

**BALEAP Events Officer Report**

**AGM**

**2nd April 2022**

Since taking up the role of Events Officer last April my main focus has been managing the PIMs and updating guidance to hosts to incorporate the online/hybrid context. I have also been involved in the planning of the BALEAP 50th Anniversary Event, in particular co-ordinating the Lightning Talks.

**Professional Interest Meetings (PIMs)**

**2021**

Two very successful online PIMs were hosted by Durham University (5th June) and the University of York (19th November) on the themes of Leadership and Management and Ownership in EAP respectively with over 100 attendees registered for the Durham PIM and over 110 for York.

Meetings were arranged for the Durham and York teams with previous online hosts (the University of Kent and Northumbria University) to build on experience of online PIM hosting and mitigate against potential pitfalls. This information was then captured in the updated PIM Handbook (see below).

Last year was challenging in terms of securing hosts for 2022, which it is suggested can be partly attributed to the ongoing uncertainly surrounding covid. Institutions also cited increased workload due to the pandemic for not hosting.

**2022-23**

However, the start of this year has been more positive with renewed interest in hosting in the medium to longer term.

The following has been agreed to date:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PIMs 2022-2023** | | | |
| **Date** | **Institution** | **Working theme** | **Format** |
| Sat 12th Nov 2022 | The University of  Sheffield | Observing EAP – teacher education and the ‘new normal’ | Hybrid |
| March 2023 | Oxford Brookes University | Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) | Online |
| June or Nov 2023 tbc | Herriot-Watt University | EAP and Multimodality | Tbc |

*Table 1*

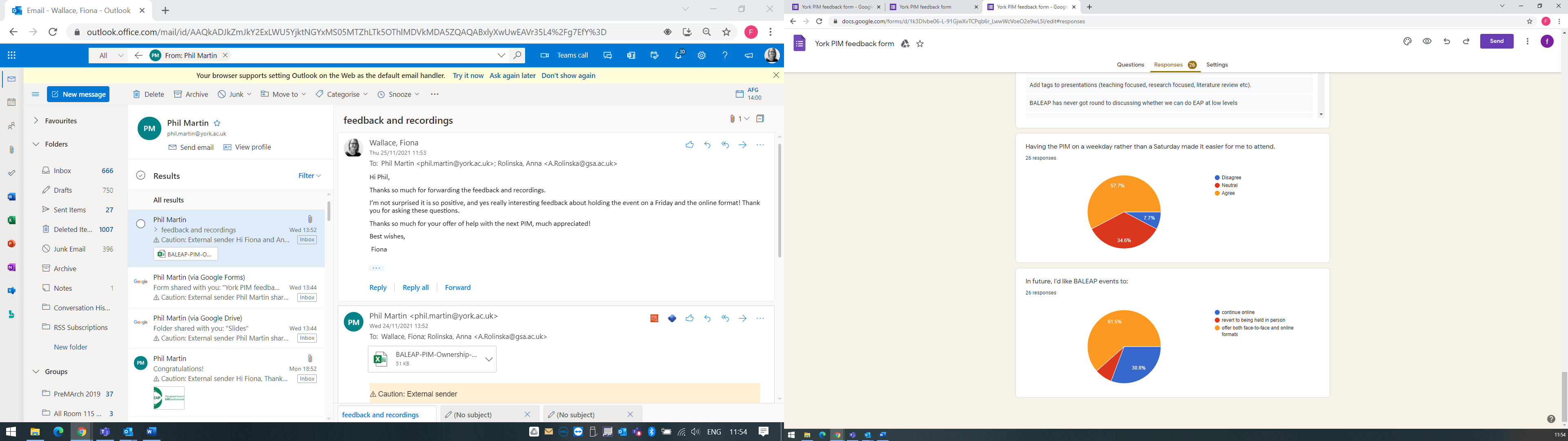
A recent push for a host for a mini-PIM in June 2022 has yielded one potential host and this is being followed up.

**Accessibility**

The format of PIMs going forward is likely to be varied as illustrated in *Table 1* above. Online and hybrid events remain popular as evidenced in feedback from the recent University of York PIM (Fig.1 below) and potentially facilitate greater accessibility. Experience from co-ordinating the Lightning Talks for the BALEAP 50th Anniversary Event demonstrates that presenters appreciate the option of delivering in an asynchronous format. Four out of eight presenters have submitted a video with the opportunity for asynchronous questions. Most involve at least one contributor based overseas and some have commented that the format has enabled them to participate in the event.

The York PIM was held on a Friday and the opportunity to attend a PIM on a weekday was also appreciated.

**Results of a questionnaire conducted by University of York PIM team November 2021**



*Figure 1*

**PIM Handbook**

The [PIM Handbook 2021-22](https://www.baleap.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Professional-Interests-Meeting-PIM-Handbook2021-22FINAL.docx-1.pdf) has been updated mainly to include the online and hybrid context, and the need to respond to covid restrictions for face-to-face events. This has been achieved drawing on experience from online PIM hosts, and input from Executive members, in particular the Web and Publicity Officers. It is now accessible via the BALEAP website along with a bank of [sample documents](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/17xL2nbJNOSXjKDqsqYDzHwdLKD0s1GB8) .

The immediate focus is to secure a mini-PIM for this June, and the medium to long term focus is to support PIM hosts in the smooth running of their institution’s event, as well securing hosts for future PIMs. The Handbook will be reviewed again in the Autumn.

Fiona Wallace

Events Officer (2021-2024)