edition

December 2016

For more information about Bright Futures School please visit [www.brightfutureschool.co.uk](http://www.brightfutureschool.co.uk)

## It's now official – we are a 'Good' School!

Some fantastic news to finish a brilliant 2016 for us all here at Bright Futures School is that we have been officially rated as a 'Good' school following a full Ofsted inspection in November.



Some of the key highlights from the full Ofsted report include: pupils enjoy coming to school and have excellent relationships with the adults who work with them; pupils are well cared for and supported exceptionally well. As a result, many who start the school with very challenging behaviour improve significantly over time; staff very quickly help pupils to overcome their negative attitudes to formal education. As a result, pupils develop positive attitudes to learning; parents hold the school in high regard and cite the skill, dedication and care of staff as a strength.

Other highlights include: staff morale is high; staff are successful in turning around pupils' entrenched negative attitudes. They instill a love of learning and a positive attitude which helps pupils achieve academic success; the school's systematic approach to addressing pupils' social communication needs ensures that all pupils, from their different starting points, quickly acquire the skills and confidence that they need to be successful students; staff plan well-considered learning opportunities which are closely matched to the needs and aptitudes of individual pupils. They pay heed to pupils' interests and plan activities which have meaningful links to everyday life. As a result, pupils look forward to their lessons; staff relationships with pupils are exceptional.

School will close for the Christmas Break at 3pm on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016** and will re-open to pupils on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017**.

We wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Pupils are willing to take risks because of the trust they place in the adults that work with them. And our personal favourite - the behaviour of pupils is outstanding! Thank you so much to everyone for enabling BFS to get such a good Ofsted report – well done guys!!

## Christmas Craft Fair Success

A great big **Thank You** to all our pupils who have spent time with staff over the past few weeks making lovely items to sell on our Christmas Craft Fair stall at the Civic Hall in Uppermill, Saddleworth.



In addition, a special thanks to our two super "salesmen", pupils Philip and Harry, who did an excellent job manning the stall with staff and promoting our lovely, hand-made goods!

We had lots of visitors to our Christmas Craft Fair stall on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2016, including our very own Office Admin Assistant, Christina and her family.

Here's Christina's three year old son, Ethan, enjoying some of his lovely purchases from the stall – yum!



We raised a fantastic £123 from the Christmas Craft Fair – so well done to everyone involved and thank you very much!

## Our Next BFS Fundraising Event

On the last day of term – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016 – we are holding a Bright Futures Christmas Open Afternoon and you are welcome to visit school, with any friends and relatives between 1pm and 2.30pm. We will be serving festive drinks and snacks, there will be a raffle, items from the Craft Fair will be on sale and you will also be able to take a look at some of our pupil's work. Our special guests will be the Mayor of Oldham, Councillor Derek Heffernan and Debbie Abrahams MP. We are hoping as well that several of our pupils will play guitar, as this is something they have been involved in with one of our parents. We are hoping it will be a lovely, positive experience for all involved and a good end to a very busy term! Hope to see you all there!



## Tangent Talk

Our School Proprietor and Head of Development, Zoe, went along to Rochdale Tangent's November meeting at Rochdale Golf Club to give a talk, supported with pictures, about the wonderful work Bright Futures School is doing with autistic children. Their Chair, Barbara Dewhurst, said: "It was interesting to hear how the RDI technique works and to see how this helps the children to progress. The commitment and patience of the staff is clearly evident as a contribution to the school's success. Many thanks to Zoe for giving up her time to join us and to Ros for the contact." Here's Zoe and Barbara at the event.



## Wonderful Feedback from Harry's Mum and Love Lydgate

We love hearing from pupils, parents, teachers and friends and we've had some amazing feedback recently, which we wanted to share with you. First of all, a note from pupil, Harry's mum, which had us all in tears at Morning Briefing: 'I'd just like to share something with you and the staff that Harry did tonight, because I've been absolutely blown away by his ability to read my emotions, through my use of non verbals, and the lovely words he used. I was pretty tired tonight, after a hectic birthday weekend for his sister, and was generally feeling a bit jaded, and having a lie down, when Harry came upstairs and said: "Hey mum are you ok?" I used non verbals, just shrugged my shoulders and sighed, and was about to tell him how I was feeling, when he cuddled up to me and said: "Never mind mum. I'll help you back onto the stage, switch those lights back on for you, and make you sparkle again!"

Wow!!! He's read my emotions, through the use of non verbals, and offered astounding words of comfort and encouragement too! I told him how absolutely lovely his words were, and how much better he'd made me feel, and asked him if someone had taught him those words? He said: "No, I just thought of them, but we have been learning about friendship at school." Gosh! I'm truly amazed by his progress. Thanks to such an amazing team at BFS!

In addition, four ladies from Love Lydgate (a local community group), came to visit on Monday 14th November 2016. They wrote to us to say: 'Dear Zoe and Alison and everyone at Bright Futures. It was such a grey, dark, damp day yesterday but as we stepped through the doors of Bright Futures, our spirits lifted. We received such a warm welcome. THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH. It was a privilege to have a glimpse of what you all work so hard to achieve. There was such a positive atmosphere and the pupils were delightful...even though we pinched their usual seats and their techno time and attention! We look forward to working with you in the future. Do keep us updated as we will with you. Thank you again. Jennifer and the Love Lydgate Team.' Thank you to everyone for all the positive feedback we receive – we are truly grateful.

## Horsing Around

Thanks to some recent funding we secured, staff and pupils have been having great fun at the Dickey Steps Horse Riding School in Littleborough, Rochdale. Here are some of the fantastic photos showing just what a good time everyone, especially pupil Saoirse, is having!



## BFS links with Gambia School

It's really exciting that we are forging links with a school in The Gambia - widening horizons and taking different perspectives. Here are some of our new friends who hopefully one day we will meet. Three of our pupils, Matthew, Marley and Harry, are already writing to them in their sessions with Alex.

Here are a few snippets from their letters:  
*Hello my name is Harry I come from Bright Futures School. I have two younger sisters an 8 year old named Dakota and an 11 year old called Hannah then a very cute 6 year old brother named Barnaby. My favourite lesson is ICT. Hope to hear from you soon. Love from Harry (13).*

*Hello my name is Marley. I am 12 years old. I live in England. I have a puppy and I've called her Tallullah. She bites everything! I hope to hear from you soon. From Marley (12).*

*Hello, my name is Matthew Persse. I am currently interested in, and love, this game series anime, Pokémon. Please find enclosed the Pokémon mascot, Pikachu. From Matthew (12).*

## Save the Date!



Our next FBFS Fundraiser will be a Michael Buble Tribute Night at the Royal George in Greenfield on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017! We look forward to seeing you there!

**Thanks for a brilliant 2016! Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**