

## BCET Nominations 2019

NCCU

### Submission for School award via N C C U.

Yorkshire have been asked to nominate a school for B C ET.  
For a number of years White Rose Junior Chess Academy have had a close relationship with Ackworth School near Pontefract West Yorkshire.

Guy Emmett, Deputy Head came from Rossett School near Blackpool. He wrote to me asking if we could assist in developing a chess club. As an E C F Coach I visited the School for primary and Senior levels. Each June they have an Open Day and I have presented chess.

Guy was visited by myself and Phil Beckett from Retford.  
We suggested 2 ideas;-

- 1 Hold one day events to stimulate interest.
- 2 The school on its part made no charge and were willing to provide refreshments.

The excellent Music Room and the Library were offered to us.

I am listing below chess events held at the School;-

- 1Ackworth Chess Camp
- 2A girls training day.
- 3 Problem Solving day.
- 4 Yorkshire Junior League with teams from clubs such as York, Leeds and Wakefield, competition and training.

5We held on 6th October the Pennine Cup for under 16. Yorkshire and Northumberland

Tim Wall organised at Ackworth School at my suggestion.

The school is Quaker and keen to help others at all times.

I hope adequate information has been provided.

**Peter Cloudsdale**

**E C F Coach**

White Rose Junior Chess Academy Organiser

4<sup>th</sup> November 2018-Date

**BCET Nomination 2019** Bristol Grammar School

Nominated by Neill Cooper, ECF Manager of Secondary School Chess

Supported by John Swain, Controller of the U19 National School Chess Championships

Bristol Grammar School is a large independent school in the centre of the city, containing Infant, Junior and Senior Schools, from Reception up to Sixth Form. We are pleased to be an important venue for a variety of chess events and tournaments, and to offer several chess opportunities to our own pupils.

The largest events which we host on an annual basis include the National Semi-finals of the English Primary School's Chess Association Championships in the Great Hall each May, involving over 450 pupils from over 40 schools, as well as a Bristol Megafinal within the UK Chess Challenge. This has had an average of 150 entrants over the last two years, coming from many local primary schools across the city. The EPSCA event involves turning the whole school-site over to chess, with all available classrooms used as team-rooms by visiting schools.

Under the auspices of the English Chess Federation, we host the Bristol Qualifier Event in the National Schools' Championships each November and a Team Chess Challenge event each spring. We were pleased that our ECF qualifier tournament was one of the largest ones in the country last autumn. That secondary school chess is flourishing in the Bristol and surrounding regions is, in a large part, due to the fantastic provision by Bristol Grammar school in hosting these events.

We have close links with the Bristol Chess League, who have provided equipment and helped to control a number of the above school tournaments. We regularly let out our Sixth Form Centre and other rooms within the school to them at a discounted rate, for weekend chess congresses and one-day chess tournaments, including a UK Open Blitz Championship event last autumn. These regularly attract players of all ages across the region to our school, including many strong juniors. The last two congresses have pulled in over 120 players.

Chess occupies an important place in the school's curricular and co-curricular provision. In the Junior School, chess has been introduced onto the activity rotation, alongside the long-established after-school club. In the Senior School, there are regular lunchtime clubs and a house chess competition to supplement the fixtures for the school team across various competitions. Several pupils choose chess as their skill within the Duke of Edinburg Award. Keith Arkell performed a simultaneous display here last year.

We were pleased with our strongest finish in recent years in the National Schools' Championships in 2018, in which we were close to qualifying for the finals at the Repechage tournament. We have been pleased with individual performances, with several of our players qualifying for a Gigafinal in the UK Chess Challenge, and with one of our Year 9 pupils becoming the English Youth Grand Prix Under 14 Champion for 2017-18.

## **MCCU Nomination**

### **Coventry Chess Academy**

Paul Lam established the Coventry Chess Academy in 2014. It meets weekly at Cheylesmore Community Centre, and it attracts membership from Coventry, Birmingham and other areas of Warwickshire. A number of members of the Academy have represented Warwickshire in EPSCA and Junior 4NCL team events with distinction, with some graduating to play in the main 4NCL. Club members were British Champions in two sections in 2018, and another club member won their Terafinal in the UK Chess Challenge. Building on this, in 2019 seven club members qualified to represent England in various international tournaments. The club has played a large part in helping to revive junior chess in Warwickshire outside of Birmingham, where until the CCA was created, there was relatively little in the way of junior chess provision. The club continues to go from strength-to-strength.

From Alex Holowczak

## **EACU**

Baird & Denise McClellan  
Tel: 01908 502204  
Email:baird.mcclellan@googlemail.com

“Waelcott House”  
8, Whaddon Hall Mews  
High Street  
Whaddon  
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MK17 0NA

03 -03 -2019

Dear Sir,

I would like to apply for a BCET award for Winslow CE Combined School.

The after school club has been running since January 2010 and has proved to be very popular with KS2 pupils and their parents. Numbers vary from between 10 and 20 depending on the term.

Each Autumn Term an “Introduction to Chess” course is run exclusively for new club members, some of whom may never have played chess before, and for those who think they can play. Children are taught from the very beginning starting with the chess board, the value of each piece and how it moves, chess openings and traps, tactics, simple checkmates and how to behave before, during and after the game. I prefer to keep numbers down to around 10 for this intensive course so that a considerable amount of individual tuition can be given.

In the Spring Term children who have enjoyed the “Introduction to Chess” course will remain, but be joined by former more experienced club members and the whole group is entered for the U.K. Chess Challenge.

Most chess lessons, which last for 1 ¼ hours, follow a similar pattern. A teaching element with a new idea or tactic is introduced, or perhaps some information about an inspirational chess player like Bobby Fischer.

This is followed by what I describe as a friendly or learning game. “Learning” because any child may ask for help or advice which I will give whether they ask for it or not and who wins or loses is not important. It is an opportunity to try new ideas and see if they work or not.

This is followed by a Tournament game where all the formality of correct chess play must be adhered to and play is in silence.

At times the above will be disregarded and the whole session will be devoted to an area which has been covered before, but which some children have not fully understood and so needs to be revisited. How to effectively develop your pieces during the opening and how to deliver a lawnmower checkmate are two examples. Flexibility is the key to success and it is necessary to respond to the individual needs of each child within the group.

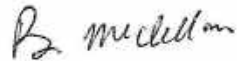
Since January 2010 children have been entered for the Delancey U.K. Chess Challenge and both boys and girls have proceeded as far as the Gigafinal. I always support both children and parents in person at the Megafinal as does my wife.

On a termly basis I speak to children at a school assembly awarding certificates and prizes. I also write chess related articles for inclusion in the school newsletter or website. I believe that it is important to give chess as high a profile as possible within the school, as the game is both an enjoyable leisure pursuit and an aid to the development of the intellect.

In support of my application for a BCET award for Winslow CE Combined School I enclose the following:

- Letter from the Headteacher of Winslow CE Combined School
- Five letters from the parents of current club members.
- One letter from a child who is in the club
- Two examples of teaching materials used by the club
  - (i) Code of Conduct
  - (ii) Good Luck reminder sheet given to all U.K. Chess Challenge participants

Yours sincerely,



**Baird McClellan**

**ECF coach**



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Lowndes Way  
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Bucks MK18 3EN

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office@winslow.bucks.sch.uk  
www.winslow.bucks.sch.uk

Headteacher: Caroline Colmer BA (Hons)

February 2019

Since January 2010, Mr Baird McClellan has been running a very successful chess club for pupils at Winslow Church of England School. As a school, we were delighted when he offered this opportunity to our children in years 3,4, 5 and 6, recognizing that:

- Chess is a brilliant way to develop problem solving skills
- It is known to exercise both sides of the brain and improve memory
- It undoubtedly develops concentration

The chess club helps them to improve their reasoning skills, learn to recognise patterns and develop strategies based on those patterns. All of these skills are invaluable to our pupils, in their access of the curriculum, but also in preparing them to be confident, independent learners, ready for the challenges ahead.

More children have joined the chess club with every year. In the autumn term, an 'Introduction to Chess' course is offered exclusively to new members, some of whom have never played chess before. The numbers are deliberately limited to ten so that dedicated help is available to each individual. We are so grateful to Mr McClellan for all the time he gives in planning, teaching and supporting the children. It is great to see how they gain confidence and knowledge in chess, preparing them for when the more experienced members of the club re-join in the spring term. The club runs for 8-10 weeks each term, which the parents and children really like as it gives them plenty of 1:1 time to gain skills in preparation for the tournaments.

Each year, all the children have the chance to compete with others in the Delancey UK Chess Challenge. Both our boys and girls have reached the third stage - the 'Gigifinal' in previous years and we are extremely proud of them. Some children who qualify for the second stage or 'Megeafinal' receive further support and advice from Mr and Mrs McClellan at Wycombe High School on Sundays during May, so they are fully prepared for the event. They are delighted to return to school to share their certificates, medals and trophies and we are incredibly proud of their achievement!

As a school, we have been incredibly blessed by the commitment of Mr McClellan and the way in which he has encouraged the children to develop their skills in the game of chess. Parents, children and staff are all incredibly grateful to him and hope this after school club will continue for many years to come. Here are just a few of the comments we have received from our children:

"I am better at thinking about things before I do them" – Daniel

"We get to practise with different people and I get to make new friends" Rachel

"I find it really fun I get to play against lots of people." Alex

"I like learning about the book we do every week, it tells me tips about chess" Josh

Long may it continue!

Cazz Colmer, Head Teacher

From the start, Ben has really enjoyed the chess <sup>12/2/19</sup> club. He wants to do well and practices with us and his younger brother at home. He knows that expectations are high and tries hard to live up to them. He ~~finds~~ finds it hard to focus at times and learning chess helps with this.

Sarah Carson - Ben's Mum.

"It's good because I learn how to play chess and he's a really good teacher. I like the quiet because it lets me think." - Ben Carson

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34 Magpie Way  
Winslow  
MK18 3JT

13th Feb 2019

Dear Mr McClellan

My child Alex, joined your chess club in September 2017. He really enjoys the challenge of the game even though he doesn't always win. Not always winning is a good life skill, he enjoys playing, win or lose.

I am not a good player myself and am keen for Alex to learn as I believe it helps improve problem solving skills, concentration and memory.

We are very lucky to have this opportunity to learn chess at our school. Not only do the children learn to play chess, they also learn respect for their fellow players and discipline.

yours sincerely

Julie Smi



14 Chequers End  
Winslow  
Buckingham  
MK18 3HT

Dear Mr McClellan

I just wanted to write a few words to thank you and Winslow school for all your work in organising and hosting the school's weekly chess club.

My son, Jacob, has been a member of the chess club since Year 3 (he's now in Year 6) – before this time he had not played a single game. Chess was not something that was discussed at home, so Jacob's enthusiasm to enrol on the 'Introduction to chess' course was due entirely to the great promotional work of yourself and the school!

Jacob loves playing chess – and the board always comes with us now on weekends away and holidays. I have yet to beat him (he often thinks I let him win... I don't!). His dad is a tougher opponent, but the game and result is always good natured and finished with a hand shake. Through playing the game he has learnt the skill of good sportsmanship, losing and winning 'well' – with respect and kindness towards his opponent. This is an important life skill and one that is transferable across all areas - within school, home and the world of work (when he gets there!).

As well as the fun of the game itself, chess has also taught my son to think about actions and consequences, the importance of approaching things strategically, planning and thinking ahead. It's also a very cheap form of entertainment and one which ensures interaction with others and allows time away from the TV and electronic gadgets – so important in today's world. It has also led to proficiency with other board games.... he's great at Nine Men's Morris too!

So, thank you for introducing him to chess – he's looking forward to lots more games, and who knows, maybe a win at the Mega Final.

Yours sincerely

Nicola (Jacob's mother)

16 Verney Road  
Winslow  
Bucks  
MK18 3BL  
14/02/19

[Bex.randall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Bex.randall@yahoo.co.uk)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you with regards to the chess club at Winslow Combined School which my son, Jack, has now enjoyed for around 18 months. Jack is currently in year 4 and began in chess club at the beginning of year 3. We are currently going through the process of getting him screen for ASD and many of his behaviours associated with his issues have been helped by chess club. Jack very rarely sticks at any activity as he struggles with perseverance, normally causing him to give up and refuse to continue with any activity after a few weeks or sessions. Chess is the one activity he has stuck at and maintained his enjoyment for any substantial length of time.

Although he is not great at chess and regularly loses, his enthusiasm has remained high and it is a delight to see him so excited when he comes out of class having drawn a match! Chess club has really helped him develop his confidence, self-control and social skills which he struggles greatly with.

Mr McClellan has been a great support of Jack engaging in the group, even though I appreciate he has been tricky to manage on many occasions. Jack very much enjoys the club, speaks highly of him, and his teaching, and anyone who has been able to maintain his enthusiasm and focus for so long has my utmost respect!

Yours sincerely,

Becky Gouverneur

2/27/2019

Gmail - Fwd: Winslow Combined C of E School Chess Club



Denise McClellan <baird.mcclellan@gmail.com>

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**Fwd: Winslow Combined C of E School Chess Club**

1 message

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**Helen Whitehouse** <hwhitehouse@btinternet.com>  
To: baird.mcclellan@gmail.com

27 February 2019 at 15:33

Dear Mr McClellan

Please find below our thoughts as requested.

Best wishes

Helen

Dear Mr B McClellan,

Our daughter Rachel (aged 8) has very much enjoyed attending the Chess Club at Winslow Combined C of E School.

Rachel had not played before attending club.

She has particularly enjoyed the matches against her own year group and against the years above.

As she is now an intermediate player, Rachel was proud to be asked to help the beginners.

Rachel was pleased to have the opportunity to compete in the Mega Final on behalf of the school.

Rachel is keen to play matches at home and to practice techniques taught in the Club.

She has also taken on the etiquette and is both gracious in victory and defeat.

Kind regards,

Mr M and Mrs H Skillen.

Dear Mr Macellan

I really enjoy chess club its so much fun I dont care if I win or lose all I want is fun. I like playing with all my friends. Also I like to play chess becaus it relaxes my mind.

Yours sincerely, Alex yordanis



### Chess Code of Conduct

1. Players should shake the hand of their opponent at the beginning and at the end of each game.
2. Win or lose a player must behave with courtesy towards their opponent.
3. If you touch a piece then you must move it, unless it is an illegal move.
4. If you touch an opponent's piece which can be taken then you must capture that piece, unless it is an illegal move
5. If your opponent makes an illegal move you should quietly point it out to him or her. The move should then be corrected.
6. Should a problem arise raise your hand to attract the attention of the arbiter whose decision on the matter is final.
7. Treat chess pieces and the board with respect. At the end of each session return all pieces to their box. Fold the chess board in half and place the box of chess pieces on top of the board.
8. To learn and play chess a calm and quiet atmosphere is necessary. Some quiet discussion is permitted during learning and friendly games, but complete silence is required during a competition game. Club members who are unable to follow these rules may be withdrawn from the club.

B. McClellan  
ECF Coach



1. Don't forget to **TCP** – Think – Check – Play.  
Take your time!  
**Think** about your opponent's last move and what you may need to do about it.  
Decide on your move and **Check** that it is a *Safe* or *Safe enough* move.  
**Play** your move.  
Don't touch a piece until you are sure that you want to move it!
2. Try to get one or more central pawns out and Knights and Bishops developed in the first few moves.
3. Make sure you are defending against your opponent's threats and making *safe* or *safe enough* moves.
4. Try to get your King safely castled.
5. Watch out for your Queen!
6. If you are ahead on points try to swap off pieces of equal value.
7. If behind on points try to win them back and don't swap off pieces.
8. Try to attack your opponent's King! A check mate will win the game!
9. Above all, win or lose, be a good sport and enjoy the experience.

Mr McClellan  
Chess Coach

SCCU

## **SOUTHERN COUNTIES CHESS UNION** **FOUNDED 1892**

### **Citation for the British Chess Educational Trust**

#### **East Sheen Primary School**

Chess in Schools and Communities and the Southern Counties Chess Union would like to nominate East Sheen Primary School for a British Chess Educational Trust Award.

East Sheen Primary School is a 3-form entry school in The London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames. There is a long history of chess at the school. Pupils have competed in the Richmond Park Academy chess tournament against teams from 7 other local schools for several years. In addition, the school has arranged chess matches against neighbouring schools.

More recently, as part of the CSC Schools' Programme, East Sheen Primary has embedded chess as part of school life. David Okike, a CSC tutor, delivers three lessons a week during curriculum time, meaning that every child in Year 4 receives dedicated chess tuition. The school chess club, also run by David, has expanded due to demand but still has a long waiting list. In a recent Ofsted report, the inspector commented on the high levels of motivation displayed by the pupils during their chess lessons.

The school has also expanded its involvement in chess tournaments. At the 2018 London Chess Classic Schools' Festival, competing against primary schools from across the country, the team from East Sheen Primary finished in second place. David runs the first stage of the Delancey UK Chess Challenge at the school. Last year one of the children reached the Terafinal. The same child has recently won a chess and sport scholarship to Hampton School. Children from East Sheen Primary now take part in the EPSCA competitions, where they have had individual and team success.

A real highlight at East Sheen Primary in 2018 was the visit of GM Johann Hjartason in November. The children at the chess club were very excited to meet and play games against such a strong player. This is a school which has fully embraced chess. The Senior Leadership Team are seeking accreditation as a Thinking School. A BCET award would be a fitting response to their efforts to encourage chess as an essential part of life at their school.

Chris Fegan, Chief Operating Officer, Chess in Schools and Communities  
Mark Murrell, President, Southern Counties Chess Union  
21st May 2019

## **SOUTHERN COUNTIES CHESS UNION** **FOUNDED 1892**

## Citation for the British Chess Educational Trust

### St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Oxford

Oxfordshire Junior Chess Association and the Southern Counties Chess Union would like to nominate St Joseph's Catholic Primary School for a British Chess Educational Trust Award.

## *St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Oxford*

*"Let us protect with love all that God has given us"*  
*(Pope Francis 19.03.2013)*

*Headley Way, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7SX*  
*Telephone: 01865 763357 Fax: 01865 308436*  
*Email: office.3838@st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk*  
*Website: www.st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk*



*Headteacher: Mrs. S. Tomkys*

St Joseph's is a two-form entry (416 pupils) Catholic Primary located on the outskirts of Oxford in close proximity to several local hospitals. The number of pupils with English as an additional language is 54%; 72% of pupils are from ethnic minorities; over 13% of the school pupils are eligible for pupil premium funding and 14% have special educational needs.

The school was inspired to start actively promoting chess by the Delancey UK Chess Challenge competition, which we have now run for approximately nine years. This really led to pupils becoming interested in chess, and in how they could improve their play. A chess club began after school with support from a local independent senior school. By 2015 a few of the key players had become stronger than the volunteer pupils from that school teaching at the club. A series of one-off professional coaching sessions for the most able players in preparation for the Delancey UK Chess Challenge Gigafinal that year led to a rapid blossoming in the chess activities at St Joseph's. The existence of several strong Oxfordshire players at the school led to the school being encouraged to enter the county Schools League later that year. We have gradually increased the number of competitive events we are engaged in each year, and we are particularly interested in working to maintain girls' interest in chess.

As of 2019, the school is now one of the top maintained primary schools for chess in the country and an inspirational example of how a chess culture can be developed over time. Around a third of the school pupils are involved in chess on a regular basis and it has become as 'cool' to be in the school chess teams as it is to be in the football teams and they even have their own squad T shirt!

Chess activities include:

- Lunch time beginners' classes
- Delancey UK Chess Challenge with typically around 80 entrants each year
- "Come and play" lunch time informal chess
- After-school "squad" chess club with two or three sections and professional coaching
- House chess tournament with 48 pupils participating in a team format



- Chesskid online platform – between 50 and 100 Gold members at any one time
- Oxfordshire Schools League – two U9 teams and two U11 teams
- Attendance at London Chess Classic each year 2016-2018
- Attendance at ECF U11 girls events with two teams in 2018 and 2019
- Entries to national tournaments - EPSCA Schools U9 and U11, ECF U11 and ECF U11 girls
- Hosting finals of local schools league and regional qualifiers for national chess competitions
- School library has a well-stocked section on chess with good books from junior beginner upwards

Chess successes include:

- Schools League teams success ahead of even top independent schools  
2016/17 – U11 winner, U9 runner-up; 2017/18 – U11 runner-up, U9 runner-up  
(2018/19 TBD – in semi-finals for U11, finals for U9)
- Winning school competition at London Chess Classic with top points all 3 years attended
- EPSCA Schools U9 national finalists (2019) and semi-final Gold trophy for U9 and U11 2017-2019
- ECF Schools U11 competition national finalists 2017, 2018 & 2019
- Within one game point of qualifying for ECF U11G national finals (2019)
- Winner or runner-up of schools competition within individual Oxfordshire Junior Chess Championships last 4 years.

Chess impacts include:

- Significant proportions of the very successful Oxon U9 and U11 county teams have been made up of St Joseph's players over last few years (e.g. in 2019, there were 4 of 12 in U9, 6 of 20 in U11)
- Many of the St Joseph's children continue chess into their teens. The main two maintained secondary schools (Cherwell and Cheney) that the school feeds into and the main independent school have all benefitted significantly from the standard and enthusiasm of players from St Joseph's, e.g. 5 of the 6 players in the Cherwell School U13 team in 2019.
- Many Oxfordshire age-group champions, Delancey Megafinal Supremos and Supremas, and even some England squad players
- Local newspaper articles – e.g. <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/15318837.st-josephs-primary-chess-victory-ends-years-of-private-school-dominance/>
- Feature chapter in book "Reclaiming the Curriculum" (Bill Laar & Jackie Holderness, Crown House, 2018), ISBN 978-178583306-9
- Oxford New Generation chess & activity club formed due to inspiring parents through their children learning chess at St Josephs, spawning chess clubs, holiday clubs and teaching at other schools as a result
- Inspired parents to get involved with local voluntary junior chess roles
- Inspired ex-staff to seek to start chess clubs and activities in their own schools (e.g. Thame)
- Inspired school TAs attended local CSC tutor training day in their own time

When asked about teaching chess at the school, the main chess teacher, Andrew Varney, replied, *"It is a privilege to teach chess and to be involved in the school teams at a school like St Joseph's where I have seen a chess culture develop. As well as being able to offer a full range of opportunities for every ability, key in this has been the head's enthusiasm and support of many of the parents in their children's interest. I find it really encouraging that, far from detracting from other*

*activities, chess has been complementary to the pupils' success academically and the school's achievements in other areas such as music, dance and sports."*

Andrew Varney, on behalf of Oxfordshire Junior Chess Association  
Mark Murrell, President, Southern Counties Chess Union

22nd May 2019