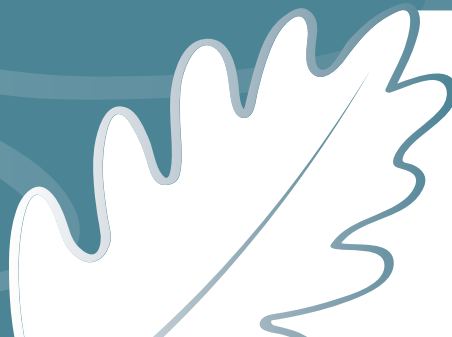


Newsletter

Autumn 2023



I'm pleased to share with you our latest trust newsletter which gives a very brief flavour of what has been going on across our family of schools. This term, like all terms, has been a busy one.

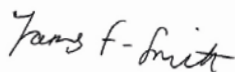
We started the academic year by bringing all our staff across our schools together to share good practice. It's one of my favourite events of the year, it's great to see our vision coming into fruition where staff feel part of our one Oak family but are also very proud of the identity and individuality of their school. At this event I spoke about our need to be vulnerable with one another to build strong relationships and be the best we can be for our pupils. We also launched our common framework for teaching, and we introduced our behaviour absolutes which is defining how we want our staff to aspire to behave. We have also been working on our approach to wellbeing and ensuring our people are well looked after. Often for me running high quality schools isn't that complicated it is about ensuring staff are well looked after, making sure teaching is the best it can possibly be, and ensuring the culture is one where people behave with mutual respect and do everything possible in the interest of getting the best outcomes for our pupils.

Very early this term we received a visit from Ofsted at Elms Bank, I'm very proud to say they were rated as Outstanding across all areas. This is no mean feat, the school hadn't been inspected for many years and has almost doubled in size and now on multiple sites, it's a huge achievement but well deserved. This term saw me officially become an Ofsted inspector; it will be a role I can fulfil alongside my current role as CEO completing around six inspections a year. I believe the training and insights I receive in this role will be invaluable for our schools as I will be able to share good practice and ideas with our leaders. I'm committed to raising standards in education outside of the trust but doing it with compassion and understanding. There have been other key staffing developments in the trust, Orienne Langley-Sadler has taken up the role of Executive Head and she will be supporting the trust with school improvement projects and growth, she remains the Head at Elms Bank but has capacity due to the talented senior team there. Claire Ferguson joined us as Chief Finance Officer, she joins us with a vast amount of experience of this role having previously worked for two other trusts and brings essential expertise with her.

It's been great to visit schools and see some of the festive events going on, but due to family commitments I was unable to attend the winter concert, my colleagues told me how wonderful it was to see pupils from all three schools perform at the same event. Due to the late finish, I'm now starting to be concerned about being prepared for my own family Christmas and my three children not being disappointed come Christmas day! I realise for some Christmas can be a difficult time and for others not a time for celebration, I hope you find some peace and rest in the break.

Many thanks for everyone's continued support.

Happy Christmas



James Franklin-Smith
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)



Growth within our Trust

We are extremely pleased to share the news that the trust has now been officially named as the Sponsor of Spring Lane Pupil Referral Unit. This is a school for some of Bury's most vulnerable young people who need as much support as possible to thrive. We are proud to support the leadership at the school, to improve the experiences of the young people there. The school are currently going through a relocation process, and we are working with the Local Authority on a temporary solution, but ultimately a new building which we hope will be co-located with our new Free school for pupils with social, emotional and mental health challenges, we believe our pupils would get so much more with shared resources and staffing.



Lowercroft continues to be an associate member of the trust and are actively engaging in all our school improvements, they will join the trust in the future.



Our Outreach offer is starting to grow and Nic Pemberton who successfully secured the post of Head of Outreach, the vision is to build a team of experts that can support our schools and schools outside of our trust, to be the best they can be for all their pupils.

As a trust the Local Authority have commissioned us to support a local Jewish Secondary School, Mesivta, and Paul Greenhalgh, Headteacher at Hazel Wood High School will be mentoring the new Headteacher there from January 2024.

We are also in conversations with a number of other local schools and hope to be able to officially share some further news around secondary and special growth in the future.

Our People Matter

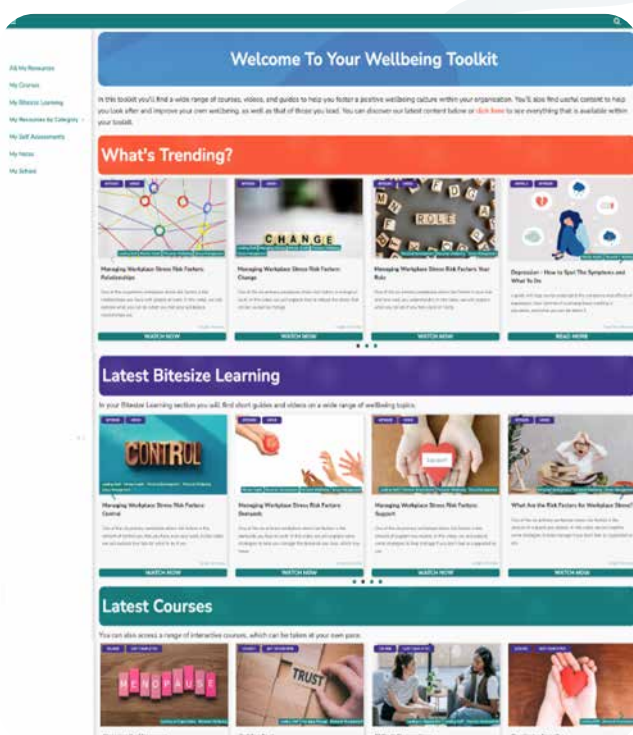
As a trust we are dedicated to promoting staff wellbeing. As a group of schools, we have developed a trust wide wellbeing policy and have introduced a trust workload charter. To further develop our commitment to wellbeing we are thrilled to share that in January we will be collaborating with Welbee, a dedicated staff wellbeing improvement service.

Staff wellbeing is a priority for us, and the Welbee Toolkit is a resource designed to support our wellbeing journey ensuring that our staff feel supported, valued and empowered allowing them to thrive and do their best work.

Staff will have access to the Welbee Toolkit, which has a wealth of resources, including:

- **Bitesize Videos:** Short, practical videos to assist managing and enhancing wellbeing.
- **Interactive Courses:** In-depth courses that focus on wellbeing and leadership topics, empowering staff to develop essential skills.
- **Wellbeing Guides:** Comprehensive guides that will aid wellbeing and leadership development.

We look forward to receiving feedback from our staff when this is launched in January 2024.





Oak LP Outreach

Oak LP Outreach Update

Since the official launch of OakLP Outreach last academic year the team has brought together the network of Special Educational Needs coordinators from across the Bury authority.

OakLP Outreach have delivered four sessions of 'Making Sense of Autism' training to professionals across Bury this half term. This training aims to extend professionals understanding of how autism affects pupils in school and helps to increase their expertise in recognising a pupil's individual strengths and differences.

They are also working alongside the speech therapy team and the virtual school to deliver the primary Elklan course. To train professionals in Bury schools to support pupils with speech, language and communication difficulties and remove barriers to learning.

Keep up to date with the latest Outreach News, Packages of Support and Training Courses available via the Outreach Website.

outreach.oaklp.co.uk



Investment in Our Schools

Investing in facilities in our schools can have a significant impact on the learning environment and overall educational experience for our students. Upgrading and improving school facilities can enhance safety, promote student engagement, and provide better resources for teaching and learning. Here is a flavour of the work already carried out in our schools over the Summer Term.



Unsworth Primary School Sensory Extension is now completed, creating a fantastic space for professionals to deliver various therapies to our children.



Unsworth
Primary School



The memorial garden has had a transformation in the playground, creating a communal area for the children to sit.





Hazel Wood High School



Hazel Wood high school's new Aspire Centre which is an area of multiple use for those requiring an alternative pathway to the main Hazel Wood High School curriculum is now complete.



Additional modern toilets have now been created at Hazel Wood High School.



Elms Bank School & College

Elms Bank School have had a new sensory playroom completed over the Summer in the Discover Pathway.



To create privacy for both students and residents within the school grounds the mile a day sensory garden has been refurbished.





Elms Bank
School & College



The term started with a bang as we had our Ofsted Inspection.

We are all so proud of our staff and students achieving Outstanding!!! The OFSTED process was a rigorous and robust one, where inspectors were blown away by what our staff could show them that they do, not just on a two-day inspection, but what they do every single day. We are exceptionally passionate about our young people and the community we serve, and I am so pleased that OFSTED recognised everyone's hard work.

We welcomed new staff and students into the Elm Bank community, and I am happy to see them settling into the Elms Bank way of life.

We have had an arrangement of exciting activities throughout the Autumn term which included our Winter concert. The Winter Service was incredible, it is always lovely to hear and see our choir but being joined by Hazel Wood and Unsworth students made it even more special.

I am immensely proud of all of students and what they had achieved this term.

I hope that you have a restful holiday.

Orienne Langley-Sadler
Executive Headteacher

Heathfield Class Trip to Tesco

Heathfield class went to Tesco on Monday 4th December to spread plenty of Christmas cheer with their amazing singing and signing. They then helped our local community by packing groceries at the till. Heathfield raised an incredible £74.46 and are going to choose a community cause to donate to during Personal Social Health Education.



**£74.46
raised**

Christmas Tree Decoration Competition

Students were invited to create a Christmas tree decoration for use in the Hydro Pool area. Mia and Alfie have won prizes for beautiful colouring for the hydro competition. They were very happy with their prizes.



**Well
Done
Alfie!**

**Great
Work
Mia!**



Elms Bank School & College

Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday, 3rd November, the Elms Bank College Hub hosted a Macmillan Coffee Morning. We have a strong focus on community at the college Hub and supporting charities is very important to us. Staff and students worked collaboratively to plan and deliver this event.

Students took part in an assembly based on the work of Macmillan cancer support, produced invitations, baked cakes, decorated our theatre, and served our guests. The College Crooners performed and entertained everyone with a selection of songs.

Our coffee morning raised £273.40 for Macmillan Cancer support.



£273.40 raised

**** Congratulations ****
**** Qasim ****

Elms Bank Internship News

Great news! After completing his internship placement with Tesco and doing lots of interview practice. Qasim has now started a paid temporary position at Tesco! Well done, Qasim, we are so proud of you!

All our Interns have done well on their first placements and will be starting their second placement in the New Year. Kate has just started as Kitchen Porter at Wax and Beans Cafe in Bury! They have made her feel so welcome! Thank you, so much and Merry Christmas, to all our placement hosts at Fairfield Hospital, Crèche & Co, Tesco, Wax and Beans, Unsworth Primary School, British Heart Foundation, Mencap and Elms Bank.



Pantomime Trip

In November, our KS4 Performing Arts students hopped on the bus to Pantoland via Bolton Victoria Hall to watch the pantomime, Cinderella. As part of the Arts Award qualification, KS4 Performing Arts students must watch a live performance and give their review of it; what they liked, what they didn't like and their favourite moment of the show.

Here's what our Elms Bank critics thought of the show:

"I didn't like it when the sisters ripped up Cinderella's invitation".

"I enjoyed it when the ugly sisters picked on a teacher from the audience".

"My favourite character was Cinderella".

The cast of Cinderella invited the audience to participate in their finale song 'Sparkle and Shine' and in true Elms Bank fashion, our pupils definitely shone as they danced, sang and signed along.





Hazel Wood
High School



We have enjoyed another excellent start to the school year at Hazel Wood, and our staff have continued to dedicate themselves to ensuring that our students achieve their academic potential by providing them with a high-quality education.

As highlighted in our recent Ofsted inspection and in our external review in Nov 23, Hazel Wood continues to be a good school that students are happy to attend and where students wear their uniform with pride.

Last year at this time I wrote that we have celebrated the best results this school has seen in a long while, however, I am pleased to say that we beat them again this year! I am thrilled to report that based on the current validated DfE progress data, the school is now ranked the 2nd best in Bury, previously 5th in 2022 and 14th in 2019, and is therefore once again the most improved school in the Local Authority and potentially even wider! We have gone from the bottom 10% of schools in the UK in 2019 to being in the top 30% of schools in the UK with an above average progress score. This is a huge achievement showing the rewards of our hard work, and it feels so good to know that our students are going on the right future path and that we have a school we can be immensely proud of.

As always, we have continued to strive to enrich the lives of our students with a number of exciting activities and events. A particular highlight for myself during this term has been the positive role the school continues to play in the wider community, which is demonstrated through the charitable work and community events we have been involved in.

Paul Greenhalgh
Headteacher

Bury Defence Academy Inter Club Boxing Event

Mr Greenhalgh and Mrs Jones were delighted to accept an invitation to attend the inter club boxing event on Saturday 11th November at Bury Defence Academy and were met by the Club Chairman Ifti Ahmed.

The atmosphere was remarkable, it was lovely to see so many Hazel Wood Students taking part in the event and competing in the ring. Mr Greenhalgh was invited to present medals and delivered a speech about the amazing partnership between the club and the school, he also explained how proud he was to see so many Hazel Wood High school students taking part in such meaningful experiences at the club from training to volunteering and some even working for the club.





Hazel Wood High School

Hazel Wood Fundraising

Following recent successful remembrance events, Hazel Wood High School students alongside Mr Greenhalgh, Headteacher, proudly present a cheque for £200 to Rod Lloyd from The Royal British Legion.



£200 raised

Hazel Wood Remembrance Events

Hazel Wood High School students paid their respects for Remembrance Day with a 2-minute silence in school at 11.00am on Friday 10th November as part of a special Remembrance Assembly. Mrs. Hopkinson played the last post and Students from each year group laid a wreath as a further show of respect for those who have lost their lives.

Hazel Wood students also further paid their respects on Remembrance Day, joining the Headteacher in laying a wreath at Bury Cenotaph. Huge thanks to Steven Fitt for our invitation to be part of such a special day.



Winter Concert Performance

It was a great pleasure to perform alongside such talented and dedicated students from Elms Bank. Thank you so much to Elms Bank for inviting us to their school to collaborate in this amazing Winter Festival.

Our students were nervous as they arrived but left planning what they will be performing at next year's Christmas Concert, wanting to bring it bigger and better! We can't wait to see where our students' music talent takes us next.





Unsworth Primary School



This term we have focused on enhancing children's learning experiences through memorable moments. We are always keen to ensure children create lifelong memories, making learning real, relevant, and fun!

We have worked hard to develop our communication and positive relationships with parents and carers this term. We held a 'Class Call In' for parents in October. This was a wonderful opportunity for children to show their parents around their classrooms after school.

Parents Evenings also took place in November and parents had individual meetings with class teachers to discuss progress. Parents were really pleased with the new format of the evenings and gave very positive feedback to school.

Year 6 parents have been into school to find out about the format of the Y6 SATs week and how they can support their children at home. Reception parents enjoyed a Phonics Workshop and a 'Stay and Play' session.

We have introduced a new online learning platform call SeeSaw, that allows parents to see images, videos and learning from school. It is proving to be very popular and further enhancing links between home and school.

As we approach Christmas, the children are busy practising their singing ready for our Year 2 Nativity, and Christmas Sings. Our Choir are excited to be visiting the local community to sing and are also performing at Elms Bank's Winter Concert.

Jo Grundy
Headteacher



Multi-faith Week

We hosted a multi-faith week in October and welcomed Prags Birk into school - she worked with every class across school. This amazing week was fully funded by the trust, Oak Experiences Fund.

All our children collaborated to create some stunning art pieces, which are now displayed in our school for everyone to enjoy. Prags taught the children all about Hinduism and Sikhism and the importance of tolerance and respect. Children took part in Bollywood dancing and in Year 6 they learnt about arranged marriage.



Unsworth
Primary School



Wilderness Camp for Year 5

Year 5 loved their exciting night, camping on the school field. This activity was part funded from Oak LP Oak Experience fund. The children pitched their own tents, collected firewood for the campfire, toasted marshmallows and sang songs around the campfire.

These memories will last the children a lifetime. The camping experience has supported their personal development and independence. This will now be an annual event for Year 5 and is an important step for the children, before they experience their residential in Year 6.



Robin Wood for Year 6

At the start of the Autumn Term Year 6 relished their annual residential trip to Robin Wood. The children enjoyed three days and two nights at the activity centre in Todmorden. They developed their teamwork skills, showed resilience and courage to step out of their comfort zones and enjoy new activities.



Keep up to date

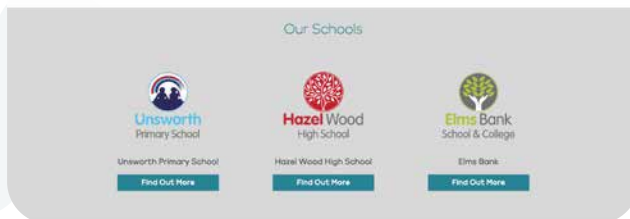
To keep up to date with everything that takes place within our trust you can follow us on **X** and Facebook.

Click on **Welcome to Oak Learning Partnership** (oaklp.co.uk) and choose your school.



Join Our Trust

Are you passionate about working within an educational setting. As a trust we are always looking for enthusiastic, hardworking individuals to join our team. Please follow the link to visit our vacancy portal on Vacancies at Oak Learning Partnership (oaklp.co.uk) to apply for the latest vacancies within our schools.



As the Autumn/Winter term ends, we wanted to thank all our trust staff and parents for their dedication, hard work, and support which has helped shape our growth and success. Wishing you all a lovely break and look forward to seeing you in January.

