# BCET Nominations 2021

**BCET Awards 2021 - Nomination by Chess in Schools and Communities**

**Handsworth Primary School, Highams Park, London**

**Chess in Schools and Communities (CSC) nominates Handsworth Primary School for a BCET Award in 2021. Handsworth is a school which is extremely supportive of chess as an educational tool. Every pupil receives at least two years of chess lessons during their time at the school. The school has continued their chess provision throughout the Covid pandemic.**

Handsworth Primary School is one of the longest-standing participants in the CSC Schools’ Programme. The school currently receives a full day of chess tuition each week, delivered to every child in Year 3, Year 4, and Year 5. Our course assumes no prior knowledge of chess and takes the children from complete beginners to proficient players, following the CSC Curriculum. The current tutor is Vladimir Agasaryan. Before him, Adam Bukojemski taught at the school for several years.

The children are extremely engaged in their chess learning and enjoy their weekly lessons. They have also been keen participants in the Schools’ Festival at London Chess Classic at Olympia. The school’s enthusiasm for chess has continued despite a change in headteacher. They have recognised the benefits gained by the children through learning the game.

The school leadership was adamant that chess should continue in the 2020-2021 academic year despite the pressures on the curriculum brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. Their full programme of lessons resumed at the earliest opportunity in September 2020. When schools closed to many pupils due to the third lockdown, they requested a modified provision. Keyworker and vulnerable children who were still attending school received remote live lessons delivered via Zoom; children who were home learning were sent a weekly recorded lesson along with worksheets and other activities. Children also had access to ChessKid accounts to learn through play. In this way, every child was able to continue their chess learning.

For these reasons, CSC believes that Handsworth Primary School would be a worthy recipient of a BCET Award in 2021. It would be a much-appreciated recognition of their commitment to our game.