

BLUE KITE BULLETIN

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Welcome to the start of another school year, which has already become the end of Term 1. We hope you have all started the new school year with renewed enthusiasm and drive to achieve your very best in all that you do.

This is yet another exciting year for **The Blue Kite Academy Trust**, with the 10 schools from DBAT now fully embedded into our Family of Schools, and more and more opportunities being created for children to meet across the Trust. We are also working hard to help Swindon Borough Council open a series of Complex Needs Provisions across the town and, having already won the government bid to open Lotmead Primary School, we hope we may be given the go ahead to start these plans soon.

As you may expect with a thriving and successful Trust, we have welcomed several new members to our central team this year, who assist all our schools with family support, school effectiveness, finance, health & safety and ICT.

Congratulations to Robert le Kyng on retaining the winner's shield at **The Blue Kite Games** in the summer. Once again, we enjoyed the spectacle of Year 5 & 6 elite athletes from all our Junior and Primary schools competing for the Blue Kite Games Shield at the County Ground Athletics track.

The afternoon was once again a huge success, enjoyed by the children and their enthusiastic families who cheered them along at the top of their voices. Gold, Silver and Bronze medals were won by all schools throughout the event, with RLK winning most Golds and most medals in total. All other schools have the challenge of preventing a hat-trick of wins for RLK in 2026.

[Click here to see the Instagram Video of the event.](https://www.instagram.com/reel/DMFNFI7oK38/?sclrybrkr=ffa7f4e4)

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DMFNFI7oK38/?sclrybrkr=ffa7f4e4>
You do not need an account to see it, just do not sign in or join.



Special thanks to teachers Lu Farmer and Lauren Harland for going the extra mile, running the event and leading a team of volunteer colleagues from Abbey Meads to make this event possible.



Well done to Wanborough Primary who won **The Blue Kite Debate 2025**, this year organised by previous winners Lethbridge Primary School.

With debates about robots replacing teachers, smart phones being banned for under 16s, free food at school for all, AI taking over, the benefits of a plant-based diet and the desire to leave Antarctica untouched (*among many others*) there was plenty to get passionate about.

The two heats were judged by author Kate Claxton, Jeremy Holt - founder of the Swindon Computer Museum and Swindon Councillor Chris Watts, with the final judged by Heidi Alexander MP and Ross Peters, Solicitor & Director at Francis George.

As always, the standard of presentation and debate was exceptional and at times drew the audience in with questions, humour or controversy.

Many thanks to Lethbridge and Ms Short for organising Debate 2025!

Watch out for information soon from Wanborough for Debate 2026!

So many new faces joining our schools this September:



First Days at School



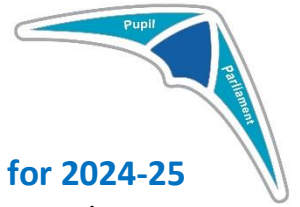
Welcome
to your
new
school and
welcome
to The
Blue Kite
Academy
Trust.





More First Days at School





The Blue Kite Trust Pupil Parliament

Thank you to the amazing children who formed our **Pupil Parliament for 2024-25** and represented their Schools so well, both in the Parliament meetings and on our annual trip to the Houses of Parliament.

With 2 members from each school, the Parliament currently has 52 pupil members, leading developments and change within their schools through School Councils, or equivalent committees, and coming together to try and make a change across Swindon and Wiltshire, with an eye on even further afield. It was wonderful to hear all the amazing work going on in our schools, when the children came to their final meeting of the year at The Council Chambers in Swindon, hosted by The Mayor.

Each school spoke on their work and offered reasons behind their favoured recipient of our Trust Charity Donation for 2025-2026. Following our amazing effort previously to support a group of schools in The Gambia, and more recently supporting school charities, the pupils voted to support a Local Charity all together in 2025-2026...

Wiltshire Tree House

The Wiltshire Tree House logo is hyperlinked for more information...

Or the URL is here: <https://wiltshiretreehouse.org.uk/>



Work to improve lives within our schools, the Trust, the wider community and around the world, continues to allow our children to understand and appreciate their belonging and importance within local and global settings. The work of the Pupil Parliament needs full commitment to our **Trust Values of Integrity, Quality, Care, Ambition and Creativity**, and requires the Key Drivers which underpin these values to work in harmony to achieve such excellent outcomes.



Congratulations to all those involved in 2024-2025 and we look forward to meeting all new representatives for 2025-2026, at our next meeting at 10am on 13th November, following the elections in their schools.

A Message from Lighthouse



Lighthouse is our Trust's Early Intervention Service supporting children and their families within **The Blue Kite Academy Trust schools**.

We have Family Workers, Inclusion Workers, Educational Psychologists, an Education Welfare Officer and a Trainee Play Therapist.

We work in many different ways. Sometimes directly with children, sometimes with parents and carers. We also offer regular workshops, courses and 1:1 drop-in sessions, for one off advice. Parents can speak to their child's school if they feel that they themselves, or their child, may benefit from Lighthouse support.

Our Early Intervention Manager, Helen Lidbury, is also our Trust Designated Safeguarding Lead and schools benefit enormously from the supervision of school DSLs and close working with Sarah Turner, our external Safeguarding Consultant.



Lighthouse has our **Family Foundations** parent programme currently running at Brook Field and our next course will be at Greenmeadow from early November. The course is always popular, so please make sure you book parent places in advance by emailing Lighthouse or connecting with us on Instagram. https://www.instagram.com/lighthouse_bluekitetrust/

We love running the programme and parents/carers love attending too.

Some said:

- The tone of conversation has changed, I have more patience and understanding. I have found it easier to diffuse high stress situations.
- My son will now read a book at night - this has never happened before!! This was as a result of using choice.
- Thank you SO much. I have really appreciated and valued the time spent with you both. It has been amazing to learn new things to help my family in such a relaxed, friendly and accepting environment.
- Absolutely brilliant course, Becky and Torz are fantastic, thank you so much for allowing me to be a part of it!

We have a new parent session available supporting families with managing sibling rivalry – if you are interested in this session please get in contact.

Our goal this academic year is to share this message...

Connection before Correction – *tune into your child's feelings before trying to correct their behaviour!*

Hearing Your Views

At **The Blue Kite Academy Trust**, we are constantly looking to improve and offer the best possible opportunities and outcomes for children, staff and the wider community.

With this in mind, we carry out annual surveys with children, parents, governors and staff.

Please look out for these as they happen every year at set times, to coincide with Trust-wide deadlines and local school timings to fit their local circumstances.

Our schools do not follow a one-size-fits-all model.

Whilst the Trust provides strength, stability, support and guidance within financial and legal frameworks, each school has a Head Teacher and a set of Governors leading and advocating for their school, setting priorities and developing a curriculum appropriate for each school's specific setting and needs.





Following yet another year where all our trainee teachers both gained Qualified Teacher Status and positions in the teaching profession, we welcome a new cohort of graduates to our Initial Teacher Training programme (in partnership with Ambition and Liverpool Hope University) for 2025-2026. Around half of the cohort found employment within **The Blue Kite Academy Trust**, emphasising our commitment to continually strengthen the quality of teaching within the teaching profession and those from which we can appoint to positions within our Trust.

Once again, we will host the largest cohort of trainee teachers in this region for 2025-2026.

We also oversee and support new teachers to the profession, called Early Career Teachers, and we welcome both those new to ECT and existing ECT teachers starting the second year of their programme. They are supported in school by senior staff mentors, *who do an incredible job*, as they begin the journey in this amazing profession.

Recruitment for September 2026 has already opened and interviewing for places next year are underway.

Potential applicants can apply directly to: <https://www2.ambition.org.uk/l/330231/2023-06-20/twm58>

For further information visit: <https://thebluekitetrust.wixsite.com/inspire/initial-teacher-training>

Any queries and questions please email inspire@bluekitetrust.org

The Swindon and Wiltshire Teaching School Hub recruits for **National Professional Qualifications** and the next ones start in November 2025. They are hoping to run the following NPQs: NPQ Leading Teaching, NPQ Leading Behaviour and Culture, NPQ Senior Leadership, NPQ Leading Teacher Development, NPQH, NPQSENDCO.

The DfE has confirmed the following:

- There is only going to be 1 intake this academic year (November 2025) and not one in Spring - but it is worth finding out more during this year and contacting NPQ@swindonwiltshiretshtsh.org.uk to check on availability now or early for next year if not already enrolled.
- All schools qualify for funding for NPQH and NPQSENDCO
- Funding for all NPQs is only available for the PP50 schools identified by the DfE.

Trust schools which qualify for funding for all NPQs are: Christian Malford, Greenmeadow, Oaktree & Ruskin.

It is important to stress that even though a school qualifies for free spaces, there will only be a limited number of spaces on offer for each region.

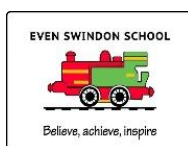
The Blue Kite Academy Trust – Trust Values

Below are our **Trust Values**, which are both aligned with our schools and, we hope, seen through our actions. We share them with you all again here, but in future Bulletins we will look to revisit these values and emphasise how they can be seen through real actions, both within our schools and the work of the Trust!

Blue Kite Academy Trust				
Trust Values				
Integrity	Quality	Care	Ambition	Creativity
We act with honesty, integrity, and respect, fostering a positive environment where everyone feels valued. We inspire every child to grow in wisdom (and in Church schools in faith and service), rooted in Christian values). We promote active participation in the community and aim to develop qualities of character that enable everyone to flourish collectively.	We strive to be the best in all aspects of our work and practice, responding quickly and effectively to a changing educational landscape. We provide world-class professional development to staff to enhance learning outcomes for our children.	We prioritise the well-being of our children and staff, ensuring they feel safe, cared for, motivated, and supported in all aspects—socially, emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually. We value and celebrate diversity within our communities through strong relationships and emphasise the importance of living well together.	We are ambitious in our expectations for both children and staff, working collaboratively and given opportunities to reach their full potential. Empowering children to flourish and foster a sense of purpose and meaning, developing resilience when they are face with challenges to help create a better future for us all.	We believe in creativity and innovation in education. We use research, technology and training to ensure our schools and children are equipped for life in modern Britain.
				
Long-term Strategic Drivers				
Driver 1: An effective efficient central system that delivers the very best in services to our schools. Driver 2: A governance structure that works collectively and efficiently for all of our pupils. Driver 3: Growth of the Trust will be meaningful and sustainable and ensure the delivery of quality services whilst retaining the ability enough to know our schools well. Driver 4: Our curriculum, our staff and our governors will seek to fairly represent the communities we serve and the world in which we live. Driver 5: Improved and varied stakeholder engagement. Driver 6: Become an environmentally aware Trust with clear strategic aims to reduce emissions, energy costs and respond to the challenges facing the environment. Driver 7: Ensure our systems create high performing schools which create opportunities and equality of provision for all pupils. Driver 8: Remove and reduce obstacles to learning, leading to increased life chances for all pupils. Driver 9: A highly skilled work force: Professional development system for all staff.				



Catherine Wayte



Ferndale



Our Family of Schools



Lydiard Millicent



Ridgeway Farm



Robert Le Kyng



The Blue Kite
Academy Trust

We are delighted that Lawn Primary and Beechcroft Infants will be joining our family.

This follows decisions made by their respective Governing Bodies to choose Blue Kite as the Academy Trust offering the strongest security and greatest opportunities for the children and staff in their schools.

