

# CELEBRATING THE NEW YEAR'S HONOURS



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The world of education is well-represented in the latest New Year Honours List, with awards going to teachers, civil servants, trade unionists and other leaders from all walks of life. The education committee awarded two knighthoods and two damehoods, three of which went to school leaders and another to a high-profile educationalist. The list included six people who will be made Commanders of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE), 22 who will be Officers of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) and 20 who will be Members of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE). The list also includes 13 recipients of the British Empire Medal (BEM).

## KNIGHTS AND DAMES

Four people were recognised with knighthoods or damehoods for their services to schools in this year's honours list. Brookfield School headteacher Dame Oremi Evans and Churchend Primary School principal Dame Kate Dethridge received damehoods, while knighthoods go to Gorse Academies Trust executive principal Sir John Townsley and Inspiration Trust chair Sir Theodore Agnew. Dame Oremi (pictured), also a National Leader of Education, has served as head teacher at The Brookfield School since September 2001. The outstanding-rated school is a



specialist college for pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties, and in 2011 Dame Oremi became executive head of the pupil referral units in Herefordshire. A Cabinet Office spokesperson said she had received her award in part because she was 'head teacher of the only special school to receive three consecutive 'outstanding' Ofsted judgements'. Speaking with *Schools Week*, Dame Oremi said: "I was very surprised but at the same time incredibly honoured. It's wonderful and obviously going to the palace will be a large part of that. "The thing is, any success that I've had is because of the team of people I work with – you don't work alone

and this isn't about me as an individual, it's about what we as a team have achieved. "I love my job with a passion, I love being involved with schools and children and my community, and it's a huge privilege to do my job." Dame Kate of Hampstead Norrey, Berkshire, has headed up the outstanding-rated Churchend Primary School for 13 years. In 2010 she became a National Leader of Education and is an associate director of the National Education Trust. Sir John, of Cawood, North Yorkshire, became principal of the Gorse Academies Trust in 2010 and under his leadership, two of the four academies which make up the trust have gone from requiring improvement to outstanding.

## MBE

When Ray Coe discovered that one of his students needed a new kidney, he didn't hesitate in offering one of his own. Now the special educational needs co-ordinator (Senco) at the Royal Docks Community School in east London can add an MBE to his Pride of Britain Award. Alya Ahmed was 13 when she received the life-changing operation in February last year. Both her kidneys had failed and she was facing intensive dialysis treatment. Her mother had called to tell Mr Coe that her daughter would need time off school and extra care when she returned. "I made the decision in that moment," he told *Schools Week*. "I didn't know if I was a match, but I just decided to offer one of mine. She's like a totally different student now." Mr Coe, 53, said he had been "completely overwhelmed" by the response to his gesture, and by the two awards he'd since received. "I thought it would be a nice little news story locally for the school but it really



caught the press's imagination and it's just got crazy. "It was a bit surreal getting the MBE. My first thought when I saw a letter from the government was 'what have I done', and then it was just that spine-tingling moment. It's quite an honour."

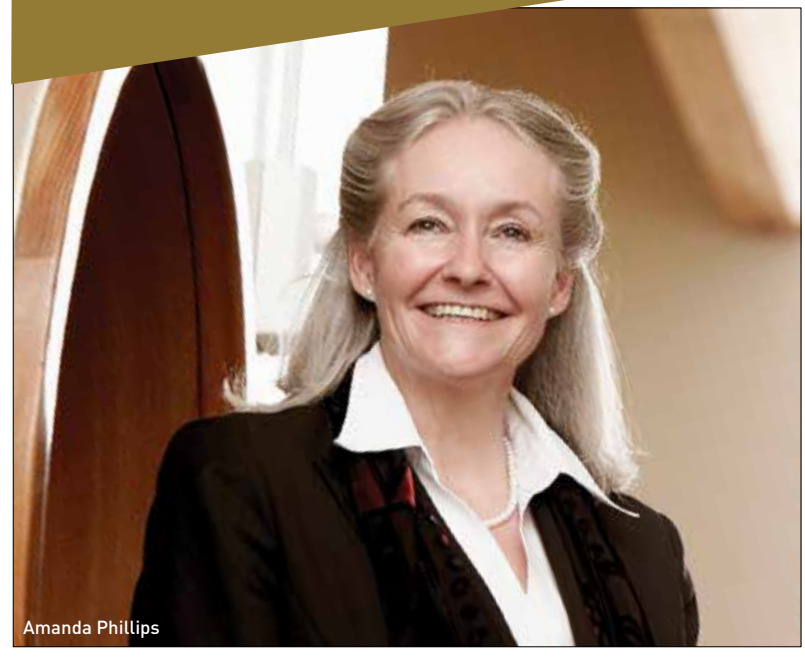
## BEM

Tim Meynell, a governor for more than two decades, has been awarded the BEM in recognition of inclusive and inexpensive music tuition driven by volunteers. Mr Meynell (pictured) has spent the past 15 years teaching recorder and flute to pupils at Alconbury Church of England Primary School in Cambridgeshire. He and one of the class teachers teach all year 3 pupils the recorder; more able players are taken out to learn more fluently, with many taking up the flute and some reaching a coveted grade 5. "Unfortunately it is unusual," Mr Meynell said. "It's important to teach music. My philosophy is that if you play a musical instrument you will never get bored again in your life. "Music is expensive to teach, but we have been quite successful at it in the school. We couldn't do it without the



other volunteers or without the support of the head." He added that he was "extremely pleased and surprised" to receive his award.

## CBE



Amanda Phillips, the executive principal of the Paradigm Trust and one of the original "magnificent seven" heads singled out for praise by Michael Gove, has received the CBE for services to education. The former headteacher of Old Ford Primary School in Bow, east London, now part of the trust with Culloden Primary and Solebay Primary, said she shared the honour with the whole trust community. "It was a total surprise to get the letter from the Cabinet Office, and I really could not quite believe it at first. This honour is really for the pupils, families, staff and colleagues with whom I have had the privilege to work over many rich and rewarding years. "The creation of Paradigm Trust – with its commitment to offering every child equal access to the knowledge, skills, opportunities, aspirations, life chances and dignity, to which

they are entitled – has been an amazing journey. "I have been inspired and encouraged by the passion and commitment of the very many people who have worked tirelessly to achieve the outstanding results at our schools." Trade union stalwart Fred Jarvis also received the CBE. The former president of the National Union of Students led the National Union of Teachers as general secretary for 14 years in the 1970s and 1980s, and served as president of the Trades Union Congress in 1987. He was nominated for parliamentary and political services. The other CBEs for services to education were awarded to the head of St Ambrose Barlow High School in Salford, Catherine Marie Garside, Cambridge Assessment Group director of assessment research and development Tim Oates, and the head of Glenwood Special School in Essex, Judith Salter.

## OBE

Lynn Greenwold, chief executive of the Professional Association of Teachers of Students with Specific Learning Difficulties (Patoss), was awarded the OBE for services to pupils with special educational needs. Greenwold (pictured), who has left Patoss since 2004, is also chair of the Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD) Assessment Standards Committee. She is also the acting chair of the Dyslexia-SpLD Trust, which aims to promote better awareness and understanding of dyslexia. She said that she felt "very privileged" to be honoured, "But any achievements have only been possible due to the amazing professional colleagues, a strong team and with Patoss as a platform. Let's hope it helps us

with our campaigns and continue to build good practice." Greenwold, from Cincinnati, Ohio, settled in the UK in 1973. She previously worked as a management intern for NASA, as a management consultant, and antique dealer. After training as a specialist dyslexia teacher she taught and administered programmes for students with learning difficulties and disabilities at South Worcestershire College, where Patoss has its central office. Senior civil servant Michael Pears, whose career in government departments and local authorities has spanned more than 15 years, was also awarded an OBE.



Currently assistant director of the academies group at the DfE's Infrastructure and Funding Directorate, Pears has served as a programme manager and departmental risk improvement manager at the department since the late 1990s. He was assistant director of universal services for the London borough of Hounslow for most of 2010 and early 2011 before returning to Whitehall as deputy head of the Office of the Schools Commissioner.

## NEW YEAR'S HONOURS LIST - 2015

- KNIGHTHOODS**
- Theodore Agnew DL**, Chair, Inspiration Trust
  - John Arthur Townsley**, Executive Principal, The Gorse Academies Trust
  - Kate Dethridge**, Principal, Churchend Primary School, Reading and National Leader of Education
  - Oremi Evans**, Headteacher, The Brookfield School
  - Catherine Marie Garside**, Headteacher, St Ambrose Barlow RC High School
  - Frederick Frank Jarvis**, Department for parliamentary and political services
  - Tim Oates**, Group Director of Assessment Research and Development, Cambridge Assessment
  - Amanda Phillips**, Executive Principal, Paradigm Trust
  - Judith Anne Salter**, Headteacher, Glenwood Special School
  - Professor Caroline Elizabeth Whalley**, Founder, The Elliot Foundation and Trustee of SHINE
  - Gulfaraz Ahmed**, Headteacher, Parkinson Lane Primary School
  - Lorraine Faith Allen**

- Principal**, Whiteley Academy
- Stephanie Brivio**, Assistant Director, Child Protection, Safeguarding Group, Department for Education
- Professor Margaret Louise Brown**, For services to mathematics education and to governance of schools in South London
- Adam Vincent Stewart Chedburn**, Headteacher, Whitley Bay High School
- Dr Lesley Sharon Curtis**, Headteacher, Everton Nursery School and Family Centre,
- John Peter Robert Dashlstrom**, Headteacher, Hope Special School
- Lynn Greenwold**, Chief Executive Officer, Professional Association of Teachers of Students with Specific Learning Difficulties
- Ian Hart**, Department for Education Liaison Officer, National Network for Children in Employment and Entertainment
- David John Hudson**, Executive Headteacher, Wickersley School and Sports College, Rawmarsh Community School and Clifton Community School
- Nicholas Simon Hurn**, Executive Headteacher, Cardinal Hume Catholic School, Gateshead and St Robert of Newminster School
- Richard George Millington**, Executive Principal, Chepping View Primary School
- John Malcolm Morris**, Headteacher, Ardleigh Green Junior School
- Julie Morrow**, Head, Appletree and Stonegate Nursery Schools and Children's Centres

- Graham John Mungeam**, Non-executive Chairman, Oasis Community Learning
- Dr Anne Philomena Murray**, Principal, Oakgrove Integrated Primary and Nursery School
- Michael Brian Pears**, Assistant Director, Academies Group, IFD, Department for Education
- Jennifer Clare Preece**, Bill Principal and Manager, Childcare, Special Educational Needs and Children's Strategy, Department for Education
- Margrit Wendy Scott**, President, Association for the Professional Development of Early Years Educators
- Professor Iram Siraj**, Professor of Early Childhood Education, Institute of Education, University of London
- Sharon Mary White**, Founding Member, School and Public Health Nurses Association
- Shabana Itlaf Abasi**, Head of Service, Cafcass
- Obolahan Ayorinde Bright**, Volunteer Maths Teacher, Bright Maths Club, Dagenham Heathway Library
- Patricia Anne Burns**, Staff Governor, Appleby Grammar School
- Arthur Capstick**, For services to education and to the community in Staveley and Kendal
- Lynda Clapham**, Librarian, Sidney Stringer Academy
- Raymond Coe**, Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, Royal Docks Community School

- Ian John Courtney**, Chair, Executive Governing Body, Dartmoor Federation
- Geoffrey William James Dunn**, Principal, Ballysally Primary School
- Elizabeth-Jane Formby**, Team Leader, Children's Social Care, Department for Education
- Elizabeth Ann Garnham**, Chair of Governors, Uffculme and Hamilton Special Schools
- Teresa Helena Harper**, Head of Teacher Development, Education Standards Directorate, Department for Education
- Stephen Hill**, Deputy Headteacher, St Joseph's RC Primary School
- Susan Jane Kirkham**, Lately Curriculum and Assessment Specialist, Association for School and College Leaders
- Judith Kay Miln**, Deputy Headteacher, Clapton Girls' Academy
- Stephen Royston Parsons**, For services to education and the community in Bristol
- Anthony John Scott**, Chief Examiner and Principal Moderator for GCSE Physical Education, Edexcel Exam Board
- Sandra Simmons**, Chair of Governors, Kilgarth School
- Charles Albert Stripp**, Chief Executive, Mathematics in Education and Industry
- Christopher Hayward Wells**, Chair of Governors, Federated Schools of Gillingham and Patgrave
- Deborah Jane Withers**, Lately Headteacher, Wren Spinney Special School

- MEDALLISTS OF THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE (BEM)**
- Lesley Calvert**, Manager, Funfishers Out of School Club and Playgroup
  - Ronald Victor Cox**, For services to education and to the community in Holt and Kelling
  - Tracy Catherine Cullen**, Business Manager, Queensbridge Primary School
  - Ashley Jayne Hall**, Fundraiser and Volunteer, Rocklands Special School
  - Maureen Georgina Higham**, Founder, Stay and Play Group, Warrington
  - Janet Inglis**, Deputy Headteacher, Immanuel College, Bradford
  - James Jackson**, Head Caretaker, Woodhouse College
  - Timothy Meynell**, School Governor and Volunteer Music Teacher, Alconbury Church of England Primary School
  - Margaret O'Prey**, Voluntary Nursery Assistant, Potts Wood Playgroup for Children with Special Needs
  - Nanette Lynne Pullinger**, Lately Learning Support Assistant, Burford School
  - Effat Rahimi-Kaloujeh Sims**, Operational Manager (Inclusion), Westminster Academy
  - Diana Elizabeth Robinson**, School Volunteer and Chair, Old Girls' Association, Bury Girls Grammar School
  - Pamela Jean Smith**, Volunteer, Ivington Church of England Primary School