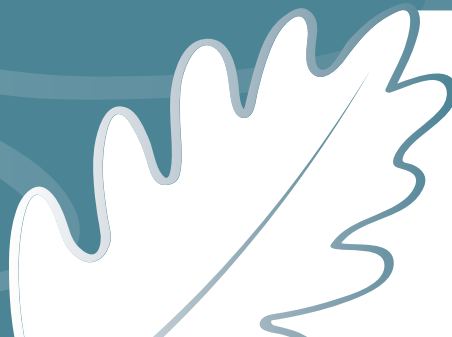


# Parent Newsletter

2021 - 2022



Hello and welcome to our first addition of Oak Learning Partnership magazine. We felt it was important to develop different ways of communicating with all our stakeholders. We plan to send one out each term, to complement our communication through our school and trust twitter accounts. Hopefully this magazine gives a flavour of the work of the trust and reflects how being in a trust adds value to our schools, as well as providing an opportunity to celebrate individual successes at school level.

I have now been in post for almost twelve months and it has been an absolute joy to get to know each of the school communities and the wider Bury community. We have a very talented group of leaders and committed staff across all of our schools and I've learnt a lot from them over the last year. It would be easy to forget what a challenging year it has been. When we started the year there was a feeling that there may be a return to normal following the pandemic. In fact, the first half of the academic year presented us with some of the most challenging circumstances schools have ever faced and I'm proud of how staff have responded to this and thankful for the understanding from parents. The second half of the year has allowed for much more continuity and I'm pleased with the progress made in all of our schools. It's wonderful to see parents and carers in our schools again attending events and sharing experiences with their children.

As a trust we have worked as a group on a number of projects this year which will help improve the quality of education that we deliver for our young people, including providing significant professional development opportunities for staff and strengthening our governance model. Alongside these we have made great progress in developing our central business support services. This will ensure that our leaders in schools can really focus on constantly improving the pupil experience and in time this will also deliver financial efficiencies. This in turn will ensure that we can invest more resources in schools. As a trust we have invested significantly in the estates of each of our schools as we want to provide the best facilities we can for our pupils, and more projects are planned.

As we move into the new academic year we have developed a common language around how we approach aspects of our work but our vision remains the same: we want to work in partnership to support one another and gain the benefits of this, at the same time as ensuring that we protect the individual identity of each of our schools and their ability to adapt and deliver what is best for their context. In short, we want to support one another to create exceptional schools which are all highly inclusive. I'm already looking forward to next year as we plan a trust whole staff event in September and execute a number of plans which will support our schools to continue to grow and improve.

May I take this opportunity to wish our whole community a very happy summer.

*Jaas F. Smith*



# Our Trust's Shared Principles

We are proud to share our newly-produced trust principles. As a group of schools working together in partnership we wanted to develop and explain our shared approaches as one singular organisation, made up of very individual parts. This has been a collaborative piece of work; trustees, leaders and members of school staff have contributed to their development. They explain our common approach and what we stand for. These along with our mission, vision and motto of 'inclusion at the heart of the trust' will form the foundation what we want to achieve, how we want to get there and what we stand for.



## An Exceptional Education for All

Central to our vision as a partnership of schools is our aim to run exceptional schools which deliver excellent outcomes for all learners. We are an organisation which is a beacon for strong inclusive practice. We share a common language around the curriculum and pedagogy. Our schools tailor their approach according to their context. We provide a framework of educational support centrally which helps our schools in their improvement journey. The staffing structure allows us to be flexible in the models of support which we can offer, and we can create new models of support that work for individual schools.



## Identity and Individuality

We are passionate about working in partnership as a group of schools, working together to increase capacity and creativity for all. We recognise the collective benefits that this collaborative approach brings. We are also committed to each of our schools having autonomy in many aspects of their work and we are resolute that each school will retain its own identity and protect its history. Leaders in our schools are well-supported and we understand that their autonomy and accountability are vital factors in securing the strong performance of their schools.



## Our People Matter

We ensure that our people are highly valued. We are committed to developing people at all levels. Whilst experience and qualifications can be important, our priority is recruiting people who want to make a difference, who share our values and vision, and who have the right attitude. We invest in the professional development of our people, offering opportunities across our schools. We value all of our people; our passion for inclusion is reflected not only across learners but across staff and we ensure that we support their well-being.



## Collaborate with Purpose

Our strength comes from our alliance of primary, secondary and special schools and we look to learn from one another. Our schools are committed to collaboration both within our group of schools and outside, and where approaches are having an impact these are shared and applied to other contexts within the partnership. Our schools actively support one another and so all benefit from the partnership. Strong central systems provide high quality support for all schools.



## Focus on Impact

We concentrate on the things that work rather than merely ticking boxes. We recognise that more often than not, keeping things simple and doing them consistently well makes the biggest difference. Our centralised support around business functions allows school leaders to focus on their core purpose - delivering an exceptional education.



## Values-Driven

We are a deep-rooted values-driven organisation and we are passionate about working with integrity and honesty, showing respect and kindness for everyone while ensuring we deliver the best education for our pupils. We understand that by creating environments with strong core values everyone thrives.

All of our schools have their own core values which are taught and lived. These are important to us as they feed into our values-rich wider trust family. We also recognise that each school's core values are an important part of their individual identities.

# Welcome to Phil Barlow and Chantlers Primary School

We are thrilled to be welcoming Phil Barlow to Oak Learning Partnership in September in the position of Executive Head teacher. Phil will continue to lead his own school Chantlers and he will take overall leadership of Unsworth Primary School closely supporting the work of Tahseen Ali in her new post as Head of school.

This arrangement ensures Unsworth receives the right balance of support and can build from strength to strength. Phil is a highly-experienced school leader; he's a National Leader in Education, an Ofsted inspector, and he has a wealth of experience leading and supporting schools of all types to improve. It's an exciting development not only for Unsworth but also for the wider trust family as Phil's perspective and expert input will undoubtedly contribute significantly to wider Oak strategy.



In addition to Phil taking up position, Chantlers Primary School is joining Oak Learning Partnership as an associate member. This will allow all parties/stakeholders to assess what a longer-term partnership would look like. This is an exciting development - Chantlers is a fantastic school. Situated at the heart of its community, Chantlers is oversubscribed and rightly has a strong reputation for the quality of education it offers its pupils.

**Oak is a unique trust as it has a special secondary, primary and secondary mainstream school.**

As we grow we are keen to share good practice across these sectors but we are also committed to grow within sectors as we know that sharing good practice within a sector has huge value. With this in mind we are excited to see how Unsworth and Chantlers can work together closely to support each other's development, collaborating across sites.

**A huge welcome to Phil and the whole Chantlers team!**



Elms Bank  
Sensory Garden

# Collaborative School Development

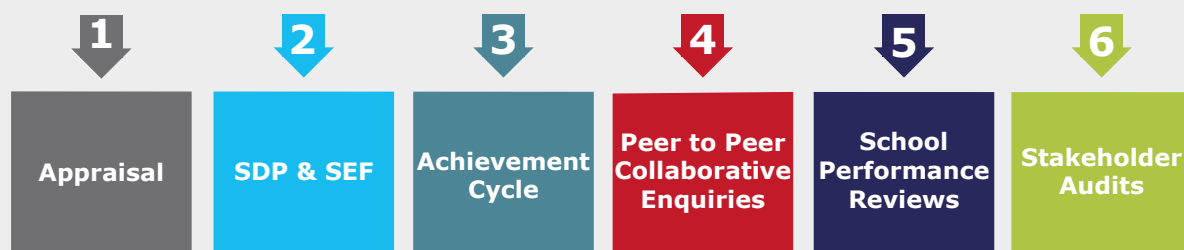
**We are constantly striving to improve teaching and learning in all our schools, to give our pupils the best possible educational experience. We always aim to ensure that every teacher is as good as they can be in what they teach and in how they teach it.**

This year colleagues from all of the schools in our Trust have worked together to create a process which we have called the School Improvement Cycle. Our staff reflected on their practice, shared ideas, and used the latest research as well as their own expertise to create the School Improvement Cycle.



## School Improvement Cycle

The School Improvement Cycle sets out key activities which must take place across the school year, including staff appraisal, monitoring of pupil achievement, assessment of teaching by outside agencies, and listening to the views of our parents, pupils and school communities. It is designed to improve the quality of education for our pupils. There are 6 main categories in our School Improvement Cycle.



We reviewed the curriculum in each of our schools as part of our school improvement programme. Although our Trust is comprised of three very different schools, we all share the same aims in designing our curriculums. Although our curriculums will be different in their details, we want them all to be aspirational, inclusive, empowering, values-driven and collaborative.



## Professional Development and Instructional Coaching

Training and professional development for our staff is also a key area of school improvement which we have been working on and we have a strong coaching programme in place to support our commitment to develop teacher expertise in our classrooms. Before the start of term in September, all our staff from across all our schools are meeting for a training day. Collaborating and learning from colleagues is a crucial part of improving all teaching. We are able to commission educational experts to hold large scale training events because as a Trust we are a large organisation.

Provision a high-quality training and collaboration with experts from within our own schools is a huge benefit which directly impacts upon the quality of teaching in our classrooms.



### C Reynolds

Executive Director of School Improvement

## Our plans for the future investment in our schools include:

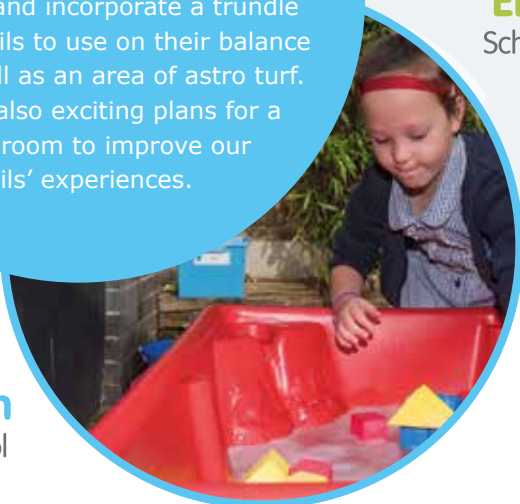
Each year we are constantly upgrading the facilities at all our schools, as we know that the learning environment is so important to the success and wellbeing of our pupils. The school holidays are always a busy time for our site teams, as they update the general state of repairs in all our schools, after the wear and tear of a very busy year. In addition there are some significant individual projects taking place in each of our schools.



At Hazel Wood High School, we are building new toilet facilities in a different area of school to ensure that they are more modern, more easily cleaned and more spacious. We are building extra space for the Design and Technology classroom to make it a brighter, bigger area to accommodate the pupils and give them more room to work on their fantastic projects. All pupils will benefit from the refurbishment of the AstroTurf which will return the surface to its 'as new' state. We have secured funding from the Department for Education to carry out essential re-roofing works.



Unsworth Primary School's outdoor area is being substantially improved and is being made safer for our younger pupils. The outdoor space for Reception and Year One has been redesigned to level it out and incorporate a trundle track for pupils to use on their balance bikes, as well as an area of astro turf. There are also exciting plans for a sensory room to improve our pupils' experiences.



At Elms Bank School, pupils will have a new multi-sensory room with light, sound and touch stimuli. We have plans for the installation of a polytunnel for pupils to grow fruit and vegetables which will then be used in food technology lessons. New roofing is being installed, and a new CCTV system will be installed to cover all areas of the site for security and safety.

Our wonderful schools have had an extremely busy year. We have taken advantage of the easing of the Covid restrictions to embrace the activities and events which give heart to our school life. The following gives a flavor of what has been happening in our schools this year. We very much hope you enjoy reading about our brilliant and unique schools.



# Hazel Wood High School



**Hazel Wood High School opened on the 2nd September 2019 as a sponsored Academy as part of Oak Learning Partnership, the school was formerly known as Broad Oak Sports college.**

The pride and determination of staff has been taken up by pupils, and visitors to school have recognised the changes. Many have commented on the calm, purposeful atmosphere in school. This has resulted in more pupils applying for places in year 7 as our standards and reputation have improved so significantly.

We have come a very long way since then, and the commitment and determination of staff to improve our school for our pupils has resulted in a transformation.

Our vision is to continue to foster a sense of pride and community and provide an opportunity to excel. The stand out feature for our school is the emphasis on community.

## Planting for the Future

**At Hazel Wood High School, the team planted approximately 455 trees in four plots surrounding the school grounds.**

A further 10 more established trees have been planted in conjunction with Ground Work Landscape Team.

These trees will also add aesthetic appeal to the outdoor break area for both teachers and pupils and reduce noise and air pollution from the neighbouring motorway.



## Operation Avro visits Hazelwood High

**Hazel Wood High School welcomed students from East Ward Primary to celebrate Operation AVRO on Thursday 26th May.**

Assistant Chief Constable Chris Sykes and Chief Superintendent Chris Hill enjoyed the morning talking with students and congratulated the two students from East Ward who were the competition winners, producing pictures of the helicopter. Operation AVRO | Greater Manchester Police ([gmp.police.uk](http://gmp.police.uk))



## Trip to Oxford

On the 8th of June 2022, in conjunction with Greater Manchester Higher, 23 year 9 students visited Corpus Christi College in Oxford University. The students participated in a workshop debate centered around the censorship of books and had a tour of the college, including lunch in the refectory.

The students then visited the Bodleian Library, where they took part in a workshop based around the discovery of the pharaoh Tutankhamun's tomb. The staff from Corpus Christi and the Bodleian commented about the high level of engagement from pupils and how well they had represented themselves and the school.'



# Elms Bank School & College

**Elms Bank is a multi-award-winning community secondary special school based in Bury, Greater Manchester. All our students have a Statement of Special Educational Needs. Our age-range is from 11 to 19.**

Our Key Stage 3 and 4 students attend our Ripon Avenue, Whitefield site and our Key Stage 5 students transition to our College Hub Provision, Bury Old Road, Prestwich.

Our vision is to work in partnership within a multi-disciplinary approach to meet the needs of all the young people in our school community. We create a safe and happy learning environment where everyone is treated with respect and dignity.

Here are a few of our news articles below over the last academic year:



## Year 11 Transition

**This term we have celebrated the amazing success of our year 11 students! Our leavers assembly kicked off all the action with a bang!**

This celebrated everything we like and admire about our students and how they have progressed over their time at Elms Bank School. After lots of laughs, smiles and a few tears, our year 11 students have begun their transition to Elms Bank College Hub. They are now accessing the hub full time and exploring all its amazing facilities.

The students have coped so well with all the change and uncertainty that transition brings and we are so proud of them! The Y11's went to Moorland home on their celebratory trip for all their hard work in their exams. This was a great success: the students went to the beach, bowling and even to the pleasure beach on the Pepsi max!

They are all ready for their well-earned rest during the 6 weeks holidays and can't wait to start their new lives as college students.



## Grease the Musical

**Staff and pupils at Elms Bank productions are re-creating Grease the musical which is due to show on the 19th and 20th July at the school.**

Rehearsals are in full swing and over 120 students across all our pathways have signed up to take part. The school production showcases the student's talents in drama, dance and music, with a number of students developing important skills behind the scenes through their support with props, costumes and merchandise.

In the meantime, Ripon team have been working together on a Giant Doodle whilst listening to Grease songs and Maple team doing Grease group doodles having lots of fun connecting with each other.



**It has been an incredible year for Elms Bank, with many outside accreditation organisations recognising our excellence in several areas.**

We were presented with the Sendia award for championing inclusion of SEND pupils, which attracted the attention of the local press. We were also incredibly proud to receive GOLD accreditation from Investors in people, an achievement only 17% of organisations across the whole county achieved.

Building further on our accolades we also received the National Gold Award for school Mental Health and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development for our pupils. We are thrilled that the hard work of our staff has been recognised with these prestigious awards.





# Unsworth Primary School



**At Unsworth Primary School we pride ourselves on providing children with a happy and stimulating environment in which they can learn, develop and achieve.**

The Pride and determination of staff has been taken up by pupils, We welcome working in partnership with our parents and carers to achieve the best for our children. We operate an open-door policy which encourages our parents into school to talk to us about their children. Every morning the school gates open at 8.50am and all class teachers and Senior Leaders are available on the playground as a point of access to set up times to meet, catch up about things that have happened or discuss up and coming events such as trips, assemblies or experiences.

Through our digital communications app Parent Hub we provide our parents with up to date information about all events trips, letters and aspects of school life. The app is free to download and allows all attachments and information to be stored in one place.

Here are some of the latest news articles below:

## Bury School Athletics

**Another Saturday morning of sport for Unsworth competing at the Bury Schools Athletics.**

Congratulations to all the athletes who represented school, an amazing achievement in itself!

We even had some medalists!



## Jubilee celebrations

**Year 1 have been busy making memory stones for our special day celebrating our queens Jubilee along with year 6 creating their own portraits of the queen to add to our gallery!**

I am sure you will agree that they have done a fabulous job.



## Sponsored Bunny Hop

**Year 1 did their sponsored Bunny hop for Bury Hospice and raised a fantastic £2131.00.**

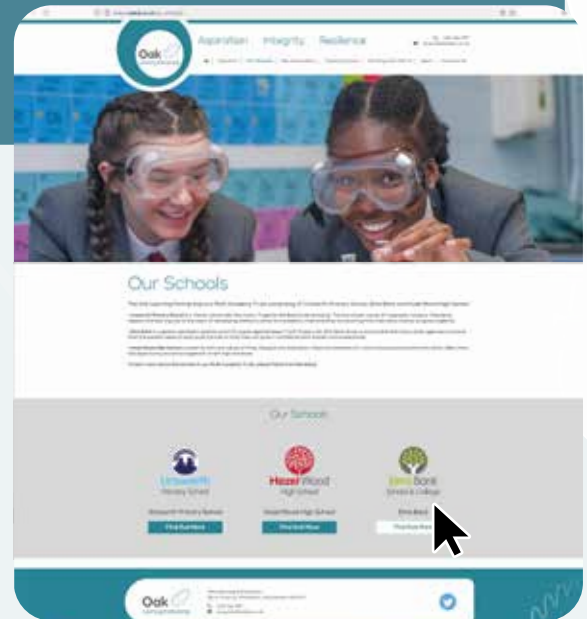
We had fun hopping up and down the playground as many times we could! They were very tired!



## Keep up to date

To keep up to date with everything that takes place within our academies you can follow us online on twitter and Facebook.

Click on Welcome to Oak Learning Partnership ([oaklp.co.uk](http://oaklp.co.uk)) and choose your school.



The Oak Learning Partnership believes in building an honest and productive relationship with parents, families, schools, other agencies and the local community based on overcoming challenges together to improve the life chances of our young people.



**We would like to thank all our parents for their support over the previous academic year and wish you all a lovely Summer and hope to see you again in September.**