



Multi Academy Trust

Opportunity • Achievement • Kindness

**SPRING 2024**

# OUR TRUST NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
OAK MULTI ACADEMY TRUST



**Opportunity**

**Achievement**

**Kindness**

# CEO Update

## Andy Wilson

Dear OAK community

I hope this newsletter finds you well. As we see the first signs of spring, I wanted to take this opportunity to share some exciting news and updates from our schools.

First and foremost, I am thrilled to announce the launch of our OAK vision and values. On Friday 15th March, we unveiled our vision: "Together we grow great schools." This vision reflects our commitment to fostering collaboration, growth, and excellence within our educational community. Furthermore, we have identified three core values that underpin everything we do: Opportunity, Achievement, and Kindness. These values will guide us as we strive for the highest standards of education and character development.

I am also delighted to celebrate the achievements of our schools. Brookside has received a letter of recognition from Damian Hinds, the schools minister, commending their outstanding progress, placing them in the top 5% nationally. This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the entire Brookside community.

Additionally, I am proud to share that Challenge Partners has graded Brookside, Woodland Grange, and Manor High as leaders in terms of their leadership. Manor High and Brookside have been awarded the highest accolade across all the areas reviewed. This accomplishment reflects the exceptional leadership and commitment to excellence demonstrated by staff, students, and parents at these schools. Congratulations to everyone involved!



Furthermore, I am excited to highlight our innovative Frontiers programme, which we are launching to drive digital transformation across our schools. This programme aims to provide our students with the best possible resources and tools to enhance their learning experiences. We believe that equipping our young people with the skills and knowledge for the future is of utmost importance, and the Frontiers programme plays a vital role in achieving this goal.

Thank you to all who are involved in and support the OAK community. It is the commitment of our colleagues, governors, trustees, and parents that makes OAK the strong vibrant trust that we are today, and it is our young people who are, and will always remain at the core of every decision that we make.

Have a restful break and we look forward to seeing pupils and students return for a busy and exciting summer term.

# TRUSTEE

## Governance

### New trustees

The Trust is thrilled to introduce two new Trustees, Manjinder Sangha and Emma Orriss.

#### **Manjinder Sangha:**

"Greetings from your new Trustee! My name is Manjinder and I bring with me a passion for education, a background in finance management, and the unique perspective of a proud parent with two children currently navigating the joys of primary school life.

I am eager to contribute my skills and expertise to support the Trust in achieving its goals and maintaining a strong financial foundation that enables excellence in education. I look forward to meeting and collaborating with fellow parents, teachers, and staff to continue fostering an environment where every child can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally."

**Emma Orriss** is a compliance advisory manager at a bank and, as such, she will join our Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. Her background in risk and compliance will bring valuable skills to the Board, helping the trust to ensure the pupils and staff within our school communities have a rich, positive and safe experience. We look forward to working with her closely in the coming months.

### **And goodbye to...**

We are sad to say goodbye to our last 'original' Trustee Kam Karaji as he steps down for very understandable reasons, prioritising his health and his career as it goes from strength to strength. Thank you Kam for all your years voluntarily giving up so much of your time and knowledge to assist the trust, its schools and, most importantly, its school communities, staff and students alike.



# GOVERNORS

## Visible Governance

29 February was National Governor's Awareness Day. We asked our governors why they volunteer so much of their time and effort to help our schools. Rash Kelf explains: "I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as Vice-Chair of Governors. It allows me to make a positive impact on the community, and I am committed to promoting growth, fostering collaboration, and creating a better future for all."

*Rash Kelf, Vice-Chair of Governors, Overdale Junior School*



"Having been involved in education all my life, and having retired at the (relatively early!) age of 60, I wanted to continue making a contribution. Children are important because they are our future. So I became a governor."

*Tony Smith, Chair of Governors, Overdale Junior School*

"It is important for all children to have the very best opportunities and support when it comes to their education. They should also gain real life experiences that would stand them in good stead for when they progress to further education or work. In my role as a Governor, I will use my background and experience to ensure that the school offers them a safe and caring environment, to help attain the above, and more importantly their own personal ambitions for the future."

*Raj Bhandari, Vice-Chair of Governors, Brookside Primary School*

**Please remember that governors and trustees are contactable via your school office, or [admin@oaktrust.org](mailto:admin@oaktrust.org), and are always ready to hear from you.**

Find out more about volunteering as a governor or trustee by emailing [admin@oaktrust.org](mailto:admin@oaktrust.org) or visit [inspiringgovernance.org/volunteers/](https://inspiringgovernance.org/volunteers/)





Shaping the future of learning through equity, opportunity and ambition for all.

Technology is ever evolving and at OAK, we are fully aware that we need to equip our pupils with the necessary skills to thrive in the 21st century; over time, we want to put technology literally in the hands of every pupil.

We pride ourselves on preparing our pupils exceptionally well for the next phase in their educational journey and we are looking to harness the power of the iPad to enhance that position even further.

iPads will provide equity in the classroom from the very outset. Modelling, feedback, assessment for learning and indeed opportunities for creativity, will be more accessible, more efficient and in some cases, far more effective. Crucially, iPads also remove a variety of traditional accessibility barriers and makes learning easier for pupils with SEND or for those whom English is an additional language.

Opportunity is one of OAK's core values and by embracing 1:1 iPad, we are equipping all our staff and pupils with the digital learning tools of the next generation. Digital workflows are the norm in the modern world and OAK pupils will be fully prepared for that. As pupils transition through our schools, we intend to leverage the potential of mobile technology to support access to digital learning resources, anywhere, anytime.

Furthermore, we are unashamedly ambitious for our young people. The inclusive and sustainable iPad programme provides more pupils, with more opportunity to be successful in whatever career choices they may make, whether this be in the Arts, Sciences or Technology.





## **Design, Technology, Food and Art**

Rotary Club Design competition- 3 Teams of Manor students competed in the Leicestershire Rotary Design competition this half term. Students attended the competition held at Leicester Grammar school and competed against a range of schools across Leicestershire. All students were fantastic in their design teams, working together to solve design problems. All students received certificates for taking part, and 2 of the 3 teams came 3rd place. Fantastic achievement and opportunity for all students involved.

### **Maths**

Four students attended The AMSP Maths Feast Competition at Castle Mead recently. It saw them taking part in logic puzzles, origami maths and numerical crosswords. All did very well and earned an award.



### **Humanities**

We have had a number of enrichment lessons across our Geography curriculum, including 'Slum building' in Year 8, where students have been investigating what life is like for people living in settlements in Mumbai, India. Year 10 Students have been learning about the physical landscapes and have demonstrated their understanding about the 'High Force Waterfall' along the River Tees, through waterfall models.

Year 11, have now completed their GCSE course by completing their fieldwork. They visited Oadby parade and the new housing estate on Stoughton Road, investigating the impact of new housing on the local area. Students completed questionnaires with members of the public. Mr Sloneczny was really impressed with how the students conducted themselves, demonstrating high levels of respect. We even received a phone call from a member of the public to comment on how impressed they were with our students



In History our students have been working hard. Our year 7 students are currently learning about the Tudor Period and in their upcoming lessons will be producing a creative task in which they have to construct an improved version of the Mary Rose Warship. It has also been a productive time for the rest of KS3 with our year 8 in the midst of their WW1 studies and year 9 having just started their public health course. KS4 are now deep into their GCSE course with the year 10s just starting Elizabethan England and the year 11s gearing up for the big final push towards their GCSEs with a trip to the Richard III centre coming up on Friday 19th of April to give them that extra bit of knowledge needed for their site study exam.

Outside of the classroom we have had a number of competitions running thanks to the hard work of Miss Chudasama in particular.

In particular the winner of our Holocaust poetry competition have given us a stark reminder of the horrors of the past and the work still to be done to ensure a brighter future for us all.



**BROOKSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**[www.brookside.leics.sch.uk](http://www.brookside.leics.sch.uk)**

Another busy term has flown by at Brookside! The children have been out in their local community visiting Aigburth house, learning about transport links in the area and trying to think of ways to ease some of our congestion problems.



Look at some of the amazing Mr Men and Little Miss entries for the Eco waste modelling competition! The Eco children ran a Christmas waste competition tasking pupils with using any recycled waste to create a 3D model. There were some fantastic models presented this January.



The children have been out to Birmingham to visit the Think Tank, have a visit from the dentist and held whole school circle time for children's mental health week.

We have had visitors from schools in London and Cornwall who came to see us. The Senior Leadership Team lead a presentation titled 'What is it like to be a Brookside?' where we shared all the personal development work we undertake here. They were very impressed with our school and I am sure have taken some ideas back to their own schools. We had some lunch, Indian street food, from a local delicatessen, which they all enjoyed. Well, you cannot come to Leicester and not try our fabulous food!

We took part in the Great British Bird watch and managed to see well over ten different species. Year 3 in particular showed some excellent wildlife knowledge.

For World Book day we dressed up as our favourite author/character/illustrator – which the children thoroughly enjoyed!



A big congratulations to the Year 6 Basketball team who became Oadby Champions!



One of the many benefits of sharing a campus with Manor High School, Brookside pupils were treated to an amazing interactive science assembly which included light filters, to smoke rings and fire theatrics!





## **Sport at Woodland Grange Primary School**

Our sporting team has been strengthened this year as Mr Berridge joined Mrs Pearce and Mr Evans to ensure that physical activity is present in the curriculum, at break times and before and after school clubs. This drive forward is really being seen with lots of participation in sporting competitions around the county this year. We want every child to have the same chance to take part and we know from past experience that sometimes these opportunities can lead to something bigger in the future. Who knows where our sports stars of tomorrow will come from?

The trophy cabinet has definitely been added to with competition wins in gymnastics, dodgeball, curling, table tennis and indoor athletics since the start of the year. We are always most proud of our children when they are recognised for their characters with the 'Spirit of the Games' award and we are delighted to have received these several times during the year.



None of these wonderful opportunities would be possible without our staff volunteers. They give up their time outside of school to coach, support and allow the children to enter the breadth of events on offer. We would like to say thank you on behalf of every WG family. Mr Evans also deserves a special mention. He coordinates events and tracks these carefully so that by the end of Y6, every child at school has had opportunities to compete.



### School trips and enrichment opportunities

Our Foundation stage children have recently visited Manor Organic Farm, which is a working farm, with Farmer Amy. They have looked out for signs of spring – from the frog spawn in the pond, the chicks in the hen house and the lambs in the field. They also looked for the less obvious signs – new grass that is growing and will be harvested for animal food later on in the year.

Year 3 children visited Bethel Church in Wigston as part of the RE curriculum. Thank you to the volunteers at Bethel Church for this visit. Our children in Year 5 visited Leicester University to think about the role geography and geology have in our world. It was excellent to be able to spend the morning in Leicester University and for our children to be able to see what opportunities there are after they have finished their secondary school education. Our thanks to the team for this fantastic opportunity, particularly Professor Holwell, one of our parents who made this possible. Year 6 children have, with the support of the Oadby Foundation Grant they give to Oadby schools, been able to attend The Warning Zone. This fantastic trip provides children with excellent life skills and prepares them for the greater independence they have when they move on to secondary schools.



Foundation Stage invited all mums or grandmas into school to enjoy a very special Mothers Day Afternoon Tea. The children had made the sandwiches, decorated biscuits and made decorations for the table to make this special event something all could cherish.

At Woodland Grange, the theme for World Book Day was ‘come in comfort and cozy up with a book.’ It was fantastic to see such a huge pleasure in reading across the whole school. In some year groups, parents joined the school in sharing stories with their children.





# POETRY BY HEART

This term, Woodland Grange's Key Stage 2 children have participated in the National Poetry Competition run by Poetry By Heart. Again, we have been warmed by the brilliant support from home with the children learning their poems ready to perform.

In Years 3 and 4 the children have participated in the Freestyle competition: learning any poem, in any language, by heart and reciting in front of their peers. In Years 5 and 6 the competition is stepped up a notch with the children learning two poems from the PBH anthology; one poem written pre 1914 and one post 1914. Competitions were conducted in classes, with peers joining in the judging process. The judges were blown away by the children's recitals; how they effectively used voice, gesture, volume and performance to convey the meaning of their poems and evoke emotion. The judges had an exceptionally tough job of whittling down the finalists to the winners who have had their entries recorded and uploaded to the PBH competition. With fingers crossed, we await the announcements, whether we are regional finalists and will join the celebration at Shakespeare's Globe. Whilst we wait, in school we will celebrate our winners through sharing poems and prizes.



Preschool have been embracing all things spring. They were delighted when ten eggs hatched and they got to see the chicks grow. We were then delighted when parents joined us in school for an Easter Egg Hunt – a huge amount of fun was had by all!



At the beginning of February Overdale Infant and Junior Schools joined together to celebrate NSPCC Number Day. Children and staff were invited to dress in number themes and there were a range of maths activities to engage with throughout the day. We raised a huge £528 for NSPCC.



Recently we asked for parent volunteers to help us to prepare our school allotment ready for spring. This will allow us to plant fruit and vegetables which the children can then care for and eventually eat. The volunteers worked incredibly hard and our allotment is now ready. A huge thank you to all those who helped.



On Pancake Day the children enjoyed reading lots of pancake themed books and engaging with pancake activities. They even had pancakes with their lunch. Such a fun day.





This term we have welcomed the Roade English Hub into school again on maximising our phonics teaching. On the most recent visit their representative, Janet, was thrilled with the school's progress and we even got a mention on their Instagram page.

For World Book Day the children and staff got the opportunity to dress up as their favourite characters. We also had some fun competitions too.



**OVERDALE JUNIOR SCHOOL**  
**[www.overdale-jun.leicester.sch.uk](http://www.overdale-jun.leicester.sch.uk)**



### Young Voices 2024

Well done to the Overdale Junior School Choir, who joined roughly 5,000 other children from schools across the Midlands to form a single choir. Young Voices Choirs form the largest in the world and children perform in some of the world's greatest arenas alongside incredible artists. The students did their parents and teachers proud, they were a wonderful bunch of enthusiastic, well-behaved, happy singers.



## Bikeability

Year 5 children were given the opportunity to improve their cycling skills this term, with lessons from the Bikeability team. Over the course of two weeks, children were offered lessons in cycling safety and road use. They were very excited to be in the fresh air, learning new skills and becoming more confident on the roads near school. Bikeability Certificates and badges were awarded for Level 1 and Level 2 proficiency, with personalised notes to ensure that children knew which skills to practice further at home. Road safety is a vital life skill for all of us, and it is reassuring for staff and parents to know that the children have received such high quality teaching. Well done to all those who took part, and thank you to Jon and his team. In addition to Bikeability, we had a visit from Sustrans, reminding us about road safety, and from The Bike Doctor, who repaired and safety-checked bikes for pupils and staff. Thank you to all involved.



Our Year 5 Brass group have had a great experience, continuing their brass learning with a specialist brass teacher from Leicestershire Music. They did a performance for parents at the end of their ten weeks of lessons. Many children across the school have signed up for brass lessons with the music service now and we are hoping we have the numbers needed to secure a peripatetic brass teacher to compliment our woodwind, piano, drums, guitar and ukulele peripatetic teaching!



The school has been working on 'team building' as part of our ongoing whole school character curriculum work around resilience; as a school, we are passionate about teaching children the importance of resilience, communication and team work. Groups of children took part in some fun team building activities and games alongside Mrs Cross and a special visitor called Mr Amoroso. The children had a wonderful time and it was brilliant to see them working so well together.



**Opportunity**

**Achievement**

**Kindness**

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