



Multi Academy Trust

Opportunity • Achievement • Kindness

JULY 2023

OUR TRUST NEWS

**THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
OAK MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**



Opportunity

Achievement

Kindness

CEO Update

Andy Wilson

As we reach the end of term, it is time to reflect on a year of progress and transformation across OAK. Every OAK child deserves the very best and at our strategy day in April, our dedicated trustees, governors and headteachers all agreed that we will make our strategic decisions with the equity of all our children as the focus.

In practice this means that we will do everything possible to ensure that every child is best placed to make the move to the next phase of education or training.

Our teachers and colleagues in schools have worked tirelessly to re-engage and support our children and young adults post Covid and yet are immensely frustrated by the lack of support from their government. Proposed pay awards are essentially pay cuts which are expected to be funded by taking money away from our children in the classroom. This is why not only teacher unions but also leadership unions, who have never considered taking action at any time in our history, are balloting for industrial action to protect the future of our schools.

Once again, this week OAK pupils have achieved well above the national average in the year 6 SATs and we look forward to seeing Year 11 students on 24th August to collect their GCSE results. We are proud that our community support the hard work being undertaken in our schools to ensure that our young people are in the very best position for the next stage of their education, employment, or training. Thank you and have a fantastic summer.

From the Chair of Trustees – Ross Grant

The past year has been another busy one for the trust board. We routinely do a lot of work to ensure schools and teachers can focus on our children. We have a duty to look after the money received from the DFE and work closely with schools on their budgets. The trust is dedicated to school improvement and works hard with school teachers and senior leadership teams to improve classroom experiences. The board also reviews and adopts myriad policies to reduce the burden on the schools, helping to make processes standard and more efficient across our trust.

We have recruited new trustees to strengthen the board with rich experience and knowledge in areas important to running our schools and I welcome and thank those new trustees.

All of this is done to ensure the focus is on our children and they receive the best school experience they can. It is a continuous process that never stops.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers, staff and parents who have helped us working to achieve this over the past school year, and for continuing to in the future.

Welcome to our new Trustees...

Our recruitment drive for new trustees has come to a natural conclusion as we now have 11 trustees with a variety of skills. They will be visiting the schools and getting to know our staff and students next term. Welcome to:

Isaac McNamara (Environment and Sustainability)

Gaurav Suri (Procurement)

Jane Doughty (HR)



WELCOME ABOARD

The end of term is always a very busy time but we look forward to welcoming a number of people into new senior leadership roles in August (some have already started!)... exciting times for all!

Overdale Infants

Vesna Knezevic – Assistant Headteacher

Overdale Juniors

Tanya Cross – Deputy Headteacher

Rachel Chalk – SENDCo

Manor High School

Simon Greiff – Headteacher

Dilip Karavadra – Assistant Headteacher

Andrew Cross – Assistant Headteacher

Sandeep Tara – Associate Assistant Headteacher



Duke of Edinburgh's Award- Silver Award Expedition

On Sunday 18th June at 0730 pupils met at Manor High to leave for the Peak District to complete their Silver Qualifying expedition. The minibus dropped the participants off near Bamford station. From there the teams had to navigate their way to the first night's campsite. Thankfully all arrived and set up their tents just before the thunder and rain started. Although some got wet while cooking their evening meal!

After a good night's sleep, breakfast had to be cooked before packing up camp and walking to Hardhurst Farm, near Hope. Thankfully the weather was kinder for the second day, all pupils arrived in good spirits and set up camp, cooked an evening meal and enjoyed a relaxed evening before turning in for the night.

The third day was not to be the same and heavy rain thwarted the progress of one of the teams. None the less, no complaining occurred. The pupils were well prepared thanks to all the previous training session. However, all seemed relieved to get onto the minibus at Fairholmes and Heatherdene to begin the journey home. The journey took a lot longer than planned with the M1 being closed for 4 hours! They worked hard and showed great resilience throughout!



Barcelona, Spain

From Tues 27th June to Friday 30th June students in Years 8 to 10 participated in the first post-Covid Manor High School trip to Barcelona. The group stayed in a perfectly situated hotel just moments away from the city's famous La Rambla, an iconic boulevard filled with shops, mime artists, street vendors and artists. From there, they were able to explore a number of landmarks on foot, including El Monumento a Colón, a 60 metre tall monument to Christopher Columbus, La Boquería indoor market, Plaça Catalunya and the port, including Maremagnum, one of Barcelona's most distinctive shopping malls right in the centre of the port. There was even a trip to the beach, Barceloneta, with time to relax and play some football and frisbee to unwind on Day 2.

Evening meals were eaten out in a variety of restaurants along La Rambla, and students were able to sample delicious tapas and other authentic Spanish cuisine. Coach visits included Parc del Laberint d'Horta, a historical garden and maze, the city's iconic cathedral, La Sagrada Família, Gaudí's Parc Güell, and Poble Espanyol, where students shopped for souvenirs and participated in a paella cookery class before sitting down together to enjoy the fruits of their labour over a relaxing lunch! A highlight for many was a full day at WaterWorld in Lloret de Mar, where the adrenaline junkies amongst the group could ride the many and varied flumes and slides, whilst those who wanted a quieter day had the opportunity to relax on sun loungers around the water park's Llac Relax.

The students were true ambassadors for Manor High School and practised their language skills with great enthusiasm, as well as taking part in an interactive treasure hunt stretching from Plaça Catalunya to El Monumento a Colón.

[Link to trip video](#)

Opal Coast, France

Last week, students across Years 8 to 10 visited the Opal Coast in France. On day 1, students visited Boulangerie Le Fournil, a French bakery where students had the opportunity to learn how to make artisan French bread. The following day, students spent the morning sand yachting in Boulogne-sur-Mer, followed by a visit to Nausicaa Sealife Centre in the afternoon, where students were exposed to 58,000 living creatures including giant manta ray, penguins and sea lions.

Students visited Le Touquet, a French seaside resort and Le Touquet Marché Couvert, a covered market selling delicious fruit, cheeses, seafood and cured meats to sample. A memorable visit for many was a trip to Les Escargots du Bocage, a traditional, working snail farm that sees this French delicacy's journey from farm to plate!

The students' final evening was spent at a local bowling alley in Calais and, on their final day, students experienced a French hypermarket, Auchan, en route to the return ferry, where last-minute gifts and souvenirs were purchased.

The group's adventure can be viewed in full on Manor High School's MFL department Twitter page, @ManorHighMFL



Girl Guide Awards

MANOR HIGH SCHOOL
www.manorhigh.leics.sch.uk

Congratulations to Niamh, who was recently awarded the Guide Gold Award and The Commonwealth Award. The Gold Award is the highest award that a Girl Guide can achieve through the group programme. The Commonwealth Award is an additional award open to anyone in Guiding aged 13-25yrs old to learn more about the Commonwealth as well as the history of Guiding and also includes community service and creativity elements. There were only three Commonwealth Awards given out and Niamh was only just eligible in that age category. A fantastic achievement!



BROOKSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL
www.brookside.leics.sch.uk

The Cubbie

We are delighted to have a 'Cubbie' in the school which is proving extremely popular with staff and children alike! The Cubbie is being used as both a tool to help children regulate but also as a reward for children who enjoy an immersive sensory experience. It also helps with stress and anxiety, and can be used for some mindfulness before or after the working day!



BROOKSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL
www.brookside.leics.sch.uk

School Trips

Last week saw the Year 6 sleep over which included making pizzas, s'mores and having a go on an adaptive bike! This session is run by Wheels for all, they provide a variety of different bikes for our children to ride. It is both challenging and great fun!

Various end of term trips out have taken place, including the zoo, Warwick Castle, Cresswell crags and a beach day at Hunstanton! Riverbank have also been to Fun Valley for the day which was a new trip for the school. Year 4 had a wonderful trip to Beaumanor. The rain fell and they got very wet, soon finding out that not all tents are waterproof! However a fabulous time was had by all and the Year 4s loved their 'wild' experience.



Eco Flag



Eco-Schools

Green Flag
Award Holder

Brookside has been awarded the Eco flag for the 4th time and this shows their ongoing dedication to helping look after our planet. The school now has a lovely garden area that they hope to utilise fully with children being able to sit quietly, enjoy the view and do some birdwatching. They are feeding the birds all the time and have spotted more and more different species this half term.



WGPS Mosaic

From the first tiles to the completed mosaic, WGPS were delighted to have Nikki McCathie in school earlier on this term. She worked with Mrs Turner (the Art Lead) and children from preschool all the way up to Year 6. The final design incorporated many of the sketches and ideas the children had submitted that reflected the school. So, from the wellington boots for the forest school to the Woodland Grange Owl, every little piece was put into place by the children to create the final piece. After it had all been grouted and cleaned it was returned to the school and we look forward to seeing it on display in pride of place by the main school entrance.



Sports Awards

On Wednesday 5th July WGPS were excited to attend the South Leicestershire School Sports Partnership Awards evening. Woodland Grange had been nominated in the category of Primary School of the Year for Sport and Wellbeing. The school was nominated because of the huge range of sports on offer in the curriculum and through the huge range of extra-curricular clubs, competitions and intra competitions. We were delighted to see WGPS announced winners for the Oadby & Wigston area. Mrs Pearce, the PE Lead and Mr Evans, the Sports Coach, collected the award for the school from Rob Paternostro, the Leicester Riders Basketball Club Head Coach.



First Mathematics Challenge

There is nothing that our children love more than some maths problems to get them thinking and for the first time ever in June we participated in the Mathematical Association's 'First Maths Challenge'. Over 60 of our children in Year 3 and 4 signed up for this and worked hard at home to prepare themselves for the challenges. The questions encourage them to think outside the box and approach problems in a logical manner. The 20-question multiple choice test is completed in June in school, starting with some easy questions but gradually getting harder as they approach the last few. We are keeping our fingers crossed as we await the results and look forward to handing out certificates to our children in assembly.





OVERDALE INFANT SCHOOL
www.overdale-inf.leicester.sch.uk

Colour Dash

On Friday 28th April the whole school took part in a Colour Dash. This was a sponsored event in support of Leicester Children's Holidays. This is a Leicester based charity which provide free respite breaks for children who face difficult circumstances at home. The afternoon was enjoyed by children and staff who went home covered in colour. Thank you for your support, the school raised a massive £3,470



Living Eggs

In May the school received a very exciting delivery of 10 hen eggs. When they hatched the children were very excited and they enjoyed seeing the chicks develop over two weeks. This was a wonderful opportunity for the children to experience the lifecycle and demonstrate their respect and care for living things.



Clean Air Day

On Thursday 15th June Overdale Infants participated in Clean Air Day. The theme of the day was "Clean up our air to look after your mind this #CleanAirDay". The annual campaign is a moment when people come together to voice their support, hold events, make pledges and take action to create cleaner air. The road close to school was closed and each class had a slot outside to enjoy the space and think about taking care of the environment. Children and staff really enjoyed this opportunity.



Coronation

To celebrate King Charles III coronation, the school had a coronation parade. The children came to school dressed in red, white and blue, they made flags and they had a design your own crown competition. The singing club performed a special coronation song.





School council charity work

It is a pleasure to share news of the wonderful charitable activities taking place at Overdale Junior School. These events not only provide children with the opportunity to make a difference in the world but also teach them the value of giving to others, money management, creative thinking and team building skills. This year, each year group organised their own enterprise stalls which were incredibly successful. We are delighted to announce that they managed to raise a fantastic combined total of £2,938 for Rainbows, Cancer Research UK, and Helping Children in Ukraine.

The success of their events can be attributed to the incredible effort put in by the children and their families. They have generously donated their time, energy, and support, and it is clear that they have had a lot of fun in the process. The children worked together as a team to bring their ideas to life and make the events a resounding success. Well done Overdale Junior School!

The Coronation

As part of our celebration of the King's Coronation, we invited children to create a crown and wear it to school on Thursday 4th May. Children enjoyed wearing red, white and blue for the occasion and in assembly, we loved seeing all of the incredible crowns being paraded. Our judges had fun choosing a winner per year group for the most creative crown. Here are the winning entries:



Music at Overdale Juniors

In the Spring and Summer Terms, the school continued to use their Music Mark and Bronze Quality Mark efforts to enthuse and include all children in music.

Singing Assemblies have continued throughout the year. The quality of singing and enthusiasm has risen considerably this year. Many children have volunteered to play or sing solo in assemblies. This is definitely a school who enjoy music as a vital curricular area.

As well as end of year concerts showcasing the focus and enthusiasm of all year groups, the peripatetic teachers continue to support students with lessons in percussion, brass, flute, recorder, guitar and ukulele.

This culminated in a wonderful celebration of their input and the students' hard work on June 27th, when over 50 family members were invited to join the school for a coffee morning of music, singing and catwalk Trash Fashion. This event was very popular and parents were extremely proud to see their children perform. The students enjoyed the more 'relaxed' performance style of a coffee morning as opposed to a formal concert performance and were delighted to not only share their musicality but get to watch everyone else perform too.



Saving Saffron Brook Project

Overdale Juniors has been privileged to be part of the Saving Saffron Brook project this year, run by Leicester City Council and the Canals and Rivers Trust. They have been working to improve the Ecosystem around the Saffron Brook with the hope to increase biodiversity, especially increasing the populations of bats, kingfishers and otters. Within the school grounds, work has been completed within the brook to naturalize the flow of water and to develop meanders, which has already led to a wider variety in water depth which is ideal for otters. The school has also installed a man-made otter holt which we hope will be inhabited soon!



The project was keen for the children to have greater access to the brook and so a new access point has been created with a platform so the children can sit next to the water and have access for dipping and deeper observations. It is a very peaceful area and has already been visited by all the classes and used for Art, Geography and class reading sessions. This project has also seen the installation of 4 beautiful sculptures around the school: the dragonfly by the pond, the bat by the Addy, the otter in the Spinney and the acorn and oak leaf in the new access area.

These are special reminders of the wonderful grounds we have at Overdale and remind us that we share them with an amazing array of wildlife. We are very grateful for Sam Woods and her team at the Council for all they have brought to us with this project.

500 words competition

29 June marked the third annual 500 words competition, which brings together all the primary schools across the trust as all Year 2s and Year 6s enter a writing competition to produce something amazing within 500 words. The finalists were invited to a presentation morning where the winners were announced. We were amazed by the stories submitted this year and congratulations to our winners.

Year 2 Bronze: Liyana Jussab, BPS
 Year 2 Silver: Prisha Pradeep, WGP
 Year 2 Gold: Mia Laurenti, OIS

Year 6 Bronze: Zak Ahmad, OJS
 Year 6 Silver: Zainab Khan, WGP
 Year 6 Gold: Malakai Cooke-Robinson, OJS





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