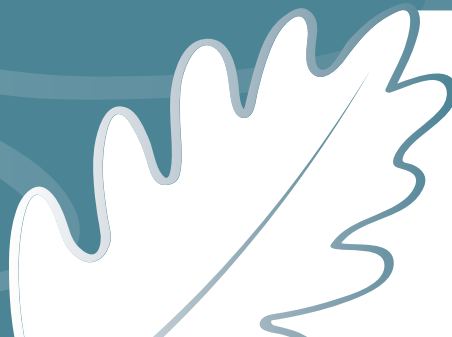


# Newsletter

Spring 2023



## Welcome to our second newsletter of the year.

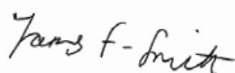
I hope everyone has had a good Easter and has managed to get some time to relax and enjoy some family time. For the first time in a number of years I took most of the school holidays off and it was wonderful to spend quality time with my three children. Towards the end of the break I did have a serious moment of reflection 'we only have one term left!'. It's my second year in post and I can't believe how quickly things have gone this year so far. So much achieved, but so much further work to do. I continue to be immensely proud of all our staff and pupils, each of our schools is going from strength to strength despite the different challenges that are thrown our way. Our staff are really starting to see the benefits of being part of trust and in a recent staff survey they were extremely positive about our trust, vision, ethos and shared principles.

Community members at both Hazel Wood High School and Unsworth primary school will already be aware that we were visited by Ofsted at both schools last half term. The inspections took place over the same two days, which was certainly a challenge for me personally. The outcome of both these inspections has to remain confidential until we are in receipt of the final reports. We will of course share the outcomes as soon as we can. I was incredibly proud to see how staff members across schools supported each other throughout the process and how pupils conducted themselves. We were proud to show our schools as they normally are day to day.

I'd like to personally welcome Jo Grundy our new headteacher at Unsworth into the trust. Jo joins us as a highly experienced Head of a high performing primary school in Bolton. It's an appointment Trustees, school governors and I are thrilled with. Seeing how Jo's previous school celebrated and thanked her for her contribution there only reiterated our confidence in the appointment.

One of the projects which is on-going, and we'd like to share more about soon is Oak Experiences. Trustees have made funding available for each of our schools to enhance their curriculum. I'm sure we can all agree that education isn't just about providing formal lessons (which is of course crucial) but also about creating memories that stay with pupils for the rest of their lives and develop them personally. I for one remember my year 9 outward bound residential vividly and I really value highly the extracurricular activities which developed me as an individual. In my twenty years of working in education the number of times I've seen these types of activities have a profound impact on pupils' development are endless. Look forward to sharing more soon.

Hope you enjoy reading the rest of our newsletter finding out about the work of the trust and each of our schools. Thank you for your continued support.



**James Franklin-Smith**  
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)



## Investment in our Schools

As a trust we are able to use central resources to fund and accelerate building developments the following are our most recent examples. We are currently planning further projects.



**Hazel Wood**  
High School



At Hazel Wood High School, Government CIF monies are being used on a roofing project and work is currently underway.

Enabling better access to classrooms, groundwork and resurfacing work are being carried out to the inner courtyard.

We have recently completed the installation of new aluminum doors to both sides of the underpass now completed, meaning easier accessibility to the classrooms.

## Meet Jo Grundy

I am delighted and extremely proud to have been appointed as the Headteacher of Unsworth Primary School. I will be enhancing the fantastic work at Unsworth; I am keen to work with staff and the parent community to raise standards and create a beacon of excellence. I have proven experience of delivering strong performance results in my previous Headteacher role in Bolton. I am values driven, passionate and committed. My strongly held core values are that excellent primary education experiences are fundamental to positive outcomes for pupils.

I will be utilising my core values, skills and experience to also enhance the Trust leadership team, working with them in a strategic capacity, to drive quality and performance, which will run alongside my role as a Headteacher.



**Elms Bank**  
School & College

The trust is thrilled to announce grant monies, from the government's Condition Improvement Fund, for a roofing project at Elms bank, work is currently underway. The trust received funding from the local authority which has been used to upgrade the theatre doors at Elms Bank College; they are now safer and fully functional. Let the show begin!

Planting of sapling hedgerows and fruit trees in the college grounds to attract wildlife and help the environment.



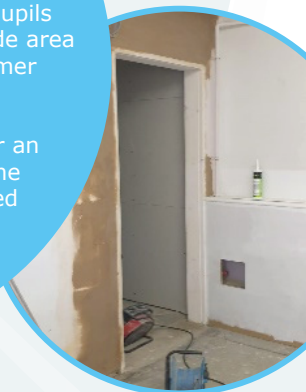
*Growing Wild...*



**Unsworth**  
Primary School

At Unsworth Primary, the refurbishment of the Early year's classroom has now taken place. The area is now like a brand new classroom and incorporates a changing/toilet facility. Staff and pupils love the new space along with outside area which was renovated in the summer holidays.

We are in the tendering phase for an exciting Sensory extension to the school. Once we have appointed the contractor, work will commence during Easter and spring break.



The staff at Unsworth Primary are now able to enjoy the amazing new space following the modernisation of the staff room.





## A Splash of Colour!

James, our CEO, made a plea to our schools for help to fill his office walls with some colour after many comments about how bare it was! Heads held a competition in each of their schools for pupils to produce artwork inspired by our strap line 'inclusion at the heart of the trust'.

**The winning entries are now proudly displayed in his office.**



James, along with some of the children from Unsworth Primary School, had the unenviable task of narrowing the entries to a final four with 2 runners up, following the submission of some fantastic pieces.

James presented certificates and Easter Eggs during assembly to the children whose Art made it onto his office wall.



Student representatives from Elms Bank were invited to the Central Team offices, to showcase their artwork and to see the winning artwork displayed on James' office walls.

**They thoroughly enjoyed their visit with James and enjoyed a treat or two. The children were presented with a voucher for their classes and a separate treat for their class contribution.**





## Oak LP Outreach

### The Launch of OakLP Outreach

**OakLP Outreach has officially launched. The team has worked this term to begin coordination of the SENCO network across the authority.**

With this in mind, we remember that **inclusion is at the heart of the trust** and as such we want to support all SEN learners within Bury.

As part of bringing the Special Educational Needs Coordinators together, we have coordinated a termly meeting by bringing together the multi-agencies to present their services to schools. **We are endeavouring to bring together, education, health and care.**

We have welcomed both primary and secondary colleagues that have been able to gain deeper understanding and hands-on experience of working with young people with Special Educational Needs.

Last but not least, we have coordinated our first series of **Support Surgeries**. This term the focus is Special Educational Mental Health. The surgeries have been an excellent opportunity for our colleagues, within the authority, to bring along a student case study. **A graduated approach of support is seen as key**, having welcomed colleagues from Bury Local Authority Inclusion Team, Bury Virtual School and Bury Educational Psychology Service.



**Christine Reynolds**  
Director of School Improvement

### School Improvement

**Our schools have shared principles and aligned ways of working whilst still retaining their unique identity.**

Through our shared principles, we continuously strive to improve. Top of the list is 'an exceptional education for all'.

Our three main ingredients in achieving an exceptional education for all, are:

- the curriculum we design for the pupils in each of our schools
- our teaching framework that ensures the highest quality and consistency of teaching in the classroom, and
- our continuous professional development programme for all staff

Each of our schools design and implement an ambitious curriculum offer for all their pupils. At each school, we strive to develop pupils' knowledge, skills and vocabulary to equip them to succeed in their next steps in education/work/life. The strength from our alliance as group means that we share knowledge and skills and learning, reflecting individually and as a group to continually improve for our pupils and each other.

**Leaders across all schools are refining our Oak teaching framework which will support all teachers to be as effective as they can be and will provide a common approach to support collaboration and professional development across the trust.**







# Elms Bank School & College

**Our Open Days welcomed prospective parents and students into school. This is a vital experience for new students, transitioning to high school/college. Well done to everyone involved!**

Parent workshops are going from strength to strength. Parents are engaging with our team, through the mastering mathematics and communication strategies workshops.

Here's what some of our children have been doing this term.

**Orienne Langley-Sadler**  
Headteacher

## The Arts Week - 'The Spirit of Manchester'

**February was our annual Arts week, a celebration of Music, Art and Drama across the whole school, with the theme 'Spirit of Manchester'.**

This was a wonderful opportunity for students to explore the cultural and creative past and present of Manchester.

- Eos, a harp and flute duo, performed on behalf of the Royal Northern College of Music.
- Joe Nelson and friends performed sing-alongs with songs from Elbow and Oasis
- Ceramicist, Daniel Smyth, worked with students on developing their clay skills
- Glass artist, Rose Holt, worked with students, creating beautiful pieces of stained-glass art.



A celebration assembly appropriately concluded a vibrant and inspiring week, with a Hacienda themed party. Students and staff dressed to impress!

## Residential Trip to Bendrigg

Students were successful in raising £1,288.40, enabling them to attend a long-awaited residential trip to Bendrigg, outdoor activity centre (climbing, football and canoeing).

**Staff and students returned blissfully worn out.**

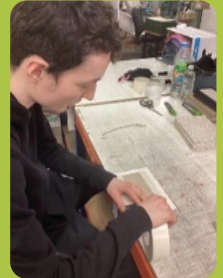


## Internship Students

**Interns have done us and themselves proud, working extremely hard at their placements, on their job applications, interviews, and during their work trials.**

Since February half term we now have:

- Three students on work trials at Radcliffe Market, Carrick Leather and Woodhouse Fold Farm, with the potential to lead to paid employment
- Two students commencing long term voluntary roles at British Heart Foundation and Whitefield Methodist Church,
- Two students continuing their fantastic placements at Wax and Beans and Garside's Garage
- Four students beginning new rotations within the hospital



**Well done keep up the excellent work.**

## Tree Planting Project

Elms Bank college and the City of Trees organisation have teamed together to make the college grounds leafier and greener, attracting more wildlife and promoting a positive ecological environment.

College students actively helped to plant over 300 hedgerow saplings and 5 fruit trees in the grounds, honing their digging and landscape skills.





# Hazel Wood High School

**We continued our excellent start to the school year at Hazel Wood with a fantastic beginning to our spring term.**

Staff continue to show their commitment to improving standards both inside and outside the classroom, as well as their resilience in the face of strikes. The strong/positive external review in the autumn term, confirms this sustained improvement in standards.

Investing in our learning spaces continues to be a feature of our school. We firmly believe this has a positive effect on students' learning experiences, helping to assist them in achieving their academic potential.

Here's what some of our children have been doing this term

**Paul Greenhalgh**  
Headteacher



## Careers Speed Networking Event

**In February a speed networking event held at Hazel Wood.**

Year 9 and 10 students were invited to meet with a number of representatives from various industries/sectors:

The RAF, Astra Zeneca, Qiagen, Vinci Construction, the NHS, Salford college, University of Manchester, Bury Council, Myerscough college, Hopwood Hall college, The Manchester college.



Students embraced the opportunity, moving from rep to rep, enjoying a 5-minute presentation and a short Q&A session.

Representatives also voiced their enjoyment at the event.

## Chester Zoo Visit

**This term, Year 10 and 11 Animal Care students visit Chester Zoo as part of their coursework preparation.**

They embraced the Animal Housing and Husbandry workshop, relishing the opportunity to design enclosures to meet the welfare needs of a range of animals.

Year 11 created ethograms from their observations of the animals. Their analysis will help them to understand animal behaviour.

It was a fantastic day. The pupils were beautifully behaved. Well done to all involved!

## World Book Day 2023

**The theme this year was the moral undertones of fairy tales. Each faculty had an interesting perspective to share.**

Animals, princesses, princes, galactic fighters, amongst many other amazing fairy-tale characters were a wonderful sight to behold, reminding us of our oral tradition and the fabulous literature that continues to be loved and learnt here at Hazel Wood.

We express our sincerest thanks to WHSmiths in Bury. We redeemed our tokens for World Book Day, giving each child at least one book from the World Book Day charity.



WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**  
2 MARCH 2023







# Unsworth Primary School

**Another busy spring term at Unsworth Primary School with lots of great developments across school.**

Staff, as usual, have been working hard to roll out our exciting new curriculum, implementing a new project in Science and Geography. The new projects are engaging our learners and the challenging content is ensuring pupils access the best learning experiences possible.

Our extra-curricular offer has also seen great success with pupils from across school accessing a variety of activities, including sports, art and singing to name a few.

Here's a snapshot of our pupils heavily and happily engaged in the activities.

**Jo Grundy**  
Head of School



## School Council

Several exciting projects including organising a poster competition across school, planning the Red Nose Day event and developing a campaign to tackle the parking issue on Blackley close.

Our councilors attended a cross Trust school council event at Elms Bank, impressing us with their confidence and collaboration with older pupils – our future leaders.

## New IT Equipment

**New laptops are proving an invaluable and welcomed resource.**

Pupils are quickly developing their skills in various aspects of the computing curriculum, a real win with our pupils!



## Learning Opportunities

Our new curriculum has inspired some extra learning opportunities including Y4's river walk, the hatching projects in Y5 and class assemblies which our parents just love to attend.



## Mental Health Wellbeing

**During the spring term we have been focusing on Mental Health and staff and pupils have been connecting with one another in various ways.**

Our mental health practitioner visited classes to talk about the 5 steps to well-being. We wore our scarves on SCARF day and staff enjoyed a connect breakfast in the staffroom. Croissants and pastries were an added treat for everyone!



## New Caterers - Aspens

Aspens are the new caterers chosen by the trust for all schools to provide the meal service for its pupils and staff. Aspens are looking forward to welcoming all for their school lunches. See sample menu below.



Aspens are experts in school catering and have years of experience when it comes to school food. The food children eat at school plays an important role in their wellbeing and eating a well-balanced diet will not only maintain and improve their health but will also set them on the right track for later life. Picking the right provider was really important to the trust.

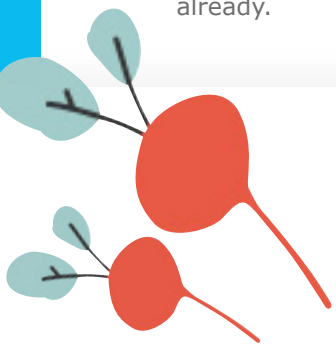


We would like to thank Aspens and we look forward to working with them ensuring uptake of meals improves as does the quality of food that is on offer. Early feedback has been really positive at all three schools and we encourage more pupils to try what's on offer if they haven't already.

Spring / Summer 2023 : 20/2.

# LUNCH WEEK 1 MENU

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>MAIN EVENT</b>	Beef & Hidden Veg Whole Grain Pasta Bolognese Green Salad	Bangers & Mash Green Beans	Roast Chicken & Stuffing Roasties Fresh Veg & Gravy	Mexican Chicken Wrap Oven Baked Wedges Broccoli & Salsa	Golden Fish Fingers (Salmon or Pollock) Chips Peas
<b>MEAT-FREE MAGIC</b>	Cheese & Tomato Pitta Pizza Green Salad	Veggie Bangers & Mash Green Beans	Cheese & Tomato Quiche Roasties Fresh Veg	Bean & Sweetcorn Burrito Oven Baked Wedges Broccoli & Salsa	Carrot & Hummus Bagel Chips Peas
<b>PASTA TWIRLER</b>	<b>Hot Tomato Pasta</b> with or without grated cheese				
<b>BIG TOPPING</b>	<b>Crispy Skin Jackets</b> with Tasty Toppings				
<b>PICK AND MIX</b>	<b>Pick &amp; Mix Packed Lunch</b> Freshly filled sandwich or roll, healthy snack, home bake dessert & a piece of fruit				
<b>DESSERT TROLLEY</b>	Pineapple & Chocolate Sauce	Carrot Cake	Marble Sponge Cake	Jelly & Fruit	Oat Cookie
Fresh fruit and yoghurt and bread available every day.					



# Keep up to date

To keep up to date with everything that takes place within our trust you can follow us on Twitter 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 page on Vacancies at Oak Learning Partnership (oaklp.co.uk) to apply for the latest vacancies within our schools.

**We would like to thank all our trust staff and parents for their support over the Spring Term.**



### Our Schools

The Oak Learning Partnership is a Multi-Academy Trust comprising of Unsworth Primary School, Elms Bank and Hazel Wood High School.

- Unsworth Primary School is a 'think' school with the motto: 'Together We Build Understanding'. The key mission values of happiness, honesty, friendship, respect and learning are at the heart of developing children's social and academic understanding and ensuring that they enjoy making progress together.
- Elms Bank is a generic secondary special school for pupils aged between 11 and 19 years old. Elms Bank works in partnership with many other agencies to ensure that the specific needs of each pupil are met so that they can grow in confidence both socially and academically.
- Hazel Wood High School is driven by the core values of Think, Respect and Aspiration. Pupils are members of a very inclusive school community which offers them the opportunity and encouragement to aim high and excel.

To learn more about the schools in our Multi-Academy Trust, please follow the links below.

### Our Schools



Unsworth Primary School  
[Find Out More](#)



Hazel Wood High School  
[Find Out More](#)



Elms Bank School & College  
[Find Out More](#)

