

STUDENT LIFE

SPRING 2024

CONTENTS

4

BPP
STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION

26

OUR MISSION AT
THE STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION

12

NEW EXAM SUITE AT
PORTSOKEN STREET
CAMPUS

28

LAW TO
MARKETING –
MY JOURNEY

14

CENTRE
EXPERIENCE

30

CELEBRATING
NAVRATRI

18

LINKEDIN LEARNING
A BPP LIBRARY
RESOURCE

34

STUDENT VOICE
REPRESENTATIVE
ROLE

20

INSPIRING HOPE IN
THE FIGHT AGAINST
BREAST CANCER

36

BPP VIRTUAL
CAMPUS – OUR
ONLINE COMMUNITY

22

AI UNLEASHED:
SHAPING EDUCATION
AT BPP UNIVERSITY

38

WORK WITH THE
BPP SOCIAL IMPACT
TEAM

An event brought to
you by BPP Students'
Association

BUI
THRO

STEPS
ATION.

BPP STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MEET YOUR STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION! WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU ON YOUR STUDENT JOURNEY, EVERYTHING WE DO IS GEARED TOWARDS MAKING YOUR EXPERIENCE AT BPP THE BEST IT CAN BE! READ ON TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE TEAM AND THEIR DIFFERENT ROLES IN THE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

WE WELCOME

WELCOME TO FIRST EDITION OF THE STUDENT LIFE MAGAZINE FOR 2024! WE ARE EXCITED TO BRING YOU A RANGE OF ARTICLES WRITTEN BY STUDENTS AND STAFF! WE HOPE YOU ENJOY READING THE MAGAZINE!

Here is a bit more about me! I joined the Students' Association in September 2023 as Events and Engagement Manager, looking after all our events, societies and social media. In my new role as the Head of Students' Association and Student Relations, I am responsible for overseeing the Students' Association and our three main areas of work; Student Voice, Student Engagement, and Independent Advice.

It is so important that you all have an excellent student experience and that your feedback is actioned. I am eager to ensure we represent the student body effectively and efficiently. Your input is invaluable to improving your student experience, so please do reach out to myself or another member of the team, whether that be for events, representation and feedback, or independent advice. I look forward to working together to make your student journey an excellent one!

**ELLIE ANSHER (SHE/HER)
HEAD OF STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
AND STUDENT RELATIONS**



JAIMIN DARJI (HE/HIM) – STUDENT PRESIDENT

Hi everyone, as the Student President, I'm dedicated to creating a positive and inclusive environment for all students. Advocating for your needs and concerns is my top priority.

Through effective communication and collaboration, I aim to enhance your overall student experience and promote academic success. Let's work together to make a meaningful impact and empower each other to thrive both academically and personally.



SABIYA MAHMOOD (SHE/HER) – STUDENT VOICE OFFICER

As part of Student Voice, I work very closely with our Student Voice Representatives. My role revolves around managing and coordinating the delivery of Student Voice at the university. Student Voice is vital and is in place to make your student experience better and we want our students to know we take their feedback seriously. I personally monitor any feedback students provide and track the progress for solutions.

I also overlook the Diversity Ambassador Programme. Ambassadors have the chance to work within a diverse team and focus on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) activities and events. You can find more information on the Students' Association Website. We also have an ED&I podcast available and would love for students to get involved.

We are a team of friendly faces, so please feel free to reach out to me at represent@bpp.com



FALAK ALI (SHE/HER) – STUDENT COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Hi everyone, I am the Student Communications Manager here at BPP Students' Association. I am responsible for managing communication strategies and initiatives geared towards our BPP students. This includes creating and distributing our Student Life Magazine, Graduation Magazine, Student Handbooks and also various newsletters!

I also manage the Students' Association website and the BPP Virtual Campus - an online community for BPP staff and students. My other duties includes conducting Education Services Fairs (Welcome Lunches) nationally, to welcome new cohorts of students and introduce them to their Education Services teams.

Alongside this, I also work on other projects, so I can safely say that no day is the same! I love helping our student body and am always encouraging students to get involved with their Students' Association! There are so many ways you can contribute. Please feel free to reach out to me at FalakAli@bpp.com to find out more ways you can get involved.



COURTNEY ROLPH-MULVEY (SHE/HER) – EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENT OFFICER (MANCHESTER)

As an Events and Engagement officer for the students association, I want to make your time within BPP as fun as possible and make sure there is a sense of community within our campuses. My aim is to work closely with the many fantastic clubs and societies on offer, by assisting with social media marketing and event organisation to all around problem solving!

I have previous experience from when I worked in a student bar and would help societies who rented our space, I would assist with planning and running their events. I found I really enjoyed this line of work as it was rewarding to see how many students were happy with the end result. I am new to the role, so if you see me around the Manchester campus, come and say Hello!

In my spare time I enjoy cooking and you will often find me trying out new recipes from all over the world at the weekends! I also enjoy travelling and I aim to visit every continent in the world by the time in 30!



**DAN ODEBODE (HE/HIM) –
EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENT
OFFICER (LONDON)**

My name is Dan Odebode and I am the events and engagement officer for all London campuses. My time is split between working with our dynamic range of clubs and societies, putting on events, or working on social media campaigns. I love working alongside students, whether it be planning an event or just speaking with them about what we can do better to improve their experience here at BPP.

A fun fact about myself, is that I am massively into football and have been playing since I can remember! I still play twice a week now and my favourite team is Liverpool.



**JESSICA HILL (SHE/HER)
– SENIOR INDEPENDENT
EDUCATION AND WELFARE
ADVISOR**

I'm the Senior Independent Education and Welfare Advisor and I'm based in Manchester. My main responsibilities include line managing the Independent Advice team and making sure we're all working together to support students with the best quality service we can provide. I also spend lots of time meeting with students and running around the Manchester centre supporting with events and inductions here. Welfare is a massive passion of mine and I enjoy getting the opportunity to work on campaigns and events related to this. Despite this, I also enjoy getting stuck into policy and spend time ensuring our advice, both through our work with students and on our website, is fully updated according to any new policy changes at BPP.



**TASNIM ALI (SHE/HER) –
INDEPENDENT EDUCATION
AND WELFARE ADVISOR**

As an Independent Education & Welfare Advisor, my background in psychology drives my passion for promoting mental health and wellbeing. Inspired by my academic journey, I aim to guide students through any obstacles they may face.

I organise events like University Mental Health Day, Men's Mental Health Day, and Stress Awareness Day to foster empathy and proactive self-care. If you ever want to get involved in these campaigns, please do email me at TasnimAli1@bpp.com

We also have plans underway to introduce Wellbeing Ambassadors and are looking to incentivise Mental Health First Aiders. This aims to empower students to support each other. Let's build a university where every student feels heard and supported. I'm here to assist you at all stages.



**ESTHER MUMUNI (SHE/HER)
– INDEPENDENT EDUCATION
AND WELFARE ADVISOR**

My name is Esther Mumuni & I am one out of 3 members of Independent Advice where we support students with their academic appeals, mental health and give advice regarding their studies. One fun fact about me is that I am business owner & a fashion blogger. I do love fashion as it brings out my happy side and expresses you who I am.



NEW EXAM SUITE AT PORTSOKEN STREET CAMPUS

ELEVATING THE EXAM EXPERIENCE



BPP University has recently introduced an exam suite on the third floor of its Portsoken Street campus, aiming to centralise the location of our London-based exams. This initiative reflects our institution's commitment to providing an optimal and consistent learning and examination environment for its students.

Centralisation of Business School Exams: The new exam suite is designed to centralise the location of business school exams, streamlining the examination process for everyone. By consolidating exam spaces, BPP University aims to enhance an efficient environment for students undergoing assessments.



Expansion to Include BSB Exams:

In an exciting development, the Portsoken Street campus's exam suite is poised to become a hub for a broader range of examinations. Soon, the Bar Standards Board (BSB) exams will also utilise this purpose built facility.

Registration and Tech Desk:

At the heart of the exam suite is a dedicated registration and tech desk, serving as a focal point for students to check in and receive technical support during examinations.

Supportive Exam Team Presence:

Throughout the entire on-the-day experience, BPP University maintains a strong presence of invigilators and members of the exam team.

On-the-Day Experience:

Upon arrival at the third-floor exam suite, students are welcomed at the registration desk. Here, they undergo a smooth and efficient registration process.

During registration they are provided with a wristband indicating their designated room.



Once students arrive in their room, they may encounter some tech issues. With our support desk, we are here to assist students with any concerns they may have.

BPP University's new exam suite at Portsoken Street campus represents a significant step forward in enhancing the examination experience for our students. The centralisation of exams, inclusion of BSB exams, the dedicated tech desk, and the emphasis on a consistent exam environment collectively contribute to creating a positive and supportive atmosphere for students navigating the challenges of academic assessments.



CENTRE EXPERIENCE

As part of the wider Customer Experience team, the newly created Centre Experience team are here to ensure that student's experience in centre is the best it can be. The team consists of Raiesha Baig-Ali (Head of Centre Experience), Abdullah Alshli (Centre Experience Manager in Shepherds Bush) and Jamie Bedson (Centre Experience Manager in Manchester). Whilst the Centre Experience team are based currently only in larger BPP centres, they are expanding and looking to have team members in all regional centres in future.

The team hosts a variety of events all year round to ensure that students, particularly international students, can partake in different cultural activities, especially the British experience! Below you will find snapshots of the different events that have occurred over the past few month. Rest assured the team have many more events planned!

BPP LONDON PORTSOKEN CENTRE EVENTS



Students celebrated Luna New Year by trying out Mandarin symbol calligraphy



Lohri celebrations (Punjabi winter festival)



Walking Tour to Spitalfields Market in East London



Students winning the 'Selfie Challenge'



Cultural Wear Day



Centre Experience welcome desk for new students in LPS



London Walking Tour



Eid Celebrations

BPP SHEPHERDS BUSH CENTRE EVENTS



Speaker event, titled - "Reflections: Navigating the UK as an International Student"



Valentine's Day



Chinese New Year

BPP MANCHESTER CENTRE EVENTS



Manchester Induction for new students, there have been over 1000 new students join Manchester recently! A big welcome to our new students



Christmas in Manchester was very festive, there were many different events and activities in centre



Students celebrating Pancake Day! We hosted a pancake bar and a flipping competition, where the winner won a £30 Amazon gift card for completing 250 flips!

LinkedIn Learning

LINKEDIN LEARNING – A BPP LIBRARY RESOURCE

Would you like to polish up your existing skillset? Or develop your academic skills, such as writing, note-taking and presentation techniques? Or perhaps you would simply like to explore a new interest?

LinkedIn Learning boasts more than 15,000 courses that allow you to discover and develop business, technology-related and creative skills. Contemporary topics are covered by real-world professionals, including academics, keynote speakers and technology experts, giving you the opportunity to gain knowledge that will help you to stand apart from others.

With LinkedIn Learning, you set the goals and select the skills you'd like to focus on. Courses are self-taught, so you can work through content at your own pace. Skills can be added and removed as your learning progresses, which means recommendations remain in line with your current interests and there will always be something new to discover.

Select a level that suits you (beginner, intermediate or advanced) and choose from bite-sized introductions to more in-depth courses. You can choose the Learning Path filter to discover a playlist of recommended courses to work through. Some courses even offer Hands-on Practice.

LinkedIn Learning is happy to be your personal cheerleader. Setting a weekly goal for the amount of time you would like to spend on the resource – from 15 minutes to two hours – can help to keep you motivated. Your progress will be monitored and you'll be encouraged to stay on track with your learning.

Remember to connect your LinkedIn Learning account to your LinkedIn profile. After completing a course, you have the option to add the certificate to your profile to let others know about your newly acquired knowledge – don't be afraid to boast! Alongside your academic qualifications, work experience and extra-curricular activities, you'll be demonstrating to potential employers that you have a passion for learning and an interest in maintaining a top-notch skillset.

LinkedIn Learning can be accessed from the [Online Resources page](#) on the BPP Online Library pages.



INSPIRING HOPE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST BREAST CANCER

WRITTEN BY IRANI UGARELLI



Amidst these stark figures, there is a glimmer of hope - Prevention is key. No matter your gender, perform self-exams and stay in tune with your body. It is essential to remember that men can also battle breast cancer, underscoring the importance of self-examination for all.

Do not wait, act. At the first inkling of something unusual, schedule an appointment with your doctor and describe your concerns in detail. Request further examinations. Early diagnoses exponentially increase the chances of a successful cure.

If the results are negative, celebrate this pivotal moment and let it remind you to remain vigilant about your health. Be proactive in identifying any future changes that might necessitate evaluation. On the other hand, if you receive a positive diagnosis, trust the doctors and nurses who will guide you through the treatment journey. As the UK Government declared in their 10- Year Cancer Plan, "It is time to declare a national war on cancer, the biggest cause of death from disease in this country. It is a menace that has taken far too many people before their time and caused grief and suffering on a massive scale."

Nonetheless, as individuals, we all have a role to play. We can offer support to those facing this daunting challenge. Simple acts of kindness, like a smile and understanding, can bring immeasurable comfort to those in treatment. Words of hope, faith, hugs, smiles, and support are the best medicine, accounting for more than 50% of our healing for the body and the soul.

The word is "awareness," is the beacon that lights our path to conquer breast cancer. Let's begin with the power of knowledge and a few thought-provoking statistics to set the stage.

Breast Cancer Now reveals that "1 in 7 women in the UK will develop breast cancer in their lifetime. Around 55,000 women and 400 men are diagnosed with breast cancer annually in the UK. In England, around 47,000 people are diagnosed with breast cancer each year. In Scotland, around 4,800 people are diagnosed with breast cancer every year. In Wales, around 2,800 people are diagnosed with breast cancer yearly."

These numbers are indeed concerning, but they take on a whole new dimension when they cease to be mere statistics and instead become a part of our lives. Whether through our diagnosis or the heart-wrenching experience of someone we hold dear receiving one, breast cancer touches us deeply.

Our journey towards a world free of breast cancer can also include supporting charity organisations that provide financial and emotional aid to those in need. There are brands committed to donating a part of their profits to cancer research and development. Seek them out and give them your preference; you might be pleasantly surprised by the quality of their products. Let's collectively envision a future free of breast cancer. At present, we have access to exceptional treatments and support, a legacy from past generations' dedication and the scientific community's relentless efforts.

The question beckons: What legacy will we leave for future generations concerning breast cancer or any cancer?

I dare to dream of a vaccine that can prevent breast cancer, a world where our daughters, sisters, mothers, spouses, and nieces can shield themselves from this painful and challenging ordeal through a vaccine.

I invite you, dear reader, to join the community devoted to replacing diagnoses that shatter hearts with hope for a life of quality and fewer preventable vulnerabilities. There are many

ways you can get involved in helping including donating, fundraising, volunteering or even campaigning (you can find out how on the Macmillan website listed below).

Your support is vital to those currently battling breast cancer and indispensable for future generations. I hope to see some of you around at the BPP.

With warm regards,
Irani Ugarelli

Further Information and Resources

<https://www.macmillan.org.uk/>

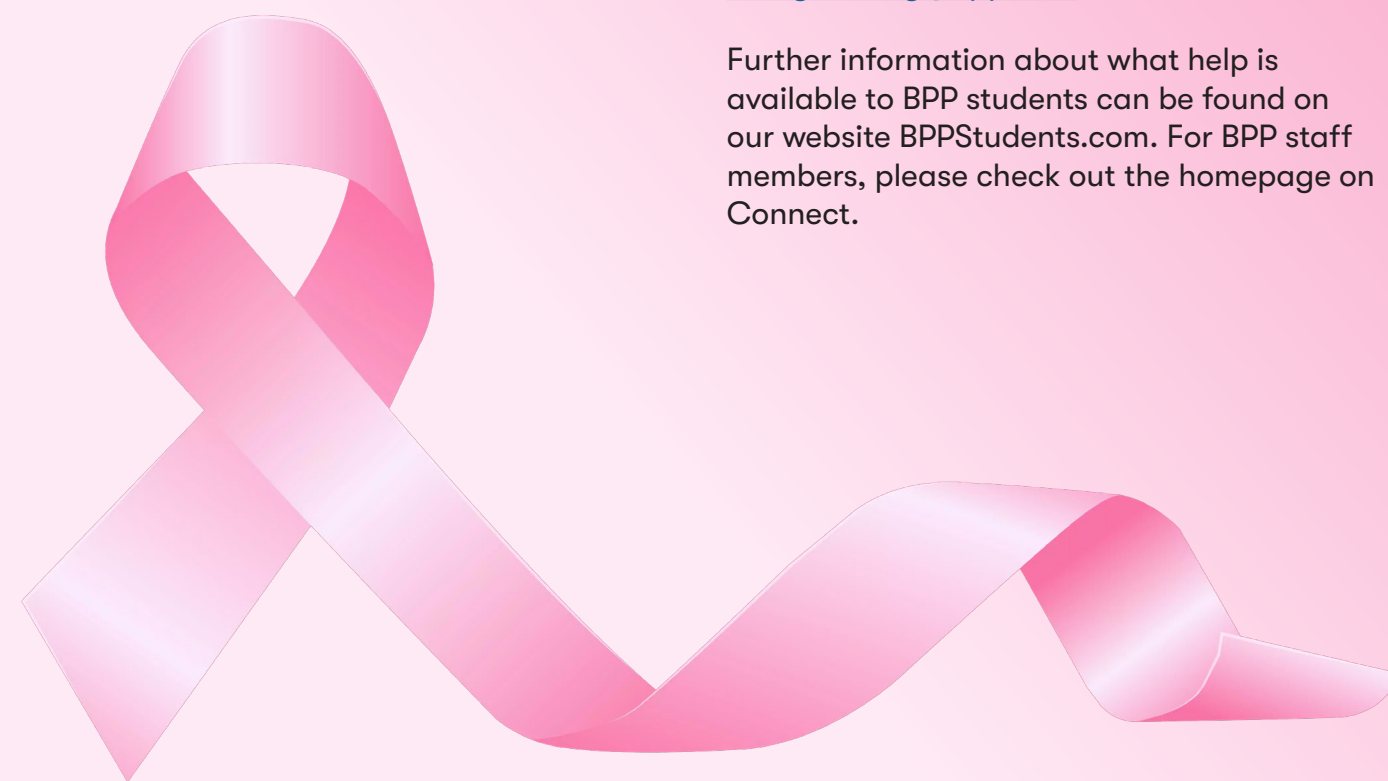
<https://www.macmillan.org.uk/cancer-information-and-support/breast-cancer>

<https://breastcancernow.org/wear-it-pink/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/10-year-cancer-plan-call-forevidence/10-year-cancer-plan-call-for-evidence>

If you are feeling overwhelmed with the topic above that has been discussed, please reach out to our Safeguarding team here at BPP who will be able to provide a friendly ear to listen to your concerns. They can be contacted at Safeguarding@bpp.com.

Further information about what help is available to BPP students can be found on our website BPPStudents.com. For BPP staff members, please check out the homepage on Connect.



AI UNLEASHED: SHAPING EDUCATION AT BPP UNIVERSITY

AN INTERVIEW WITH JOEL MILLS, HEAD OF GENERATIVE AI AND DIGITAL LEARNING



Dan

Introduction

In the ever-evolving landscape of education, BPP University is positioning itself at the forefront of innovation, exploring the potential integration of artificial intelligence to shape the future of learning. At the helm of this visionary initiative is Joel Mills, Head of Generative AI and Digital Learning, whose passion for AI and commitment to advancing education marks a pivotal moment for BPP. In this exclusive interview, we delve into Joel's insights, exploring the university's aspirations, current endeavours, and the ethical considerations that guide their approach.

Dan

Can you discuss your personal interest in artificial intelligence and how you see AI shaping the future of education at BPP University?



Joel Mills

Joel

Absolutely. My fascination with artificial intelligence, or AI, has been longstanding, gaining traction a year ago with the ChatGPT launch, an OpenAI platform for engaging conversations with an AI bot. Its rapid adoption spread throughout the education community, especially on platforms like Twitter, which heightened my awareness of its potential impact.

As the Head of Learning and Teaching at the time, I recognised the transformative possibilities AI could bring to education at BPP University. BPP also recognised the importance of AI in Education and set up a dedicated Centre of Excellence for Generative AI, a testament to the university's commitment to supporting staff and students in this space. My current role as Head of Generative AI



and Digital Learning, underscores our rapid embrace of generative AI and dedication to exploring diverse applications. With a specialised team and strong leadership from Vice Chancellor Tim Stewart, we actively seek optimal ways to leverage AI for our educational community's benefit.

Dan

How does BPP University envision integrating artificial intelligence into education, and what are the key considerations as the university explores these possibilities?

Joel

The integration of artificial intelligence, or Gen AI, requires careful consideration of its nuances. These tools possess the capability to falsify information, hallucinate, and exhibit biases, across a spectrum of topics. Ethical use is paramount; just because we can use AI doesn't imply that we should and there will be use-cases that emerge that ethically or morally would not be right to use AI, for example in making decisions about individuals that could affect their future. In these cases, human intervention is essential. Ethics process around the use of AI are to be set up which will take each case on an individual basis.

Our approach revolves around using AI in a supportive role, ensuring it complements rather than supplants other essential functions. For instance, in planning and resourcing, AI can swiftly analyse data to find the best fit, saving significant human hours. Another practical application is in the generation of multiple-choice questions, a traditionally time-consuming task that AI can efficiently handle. We actively engage with staff and students, gathering their use cases and considering their ideas and needs through comprehensive requirements gathering.

Dan

Could you share some insights into the status of AI initiatives at BPP University? What areas or initiatives are being explored, and what lessons or insights have emerged from these initial efforts?

Joel

The university is currently acquiring an approved AI tool through Microsoft Azure AI. As a Microsoft University, we're implementing Microsoft Azure AI to develop proof of concepts adhering to stringent data protection processes. Our priority is to safeguard personal, financial, and sensitive business



OpenAI

data under GDPR and protect the reputation and operation of BPP as a business. We're focusing on building proof of concepts around multiple-choice questions (MCQ), with specifics of exciting tools remaining confidential. A notable project involves enhancing the BPP Adapt platform with AI to make the learning journey more widely available and scalable. This includes exploring AI's potential to guide learning in the hub by recommending extensions based on individual strengths and weaknesses. We're actively gathering input from staff and plan to involve students in the discussion and decision-making process, aligning with my new role's initiatives.

Dan
In the process of integrating AI, what challenges has BPP University faced, and what strategies or approaches are being considered or implemented to address these challenges?

Joel
Integrating AI at BPP University has faced notable challenges, especially due to the rapid pace of change. The swift advancements in large language models pose hurdles for tools like Turnitin's AI detection, struggling to keep up. The typical slower pace of educational technology development sharply contrasts with the rapid changes in the AI landscape, creating challenges for traditional training methods. Becoming an expert in a tool that's only a week old becomes a daunting expectation.

Another significant challenge involves aligning university policies and principles with the

fast-paced AI environment. Initiatives like creating principles for AI use require engaging various stakeholders, a process that took months. However, by the time these policies are established, the AI landscape has already evolved, making it difficult to stay relevant. This challenge is not unique to BPP, as organisations like the Office for Students and Ofsted also face difficulties keeping up with the dynamic nature of AI.

The high demand for tools like Open AI's API development kit has led to delays in processing license applications. However, through the Microsoft partnership, BPP has gained more responsive access to the tools needed for AI integration.

Dan
How are students and staff being involved or informed about AI initiatives at BPP University, and how do you foresee their participation evolving as these initiatives progress?

Joel
BPP University actively involves students and staff in AI initiatives through various channels. There is an AI awareness course that launched in January, that is available on hub for self-enrolment. This course aims to provide a comprehensive AI overview, including a glossary, understanding AI lingo, and practical examples in education. Video casts by Peter Baily, an English Language tutor, will demonstrate direct AI use, with clear use case guidelines for students.

To promote engagement, open webinars starting late January will cover real case

examples of AI tool usage. Monthly themes, like effective prompt writing, will be explored. The content is free for all, with an initial plan of 12 webinars, potentially extending after review.

Dan
Looking ahead, what are the university's aspirations for the integration of AI into education, and are there specific areas or use cases that are being targeted for future implementation?

Joel
In the future, we're closely monitoring recent AI initiatives from Microsoft, particularly Co-pilot, integrating into Windows 11. As we plan system upgrades, we're assessing challenges and potential benefits. The introduction of Co-pilot in Office 365 is another area under exploration, addressing issues like data management, IP, and protocols. Balancing transparency and accessibility, we're committed to collaborating with stakeholders to safeguard students from potential penalties.

Dan
How is BPP University approaching ethical considerations related to AI, such as privacy, bias, and transparency, and what principles are guiding the development of AI policies?

Joel
Our ethical approach to AI centres on transparency, fairness, and accessibility. Guiding principles stress openness and active student involvement. Aligned with Russell University Group's standards, they aim to adapt materials supportively, avoiding punitive measures and permitting AI use in specific assessments. In our university space, established ethics approval processes, particularly for nursing and legal studies, guide ethical considerations. In the broader business context, including apprenticeships, AI requests undergo rigorous review by the Generative AI Centre for Excellence team, guided by our university Proctor, Alex Griffiths, and relevant ethics committees.

Dan
On a more personal note, how do you perceive the potential impact of AI on education, and what excites you most about the role of AI in shaping the future of learning at BPP University?

Joel
On a personal level, initial fears of rapid AI changes in education transform into excitement. Navigating this swift pace generates both challenges and enthusiasm. Balancing excitement with stability for learners and staff is crucial. The goal is to reassure everyone about the organisation's clear direction and confidence. AI isn't just about chasing trends but ensuring stability for day-to-day activities. BPP's vision involves fostering support, growth, and innovation, creating a development timeline that benefits the business. The focus is on demonstrating how AI positively contributes, making BPP an attractive place for students, employers, and staff.

Conclusion
As we conclude our conversation with Joel, it becomes evident that BPP University is embarking on a transformative journey, embracing the possibilities that artificial intelligence holds for education. The vision outlined and the careful considerations discussed offer a glimpse into the potential future of learning at BPP. With Joel's leadership, the university is not merely adapting to change but actively shaping an innovative and ethical path forward. The interplay of passion, foresight, and the evolving role of AI leaves us with a sense of excitement for the educational landscape that BPP University is set to cultivate.

OUR MISSION AT THE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

WE BELIEVE IN MENSTRUAL EQUITY* AND THE RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLE WHO BLEED.

We here at BPP Students' Association, believe everyone should have the right to free and accessible period products and suffer no shame or stigma around having a period! As an Association, we pledge to provide free products to all students if they require them and continue to work towards breaking down the stigma and shame periods bring.

If you require free products to be sent to your home, please contact engage@bpp.com

When emailing, please also provide the following information:

- Your course details and/or Student Reference Number
- What products you require
- Your home address
- Your contact number

Once we have confirmed your details, we will endeavour to send your products as soon as possible!

If you are based on campus at either, Holborn (Red Lion Street), London Portsoken Street or Shepherd's Bush, there are free dispensers on campus where you can collect product.

Find your free dispenser:

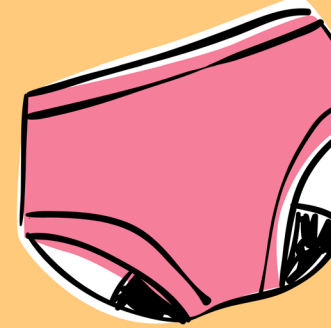
- **Holborn:** Head to the disabled bathrooms on the ground floor near reception!
- **London Portsoken Street:** Head to the disabled bathrooms on the Second Floor!
- **Shepherd's Bush:** Head to the disabled bathrooms on the ground floor near reception!

If you have any questions about our [free products scheme](#), looking to get involved with campaigning in future or any general questions around this topic, please email Falak Ali at falakali@bpp.com who will be happy to assist.

*Menstrual Equity is ensuring the world is built for people who menstruate, and everyone benefits. Where no one is at a disadvantage just because they have a period (Bloody Good Period).



Period Health is Empowerment



DO YOU NEED PRODUCTS?
IN LONDON PORTSOKEEN, HOLBORN AND SHEPHERDS BUSH THERE ARE FREE PRODUCT DISPENSERS. OTHERWISE PLEASE CONTACT ENGAGE@BPP.COM FOR PRODUCTS TO BE SENT HOME.

Products available



MENSTRUAL PADS



TAMPONS



When disposing of your products in centre, please put them in the bins provided.

EMBRACE YOUR PERIOD



LAW TO MARKETING – MY JOURNEY

WRITTEN BY ISFANDYAR HAROON



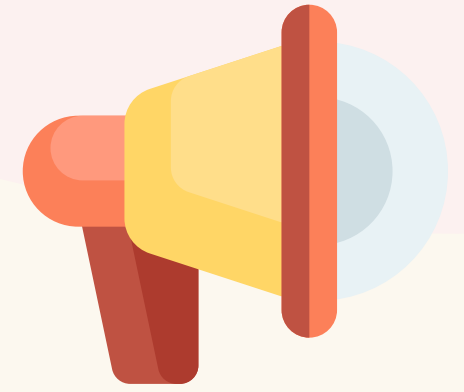
the usual Mathematics, Business Studies, Economics, English Literature and others, one particular subject stood out to me - Law. The availability of Law as a subject did catch me by surprise as I never expected such an intellectually demanding subject to be part of the A-Level curriculum. However, having developed an interest towards its uniqueness and having seen all the movies/TV Shows which portrayed the glitz and glamour of the profession along with the courtroom aura of the lawyers in action, I decided to take it as one of my A-Level subjects. Over the next two years, reading about the history of law, how it reformed overtime and the overall impact it has on the regulation of humans and entities alike, developed my interest in the subject. Furthermore, the fact that a lawyer would be an essential part of the development and interpretation of legislation which affects daily human life, finally persuaded me to start working towards a legal career.

Thereon, I undertook the LLB (Hons.) from the University of Birmingham and graduated with a 2.1 in 2015. Although learning about different laws in theory was intellectually stimulating, to be able to get ahead in the job market, I knew I had to develop some practical skills. Thereafter, I successfully completed the Legal Practice Course in 2016. Sandwiched between two internships (which gave an insight into every-day lawyer life) based in Birmingham and Pro-Bono work as part of the University, to set me up for qualification as a solicitor along with another work experience in Birmingham. Eventually, I ended up working in Lahore, Pakistan where I spent the next six years in the legal profession working for numerous law firms and eventually a renowned real estate company by the name of Zameen.com - Pakistan's first online real estate

Having just completed my GCSEs (GCE O Level) in 2010 consisting of the core science subjects i.e. Chemistry, Biology, Physics with Economics as a bit of a “feeler”, I would have never thought I would become a lawyer, being a part of my life for more than a decade. Even more so, it would have been nothing more than fiction to think that fourteen years later, I would be writing an article whilst studying for a second Post-Graduate degree in Business Management with Digital Marketing.

In this article, I discuss my “colourful” journey, from the first day I delved into the “world of law”, my professional legal experience and how I eventually came into studying Business Management with Digital Marketing course, to establish myself in the Marketing profession.

So, in 2010, after receiving my GCSE results, the next step was to seek admission to an A-Levels College (sixth form). Before the start of my academic year, every student including myself was given the responsibility of choosing their A-Level subjects. Alongside



services portal. Adjusting to the professional environment in Pakistan was an uphill task, due to the different work environment, not least to say the poor standards for legal education, lack of regulation and accountability for unethical lawyers. Even more so the everlasting delay in disposal of cases with little in terms of remuneration made it hard. That in itself was not enough to deter me away from the profession, I had essentially spent more than ten years of my life on, as I was determined to make as much of a positive difference I could using my experience and knowledge.

However, throughout my time doing various pro-bono work, internships, attending law firm workshops, career fairs and eventually practicing, I noticed a certain gap that law firms had not substantially filled. Apart from on the job legal training and the emphasis on bringing business for the law firms, there wasn't much emphasis and acknowledgement on how to run law firms as businesses. For instance: how to manage employees, establish a working culture, how to devise strategies for long term-growth and development and importantly, how to market themselves in order to tap into a larger customer base and ultimately give it a business advantage over its competitors. However, some UK based law firms have taken note of this and now place emphasis on the importance of law firms being run as a business and encourage their lawyers to think beyond the law and about the industry in which their set of clients operate.

From thereon, coupled with how hugely influential Digital Marketing has recently been, I made the decision to join BPP Business school as it offered a brilliant combination of Business Management with Digital Marketing and the campus being based in London (near home) made the decision even easier. Until now, the curriculum has been brilliant and we have been taught self-development and improvement, all the new technologies disrupting the state of the current market and how to devise national and global business strategies for expansion.

At first, the idea was to further add to my legal skills and eventually operate a law firm in a distinct manner. However, to be very honest, two months into the course and I wouldn't say I am exactly missing the rigours of the legal profession. My future plans have yet again taken a turn and I now plan to initially go into business management role i.e. business strategist/analyst in one of the top FTSE Companies to gain a practical insight into the workings of a corporation. From there on, I plan to put my marketing degree to good use and hope to establish an acclaimed marketing agency helping all types of brands encompassing various sectors and industries. For all the undergraduate and post-graduates students and graduates out there, it is never too late to change. The modern world is all about the range of different skills in your armoury, not least to mention anything digital and tech backed up with a sound business acumen!

CELEBRATING NAVRATRI

WRITTEN BY PRIYANKA DESAI

Indian culture is incredibly rich and diverse, which is why we have so many festivals. Each festival is rooted in different traditions, beliefs, and historical events. They provide an opportunity for people to come together, celebrate, and strengthen their bond with their community. Festivals also serve as a way to express gratitude, seek blessings, and bring joy to our lives. It's a vibrant and lively part of Indian culture that we cherish!

Nonetheless, Gujarati people are known for their warm hospitality, entrepreneurial spirit, and strong sense of community. They take pride in their cultural heritage and traditions. Gujaratis are known for their delicious cuisine, which includes dishes like dhokla, thepla, and kadhi. They are also famous for their intricate embroidery work, vibrant textiles, and traditional dance forms like Garba and Dandiya. Gujaratis are hardworking and often excel in various fields, including business, finance, and the arts. They value education and family bonds, and their festivals are a reflection of their vibrant and joyful nature. It's a pleasure to be a part of the Gujarati community!

Navratri is primarily celebrated by Hindus, but people from various cultural backgrounds also join in the festivities. It is widely celebrated across India and in Gujarati communities around the world.

Gujaratis have an incredible craze during Navratri. It's one of the most anticipated festivals for them. People dress up in traditional Gujarati attire, which is colourful and vibrant. The women often wear beautiful ghagra cholis or chaniya cholis, which are long skirts paired with intricately embroidered blouses and adorned with stunning jewellery. The men usually wear kurtas and dhotis

or traditional Gujarati attire called kediyu. The entire atmosphere during Navratri is electrifying, with people coming together for Garba and Dandiya dances, creating a mesmerizing spectacle of music, dance, and joyful celebration. It's a time when Gujaratis truly come alive with enthusiasm and revelry!

Navratri is celebrated to honour the Hindu goddess Durga and to commemorate the victory of good over evil. It is a nine-night festival celebration.

It symbolizes the triumph of good over evil and is a time for prayer, fasting, and joyful celebrations.

During Navratri, each of the nine days is associated with a specific form of the goddess Durga. Here's a quick breakdown of the days and their significance:



DAY 1 Pratipada

Devotees worship Shailaputri, the embodiment of the divine mother.

DAY 2 Dwitiya

Devotees worship Shailaputri, the embodiment of the divine mother.

DAY 3 Tritiya

Devotees worship Chandraghanta, the goddess of peace and serenity.

DAY 4 Chaturthi

Devotees worship Kushmanda, the creator of the universe.

DAY 5 Panchami

Devotees worship Skandamata, the mother of Lord Skanda.

DAY 6 Shashti

Devotees worship Katyayani, the warrior goddess.

DAY 7 Saptami

Devotees worship Kalaratri, the fierce form of Durga.

DAY 8 Ashtami

Devotees worship Mahagauri, the symbol of purity and grace.

DAY 9 Navami

Devotees worship Siddhidatri, the goddess of supernatural powers.



As an international student, experiencing festivals in a new country can be both exciting and nostalgic. It's an opportunity to immerse yourself in a different culture, learn about new traditions, and make lasting memories. While it may feel different being away from home during the festival season, it's also a chance to connect with fellow students and embrace the multicultural environment. So, embrace the festive spirit and make the most of this unique experience!

Festivals are important because they offer a break from the routine of daily life and allow people to immerse themselves in joy, laughter, and celebration. Festivals also play a vital role in preserving cultural heritage, passing down traditions from one generation to another. They provide a platform to showcase art, music, dance, and cuisine, allowing people to appreciate and learn about different cultures. Festivals are a time to express gratitude, reflect on values, and foster a sense of unity and harmony.

My name is Priyanka Desai, I am a student and Student Ambassador at BPP University. I am grateful that BPP University provides a platform for all students to come together and participate in cultural events and festivals.



It is a wonderful way to bring the different communities together and celebrate the vibrant traditions. The Navratri event was a huge success and everyone had a fantastic time dancing and enjoying the festivities with food, music and dance.



STUDENT VOICE REPRESENTATIVE ROLE AND STUDENT LIFE AT BPP

WRITTEN BY MUHAMMAD MUDASSAR



BPP University's Shepherd's Bush campus is a vibrant hub of academic excellence and diverse student life. At the heart of fostering a thriving student community lies the indispensable role of the Student Voice Representative. This position is a crucial link between the student body and the academic institution, serving as the voice of the students and a catalyst for positive change.

The Responsibility of a Student Voice Representative:

1. Advocacy for Student Concerns:

As a Student Voice Representative, one takes on the responsibility of being a vocal advocate for the student body. This involves actively seeking out and addressing concerns, ranging from academic issues to campus facilities.

By communicating these concerns to the appropriate channels within the university, Student Representatives play a pivotal role in ensuring that the student experience is continuously improving.

2. Communication Bridge:

Effective communication is the cornerstone of any thriving community. Student Voice Representatives act as a bridge between students, faculty, and administration, facilitating a transparent flow of information. Regular meetings with students help gather feedback, disseminate important announcements, and ensure that everyone is well-informed about campus developments.

3. Assisting in organising Campus Events:

Beyond academic matters, I have been involved in organising extracurricular events that contribute to the vibrant social life on campus. These events can include study groups, cultural celebrations, and workshops, fostering a sense of community and shared experiences among students.

4. Enhancing Student Well-being:

A Student Voice Representative is attuned to the well-being of their peers. They can play a role in advocating for mental health resources, promoting a healthy work-life balance, and supporting initiatives that contribute to the overall wellness of the student body.

Impact on Campus Life:

1. Creating a Positive Learning Environment:

By actively engaging with students and addressing their concerns, I have contributed to the creation of a positive learning environment. A conducive atmosphere for education enhances the overall academic experience for everyone.

2. Empowering Student Participation:

In the role of Student Voice Representative, I have encouraged students to participate in the decision-making processes that directly impact their academic journey. This empowerment fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility among students for their own education and the community they are part of.

3. Building a Sense of Belonging:

Shepherd's Bush campus thrives on diversity, and a Student Voice Representative ensures that every student feels heard and valued. This inclusive approach helps in building a sense of belonging, making the campus a home away from home for students from various backgrounds.

Challenges and Opportunities:

While the role of a Student Voice Representative is immensely rewarding, it comes with its set of challenges. Balancing academic responsibilities with the demands of representation requires effective time management and dedication. However, the

learning experiences and personal growth that come from overcoming these challenges make the role a unique and transformative opportunity.

Conclusion:

In essence, being a Student Voice Representative at BPP Shepherd's Bush is a linchpin in the machinery of a thriving educational community. By being the voice of their peers, fostering communication, and contributing to the overall well-being of the student body, Student Voice Representatives play a vital role in shaping a positive and enriching academic experience for all.

Their commitment to advocacy and community building ensures that BPP University remains a dynamic and inclusive place for learning and personal growth. So, if you're considering embarking on the BPP adventure in Shepherd's Bush, know this: you're not alone. You'll have a dedicated team of Student Voice Representatives, including myself, to navigate the academic currents, celebrate the victories, and weather the occasional storm.

It's a journey filled with challenges, yes, but also immense opportunity, personal growth, and maybe even a few late-night pizza parties thrown in for good measure. Come, dive into the BPP experience – we'll make sure you learn, grow, and (most importantly) have a blast along the way!



BPP VIRTUAL CAMPUS – OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY



BPP has its very own 'BPP Community' platform or as we like to refer to it – 'The Virtual Campus'.

This platform is nearing around **30,000 users** and is growing every day. The platform is already used by the Education Services teams, Heads of Law, and tutors from across Schools. However, most importantly it is used by our student body across BPP.

This platform is a great way to stay connected with the latest happenings from staff, students and alumni which is why we're encouraging both staff and students to join. The Virtual Campus has an events board signposting students to all events happening across the BPP group, resources for wellbeing and accommodation as well as updates from teams across BPP. Signing up is easy and can be done in a few steps.

How do I sign up?

You can access the Virtual Campus through

your desktop or phone. You can even download the app through Google Play or the App store. You can sign up with your LinkedIn, Google or email account. Logging in with your LinkedIn account is great for networking too! However, be wary of which method you use to sign up, if someone clicks on your profile they will see the email linked to your LinkedIn. [Click here to create your profile.](#)

What features does the Virtual Campus have?

• The Virtual Digest:

This fortnightly newsletter is a one stop shop for all things happening on the Virtual Campus and across BPP. See updates from the Students' Association and Education Services groups like the latest events, updates, newsletters etc.

• The Events board:

This includes both in-person and virtual events taking place. There are almost always free events, except for those that are used

to fundraise for important causes. Check the events board regularly to see what's happening next. If you are running an event in your centre or online, make sure to add it to the Events Board!

• Groups:

These are open to both staff and students. You can network, contribute your thoughts, or assist with any queries. If there is a group you would like to join, but the group doesn't already exist, create your own!

• The Competitions group:

Open to both staff and students. Prizes won in the past have included Hotel Chocolat chocolates, a space heater and various vouchers from Amazon, Ikea etc.

• Course specific groups:

- The Law School has separate groups for each campus.
- The Nursing School have a private community forum.
- The School of Technology has a community page.

Resources:

Available to both staff and students. You can find and access resources such as Library newsletters, inductions, and career advice. You'll also find helpful wellbeing resources including how to manage stress (about exams or otherwise!) and signposting to further support services.

How do I use it?

The Students' Association has created a helpful video explaining more on how to use the Virtual Campus [here](#).

If you have any questions - please email us at VirtualCampus@bpp.com and we'd be happy to assist.



WORK WITH THE BPP SOCIAL IMPACT TEAM

PAID BUSINESS INTERNSHIPS AND QUALIFYING WORK EXPERIENCE

Looking for a paid Business internship or Qualifying Work Experience ('QWE')? These opportunities are closer than you think. Since September 2023, the Social Impact team at BPP has been recruiting former or current BPP students looking to gain paid, professional work experience while supporting BPP's Social Impact work.

Jesse Delbridge and Sherry Akpalu are former BPP law students and two of the team's four current QWE trainees. In due course, Jesse and Sherry will register the QWE they acquire at BPP with the Solicitors' Regulation Authority, to enable them to rely on the experience as part of their route to qualification as a solicitor.



Jesse Delbridge is based in the Social Impact team's Family & Welfare Benefits Legal Advice Clinics:

"Working across family law and welfare benefits rights, I've been fortunate to delve into two areas of law that I find incredibly interesting and rewarding.

I start my day by checking my excel tracker

of ongoing cases, identifying urgent tasks and any upcoming deadlines. My workload mainly consists of reviewing bundles, drafting submissions and witness statements, and legal research. Interacting with clients is a big part of the role and a huge area of professional growth and learning. I'm fortunate to be guided by experienced supervisors who have a passion for not only practicing the law but teaching their craft to us as trainees.

Thus far as a QWE Trainee, I've seen a significant boost in my confidence with advocacy and public speaking. Advocacy was not a skill I felt particularly competent in when I started my contract, but my supervisors were keen to expose me to the opportunity to use this skill, and I was in front of a tribunal within a few weeks. This was for a Personal Independence Payment (PIP) hearing at the First Tier Tribunal. I drafted submissions and made several interventions during the hearing. The appeal was allowed, and our client was granted 5 years of PIP at the enhanced rate, along with backdated claims for a year.

I was surprised that the nerves, although

Work experience like no other.

Volunteer with the Social Impact team and take your learning experience at BPP to the next level.

Support positive change in the community while developing the knowledge and skills to boost your professional career.

significant in the lead up to a hearing, dissipate in the moment when you're focused on achieving the best outcome for your client. This confidence has extended to other areas of my professional life, improving my eloquence and assurance in meetings and when explaining legal concepts to clients.

The support and mentorship I've received from my supervisors, as well as their willingness to give us significant responsibilities across client matters, have been crucial to my professional development. The position has allowed me to bridge the gap between my theoretical training during the PGDL and LPC, and the real-life practice of law."

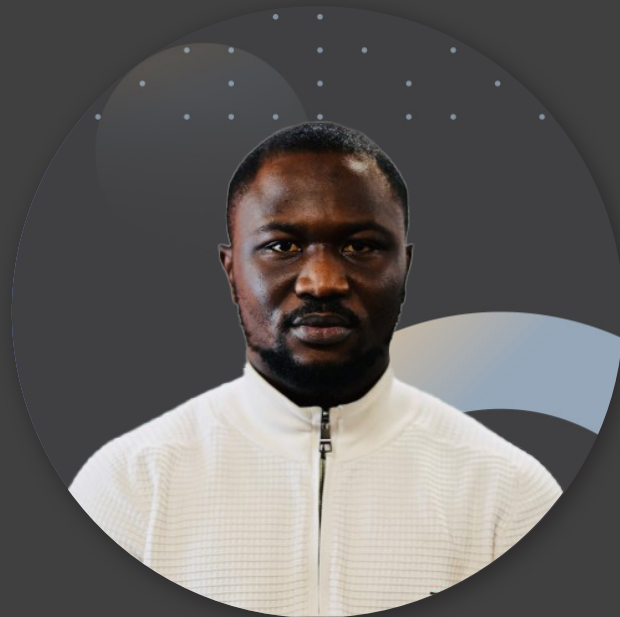


Sherry Akpalu is based in the team's Housing Legal Advice Clinic:

"As a trainee, with the aim of becoming a qualified legal practitioner, every task I am assigned is geared towards providing me with practical experience and developing the skills necessary to succeed in my legal career. Since joining the Housing Clinic, I have had the opportunity to work on complex cases such as service charge demands, homelessness, lease extensions, succession and many more. I have also had the opportunity to conduct several client interviews, and co-delivered trainings. These experiences have exposed me to the complexities of legal practice and the issues clients face daily. The skills acquired such as



legal writing, presentation, drafting, advocacy equips QWE trainees for future practice. Although BPP's curriculum is a mirror image of what happens in the workplace, transitioning into a dynamic and fast paced work environment of legal practice requires the willingness and ability to adapt and the application of academic knowledge to real life issues. BPP's Social Impact team offers a platform where aspiring solicitors can develop and hone their legal skills for the world of legal work."



Abdulkareem Olawuyi is a current MSc Management with Project Management and PDP (Professional Development Planning) student and is a Business Support intern with the Social Impact team. The internship counts towards the PDP element of Abdulkareem's programme:

"As an international student at BPP University, my academic and professional journey has been aided by a life-changing experience as a Business Support Intern at BPP. This position aligns with my professional goals and provides me with the opportunity to work on important projects that benefit the UK society.

When the opportunity to become a business Intern at BPP Social Impact presented itself, it was a great opportunity to gain first-hand professional experience, develop my professional skills, work on projects that create social value and the chance to work for a reputable company. I applied for the

internship with the goal of honing my project management skills and preparing for the job market.

As a Business Support Intern, my typical day is diverse and vibrant. I engage directly with my line managers, project managers and colleagues. In addition, I assist project managers in the creation of project documents, identifying and mitigating project risks. This role also provides me with the understanding of project management in an educational and business environment. The daily assignments I receive are intended to help me become more adept at addressing problems. Every day is different due to the variety of tasks, which improves my ability to organise and multi-task.

The experience as a Business Support Intern has been influential in aiding my professional development. The exposure to real-life projects has improved my communication skills. I have participated in professional development workshops organised by BPP and improved my technological skills through my use of programs like SharePoint, Microsoft 365, and Clio. Access to LinkedIn Learning Resource has considerably aided in my professional development.

I would highly encourage other students to consider the PDP and the role of a Business Support Intern at BPP. The support I received throughout my experience as a Business Support Intern from my line managers, colleagues and placement officer gave me the confidence to develop at a fast and steady pace. The collaborative and supportive environment at BPP provides a solid foundation for my professional growth. I am confident that future interns like me will find this role to be a catalyst for growth and development. In simple terms, BPP is a fantastic place to work and a great place to study."

Could you be the next Business intern or QWE trainee with the Social Impact team? To find out more about the available roles and future recruitment dates, contact socialimpact@bpp.com.





Interested in setting up a Club or Society?

We will help you every step of the way

Email us at
engage@bpp.com