

## [Elmwood gamekeeping students attend another great BASC shoot day](#)

Gamekeeping students from SRUC's Elmwood Campus attended the recent British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) shoot day event at Scone palace.

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## [Press release: New report with practical advice for teachers on pupil behaviour](#)

An independent review providing practical guidance to teachers about how to tackle bad behaviour in the classroom has been published today (24 March 2017).

Teacher and behaviour expert Tom Bennett spent several months meeting classroom teachers and leaders from a variety of schools to identify successful strategies used to tackle disruptive behaviour.

His report ['Creating a culture: how school leaders can optimise behaviour'](#) concludes that while there is no 'silver bullet', there are a variety of strategies that can be used to tackle poor behaviour.

It also highlights that although standards of behaviour can be a challenge for schools, leadership is key to creating the right culture to tackle this issue.

Tom Bennett said:

How well students behave in school is crucial to how far they succeed, socially and academically. There are many tremendous schools doing a superb job, and some schools that could improve a great deal.

I spoke to leaders of coastal schools, inner-city schools, rural, primary, secondary, alternative provision and asked them what they did. Every school has different circumstances and challenges, but we found that some themes were almost universal: clear routines, robustly administered, high expectations and a focus on building a strong sense of identity and good relationships where children feel they belong, are safe, and are expected to do their best. That's

why I called it 'creating a culture'. Because these things don't happen by accident.

We also need to acknowledge that in some schools, challenges faced are greater than in others, and in these circumstances we need to look at better ways of guaranteeing that provision, skill sets and support are available. The skills required to improve school behaviour cultures already exist within the ecosystem of schools. The challenge now is for us to collaborate as a community to do so.

The Department for Education has welcomed the report and will now use its findings to inform ongoing work to help and support schools to deal with this issue.

Edward Timpson MP, Minister for Vulnerable Children and Families, said:

Part of our plan for Britain is building a fairer society – with a good school place for every child. That means children being able to learn in classrooms that are free from disruption. Tom Bennett's report is relevant, insightful and draws on tried and tested methods that will provide real help to teachers across the country.

I would encourage all school leaders to use its practical examples to help create a positive environment that addresses the needs of their pupils.

National Association of Head Teachers General Secretary Russell Hobby said:

The design of a culture to support good behaviour is a central duty of every school leader. It requires clarity, consistency and courage. It is a conscious choice, constantly maintained. Tom's report distils practical advice from excellent schools, alongside the evidence from research, to help leaders reflect on and develop their own impact.

John d'Abbro, executive headteacher of New Rush Hall School, said:

This is a refreshingly powerful, down to earth, and practical report, which distils and recognises effective good practice. Tom makes the key point that continuous professional development in behaviour management is vital for both teachers and senior leaders and more needs to be made available. The case studies exemplify these points and further demonstrate that behaviour is a whole-school issue.

Alison Colwell, principal of Ebbsfleet Academy, which was visited as part of the review, said:

This fascinating report should be read by every school leader. It rightly emphasises the critical importance of culture, attention to detail and consistent practice, all of which are at the heart of strong and successful school leadership.

In its response to the report, the government has set out a number of measures that are being taken forward to address the points raised. These include:

- reforming National Professional Qualifications to equip school leaders with the knowledge and skills they need to deal with bad behaviour. The new qualifications will be delivered from September 2017
- encouraging providers to bid for funding from a pot of £75 million from the [Teaching and Leadership Innovation Fund](#) to develop and run professional development programmes tackling bad behaviour for leaders in challenging areas
- revising our existing advice for schools including the mental health and behaviour guidance to ensure they support teachers and school leaders as best as they possibly can
- conducting further research into what works to help young people with behavioural issues, and as such, continue to develop our long-term ambition to give control of alternative provision budgets to mainstream schools, allowing these to commission their own such provision and take responsibility for educational outcomes of their pupils

Several schools are identified in the report as exemplars of good practice. These include:

### **Robert Clack, Dagenham**

In one of the poorest boroughs of London, children from traditionally underachieving demographics exceed national expectations, and have done so for many years. The school uses practical measures such as wall displays to emphasise achievements, school awards and other opportunities. In this way, a culture of high expectation is in place for all students, regardless of their circumstances.

### **New Rush Hall, Redbridge**

The school's philosophy is that the most vulnerable, the most challenging pupils, need greater support, not less. The school ensures staff receive training throughout their careers to meet the needs of the student body.

### **Seymour Road Primary, Manchester**

A school that went from requires improvement to good in just 2 years by developing good relationships with both parents and pupils. They have done this by having an open door policy for parents, a support worker who visits homes, and they have held behaviour training sessions for the parents.

Since 2010 the government has introduced a range of measures to give teachers

more powers to tackle poor behaviour. These include:

- stronger powers to search pupils
- removal of the requirement to give parents 24 hours' written notice of 'after-school' detentions
- clarified teachers' power to use of reasonable force
- updated advice on tough but proportionate sanctions for misbehaviour as well as ensuring schools' decisions on exclusions can no longer be overruled
- ensuring that all teachers are equipped with the skills to tackle both the serious behaviour issues that compromise the safety and wellbeing of pupils, as well as how to deal with low-level disruption that stops children from learning properly

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## Superfast birth boosts business for Pwllheli farm

A video of the happy event was seen by an estimated 13,000 people after being published on Facebook. It brought much welcome publicity for the Cefn Cae'r Ferch farm in Pencaenewydd, near Pwllheli, which specialises in pedigree Texel sheep and also has a holiday cottage.

Dafydd Jones, his wife Dona and children Tomos and Carla, have been benefitting from very fast broadband speeds— up to 200 Mbps – since fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP) arrived at the farm.

The video of the birth of the lamb is just one of the ways that Dafydd has used superfast broadband to promote the holiday cottage and showcase his Texel sheep to a wider audience using social media platforms, such as Facebook. The uploading of photos of videos is now much easier.

Visitors to the holiday home have been very impressed with the superfast speed of the broadband, with some commenting it is faster than at home. They are also able to access TV on demand services such as Netflix, Amazon and YouTube and, as they can access their work remotely, visitors can also extend their break to spend more time in rural Gwynedd.

Dafydd is also able to carry out much of the farming business online. This includes managing the farm's finances online and using the BCMS animal movement services quickly and with no delays. He also registers his pedigree Texel lambs online on the Basco sheep service and uses Rural Payments Wales' online service.

Dafydd said:

"We never expected to see fibre optic cable come all the way down to our farm, and it has definitely been worth the wait.

"It has made a huge difference to what we can do on the farm, and to our holiday let. Superfast broadband has brought with it new technology and capabilities for us to exploit.

"It's also helped with the mobile phone signal, which has been poor before now. With wi-fi calling available on modern handsets we can now make and receive mobile calls, and our visitors can too. It's reassuring as people know they can be reached or make calls in an emergency. It also means we make savings on outbound business and family calls to mobiles.

"People like to get away from it all when they're on holiday, but they do want to stay connected too. The superfast broadband is allowing them to do just that when they're staying with us."

Minister for Skills and Science, Julie James, said:

"It's great to see how a rural farm business such as Cefn Cae'r Ferch Farm has benefited from the Superfast Cymru programme.

This is what the programme is all about. Bringing faster internet speeds to areas which would otherwise not receive it. It's good to see how the farm is making the most of the fast speeds they now have so it benefits the farm and the visitors they welcome here.

"Superfast Cymru is making an impact, with over 8 out of 10 premises in Wales now able to access superfast broadband compared with just over half 2 years ago. Wales also has the best superfast broadband coverage among the devolved nations.

"We know there is more to do, and work is continuing to reach more premises every day."

Alwen Williams, regional director for BT Cymru Wales, said:

"Having grown up on a farm I understand how important good connectivity is for our rural farms.

"Throughout society, we're doing more and more online and farming is no different. Cefn Cae'r Ferch Farm in Gwynedd is just one example of how access to superfast broadband is making a difference and our Openreach engineers continue to work hard to roll-out coverage even further and faster across the country."

Superfast Cymru is the partnership between the Welsh Government, BT, UK government and European Regional Development Fund, bringing faster broadband

to areas which would otherwise not receive it.

The Welsh Government also runs the Access Broadband Cymru scheme, which can offer assistance to those not able to access superfast broadband by providing grant aid to help them receive it through other technologies. Further details are available on [gov.wales/broadband](http://gov.wales/broadband).

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## **Press release: Trustee disqualified after charity used for visa fraud**

The Charity Commission has [concluded](#) that the trustee in charge of Khalsa Missionary Society has damaged the good name of charities by using a charity as a conduit for immigration fraud. The Commission has permanently removed him as a trustee barring him from becoming involved with charities again (see 'Notes to editors').

The Commission was notified in August 2013 by the Home Office Immigration and Enforcement Criminal Investigations Team ('HOIE') that it had commenced a criminal investigation into the charity as it suspected it was being abused to allow illegal entry of Indian nationals into the UK for a fee.

The Commission assisted the HOIE investigation through the sharing of information and opened a statutory inquiry in September 2014 to examine whether there had been misconduct and mismanagement in the administration of the charity. The Commission's inquiry found that there was only one active trustee in the charity. As a result of its concerns the Commission removed this individual as a trustee in January 2016.

The individual pleaded guilty at Manchester Crown Court to 3 counts of assisting unlawful immigration to between 2011 and 2013, and was sentenced to 27 months imprisonment on 16 May 2016.

The Commission's inquiry concluded that the trustee used the charity to facilitate immigration fraud. The charity had been used as a conduit for the immigration fraud, which worked by the charity sponsoring individuals as ministers for religion, while funds were circulated through the charity's bank accounts to give the appearance that the charity was receiving legitimate donations.

The inquiry concluded that there had been misconduct and mismanagement in the administration of the charity in that he had breached his legal duties to protect the charity's assets by using the charity as a conduit to commit immigration fraud. The regulator also concluded that he had potentially providing false and misleading information to the Commission.

The Commission removed the charity from the register in February 2016 as it

no longer operated.

**Carl Mehta, Head of Investigations and Enforcement, said:**

We work closely with law enforcement agencies to prevent and disrupt abuse of charities. In this case we were able to share information with the Home Office Immigration and Enforcement Criminal Investigations Team and support the successful prosecution of an individual who was benefiting from this disgraceful abuse of charitable status.

Charity trustees must act with integrity and avoid any personal benefit or conflicts of interest. They must not misuse charity funds or assets and make decisions which are reasonable and in the best interests of the charity. Trustee duties are detailed in our guidance [‘The essential trustee’](#).

The [full report](#) is available on GOV.UK.

Ends

PR 22/17

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#### **Notes to editors**

1. Removed under Section 79 (2)(a)(i) of the Charities Act 2011, therefore disqualified from holding a trustee position or other management role in a charity subject to a waiver from the Commission.
  2. [The Charity Commission](#) is the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales. To find out more about our work, see our [annual report](#).
  3. Search for charities on our [online register](#).
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## **[The President of the Commission gets it right at last](#)**

Mr Juncker in his recent interview at last acknowledges that granting the right to stay and to work on the continent for all those UK citizens who currently do so is “about respecting human dignity.” He now says “This is not about bargaining”.

I have been a sustained critic of the EU’s refusal to live up to decent values and reassure all UK citizens living in the EU that they are free to

stay if they wish. I am therefore glad The Commission has now shifted its position. I have long been reassuring all EU citizens in the UK who ask that they will be welcome to stay and work here if they wish, as I assumed the EU would not in the end throw UK citizens out. It is just bizarre that it has taken them so long to say so, and strange that even now it is not a formal statement by the rest of the EU as a whole.

If anyone in the UK remains worried about the EU's intentions then they should write and lobby the Commission and their MEPs. The UK government has always been clear it does not intend to threaten EU citizens living in the UK.