

Newsletter

Summer 2023



Welcome to our Third and final newsletter of the year.

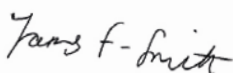
As we approach the end of the academic year it's always a time of reflection and planning for the year ahead. I do find time is such a confusing concept in so many ways; this year seems to have flown by and yet when looking back so much has happened.

As mentioned in my previous correspondence, Hazel Wood High and Unsworth Primary School were both inspected earlier in the year. I'm now in a position to share that they were both rated as Good. The trust sponsored what was Broad Oak Sports College when it fell into special measures in 2019. With the support of the trust, the staff at Hazel Wood High have turned things round at a spectacular pace. The school is unrecognisable from what it was and quite rightly Ofsted recognised this and graded the school good across all areas. Unsworth Primary School was also inspected. As a good school they received an ungraded inspection, which is a check to see if a wider inspection might be needed. The Inspector who visited confirmed that she felt the school very much remained a good school and the report reflects so many positives about the school. I know the community at Unsworth are really enjoying having Jo Grundy as the new head, and I'm very confident the school will go from strength to strength under her leadership.

There are several projects afoot in terms of welcoming new partner schools into the trust, which you can read about in more detail in our newsletter. We are keen to grow to make a wider difference and to give all stakeholders wider opportunities for collaboration and sharing good practice. Our growth plans aim to ensure we continue to be truly cross phase and to share practice across special, secondary and primary, whilst growing in each of these sectors, benefiting from continued and enhanced collaboration.

I'm two years into post and it feels like we are in a strong position as a group of schools. We have a clear vision, collaborative ways of working, clear structures in place to support our schools and strong leaders are taking matters forward. We are keen to work effectively together and to gain from all the benefits of that, whilst maintaining the identity and individuality of each of our schools. Please take some time to have a read of the newsletter which gives a small insight into the work going on across our family of schools. As ever, inclusion remains at the heart of our trust and we are passionate about each and every one of our pupils reaching their full potential.

Have a wonderful summer.



James Franklin-Smith
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)



Growth within our Trust

We are extremely pleased to share that we have been given the opportunity to open a new school called Bury Special Free school in 2025. This will be a secondary special school for pupils with social and emotional needs, the process to bid for the school was rigorous so we are thrilled to be given this opportunity. This will enable the trust to grow our special arm from strength to strength.

We are also supporting Spring Lane PRU who are likely to join the trust, the longer-term vision is for the new school to work closely with Spring Lane due to the similar needs of the pupils.

Lower Croft Primary schools Governors have voted to join our trust and we are working alongside them to take that forward, it's a fantastic school with lots of strengths. In addition to that we will be supporting Chesham from September who went into special measures in March this year, they have a great community there, we feel privileged to be supporting them.



Bury Times Hazel Wood High School Ofsted Inspection

Great news for Hazel Wood High School! After a dedicated effort by staff, students, and the entire school community, Hazel Wood High School has successfully rated as "good" by Ofsted, the official body for inspecting schools in the UK. This remarkable achievement reflects the school's commitment to excellence and its unwavering determination to provide high-quality education. The school's transformation has recently been highlighted in an article featured in the Bury Times, a local newspaper.

To read more about Hazelwood High School's journey to success, please follow this link:

[Bury: Hazel Wood High School receives 'good' Ofsted rating | Bury Times](#)

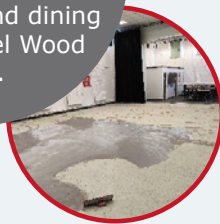
Investment in our Facilities

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 Spring term and some of the upgrades that are planned for over the summer break.

Funding will be used to build and develop the new Aspire Centre which is an area of multiple use including classrooms, toilets, kitchen, mentoring rooms, and social areas for those requiring an alternative pathway to the main Hazel Wood High School curriculum.



During the spring break the flooring was replaced by heavy duty non-slip flooring in the studio and dining hall at Hazel Wood High.



Hazel Wood have adopted a no-chewing-gum zone in their student space, and after a full clean of the area to remove any old chewing gum, this has now become a nice clean area for students to enjoy.



Before



After

- Additional toilets are required at Hazel Wood therefore plans to add a further nine are being finalised.
- Minor repairs to refurbish the existing 3G sports pitch, replacing the flood lights and purchasing new professional football nets.
- Groundworks have been carried out in the students' area to make this a more usable safe place to access classrooms.



Elms Bank
School & College

At Elms Bank College remodelling of the student showers for dual purpose, showering and changing in one cubicle.



Investment in the main kitchen has begun with the new extraction system which was replaced in February to co-inside with the roofing works that are taking place.



- An additional light area in the Special Provision department, to be completed over the summer.
- The trust has agreed to replace 60 staff laptops with a view to refurbish and rebuild for use by the students.



Hazel Wood
High School

Work is full steam ahead on the new sensory extension here at Unsworth Primary, this is intended to provide a space to deliver various therapies to support our most vulnerable pupils. The extension will also provide a space for professionals to work with our pupils to complete speech and occupational therapy targets.



Unsworth
Primary School



Safeguarding

I am very proud to be part of the Oak Learning Partnership as Strategic Safeguarding Lead.

I support our schools in their approach to safeguarding to ensure that the students within our communities are safe and thriving. Safeguarding is a key priority across all our schools, and as well as offering support to our students and families, we also ensure that our staff have access to high-quality training and development to assist them in keeping our students safe. I'm proud of all the work that our schools do to support students in understanding how to keep themselves safe and in assisting families to get help when they need it.



Rebecca Carney
Safeguarding Lead
Oak Learning Partnership

Online Safety

With ever growing risks associated with being online, it's getting harder to keep up to date with the latest apps and social media platforms. Our websites feature the Parent Zone link; this is a great source of information. Families and professionals can also access downloadable resources and "how to" guides by searching for Internet Matters. On there, you'll find age-related information about parental controls, app safety, conversation starters to help find out about children's interests online, and much more!



Key Stage 1

Balancing screen time

internet matters.org

Top tips to support children 5-7 (Key stage 1)

As screens become a bigger part of young children's lives at home and at school, it's important to put balance and purpose behind screen time to help them develop key skills and benefit from their screen use. Find tips and advice to help them do just that.



How are children using screens?



Source: Ofcom Children and Parents Media use and attitudes report 2018

What do parents say about screen time?

Screens are good for creativity

Nearly 7 out of 10 parents believe that using devices gives children another way of being creative for example a child who enjoys dancing, sharing a new routine online with family and friends.

Screens can displace family and homework time

Even at this relatively young age, almost 3 out of every 10 parents say screen time means they have to fight for their child's attention and over a quarter (26%) say it has an impact on completing homework.

Source: internet matters.co.uk/2018/04/04/

Key Stage 2

Balancing screen time

internet matters.org

Top tips to support children aged 7-11 (Key stage 2)

Typically at this age children will start to be more active online so it's important to equip them with the tools to strike a healthy balance between the time they spend on and offline, especially as they start to get their own devices.



How are children using screens?



Source: Ofcom Children and Parents Media use and attitudes report 2018

What parents tell us

Screens are good for creativity

Nearly 7 out of 10 parents believe that using devices gives children another way of being creative for example a child who enjoys dancing, sharing a new routine online with family and friends.

Screens' impact on physical wellbeing

Nearly half of parents in the UK are worried their children are spending too much time online – with the majority believing it is causing their kids to lead a sedentary lifestyle lacking in physical exercise.

Source: internet matters.co.uk/2018/04/04/

School Improvement

Each one of our schools has its own identity and history. We know that this matters to the pupils, to staff, and to the community that each school serves. We also understand the power of working in partnership and how that increases capacity and creativity and ultimately, the effectiveness of each school.

With these two principles in mind – **identity** and **partnership** – we have worked together to agree the common elements of our teaching approach – the things that all our schools do; the things we know are important to deliver a truly 'exceptional education for all'.

We have identified six elements in our Oak Teaching Framework which we believe need to be present to deliver effective, high-quality classroom teaching.

We have called this the **CLEAR** model.



Christine Reynolds
Director of School Improvement

C Climate for Learning

In every classroom and every lesson our teachers need to establish a positive climate for learning and an enabling environment to ensure every pupil feels respected and safe to maximise the learning opportunities on offer.

L Learning Intentions

It is important for teachers to be deliberate in their planning of what we want our pupils to learn, setting explicit learning objectives rather than focussing on task completion at all levels of planning.

E Explicit Instruction

Through instruction we explain concepts, ideas and theories. Through instruction we build pupils' ability to know and remember more in all areas of the curriculum.

A Adaptive and Responsive Teaching

Using all the information available to us to scaffold the curriculum intent we ensure access to the curriculum for every pupil.

R Review

We use summative and formative assessment to review pupils' learning and inform curriculum planning and teaching strategies.

Working together in a trust means that we have the capacity to deliver high-quality professional development via our leadership and our teaching and learning networks. The support of the trust enables our leaders to have hands-on involvement with the curriculum teaching and learning developments. They do this rather than focus on administration. Our teaching and learning networks, drawn from leaders at all levels across all our schools, support this through professional development programmes they design to deliver the Oak Teaching Framework.





Elms Bank School & College

Prom Night 2023

This year's prom night was a huge success! Students gathered at The Hub to celebrate their achievements and accomplishments from over the years with family, friends and staff members. The atmosphere inside was electric, mocktails were flowing and the music from the DJ booth was pumping. Everybody enjoyed dancing the night away and devouring the hot dogs, burgers and sweet treats. With a special appearance from one of our Year 13 students, Eisa, on the DJ decks. A huge thank you to everyone involved and, again, a reminder of how proud we all are of our leavers!



It has been a lovely term with lots of fun filled activities for all our students, residential trips to Moorland and Bendrigg, day trips, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions to name a few.

Students took part in football tournaments and were able to show off their footballing skills.

College was transformed for the "Elms Bank's school and college Prom 2023" college looked magical! The prom was a great success, and everyone involved had a brilliant time. It is time to say goodbye to some of our students. Although we are sad, we are looking forward to hearing about their next adventure and wish them every success.

In June we held our Year 11 GCSE art exhibition to celebrate our students' art journey. Their work is outstanding and was enjoyed by all who attended.

Some of our students were asked to help at the local SEND Information Day, helping with refreshments and being tour guides; they were a credit to Elms Bank.

Our annual play took place at the end of term "The Rocky Monster Show"; it was incredible. The students enthralled the audience with their acting and singing.

As the term draws to an end, I would like to say how proud we are of all our students and everything they have achieved this year!

Orienne Langley-Sadler
Headteacher

Duke of Edinburgh Round-Up 2022-23

As we near the end of our DofE year and look forward to awarding 16 Silver Awards and 12 Bronze Awards, here is a summary of events completed to date.

Physical: Silver candidates started the year with a block of rock climbing at Elms Bank developing key climbing skills such as belaying, tying on, putting on helmets and harnesses correctly and learning climbing calls. The Bronze group ventured into Heaton Park and started to work on map reading skills such as orientating a map, identifying ground features, map symbols and following a simple course. The orienteering is ideal preparation for the summer expedition.

In the spring term we turn our attention to the volunteering section and work with local partner Clean Team Prestwich to complete litter picking duties in and around Heaton Park and the College grounds.

As the weather started to improve, we developed walking fitness, stamina and resilience through regular walks into Heaton Park. We round of the summer term by looking at basic first aid; the pupils really enjoy making use of our resuscitation dummies and practising their skills on each other!

Our Silver group made three-day walks along the Manifold, Monsal and Tissington Trails in the Peak District. Our last day culminated in an exciting visit to Thor's Cave on the Monsal Trail! The Bronze group journeyed from Ramsbottom along the Irwell Sculpture Trail back to the College Hub in Prestwich.

Y7 Moorland Residential Trip

The first day we went bowling, everyone had their highs and lows, but all left with a big smile! Later we enjoyed a film at the nearby cinema.

The next day we were off to Blackpool Pleasure Beach, facing our fears on the rides and some Year 7s even braved the Big One!

Thursday, we went to Lytham St Annes on the beach, building sandcastles, playing badminton and even had a paddle in the sea. Dinner was fish and chips.

On the last day we visited Hollingworth Lake and had a lovely roast dinner before travelling back to school.





Hazel Wood High School



Our Summer Term has provided an excellent end to the academic year at Hazel Wood.

As with previous terms, our staff have continued to show their commitment to improving standards inside and outside the classroom, as well as their resilience in the face of strikes. I am delighted to say that this commitment to improving standards has been recognised in our recent Ofsted inspection, which graded Hazel Wood 'good' in all areas and I am extremely proud that our staff team, students and everyone connected to Hazel Wood have delivered a 'good' school to this community.

Despite the busyness of both our recent Ofsted inspection and successfully navigating this year's exam series, we have continued to enrich the lives of our students with a number of exciting activities and events.

Highlights of the term so far have included our students excelling in several sports events, such as cricket and rounders as well as coming away with victory in a Staff versus Students netball match and our Sports Leaders taking a leading role at Unsworth Primary Sports Day. Our extra-curricular activities have also seen a series of successful training expeditions for our students aiming for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Paul Greenhalgh
Headteacher

Year 10 Sports Day Leaders support Sports Day

It was the KS1 and 2 Sports Day and lots of excited young athletes needed guidance and support in their team challenges. The Sports Studies group have been assessed in their leadership skills this year, as part of their coursework. Faced with the new challenge, they rolled up their sleeves and helped organise and run this event too.

The Leaders were tremendous as role models and injected plenty of enthusiasm and composure on a very hot afternoon. All the positive feedback was gratefully received. This is the third year Hazel Wood have supported the event and we look forward to developing even closer links in the future.

Thanks Sports Leaders your help is appreciated.

Student Visit to Corpus Christi College at Oxford University

On Thursday 8th June, a selection of our Year 10 students made the long journey to Corpus Christi College at Oxford University.

They were warmly welcomed by the College Outreach Lead Emma Gregory and started the day by taking part in an activity based upon an undergraduate tutorial session, followed by a tour of the college which included lunch. The afternoon session comprised of a lecture given by a post graduate researcher in History and a walk-through Oxford with a tour of Lady Margaret College.

The trip exemplifies the core Hazel Wood value of Aspiration and students found the experiences inspirational, giving very positive feedback about the day. One student commented "It was good to know that students like me can go to places like this and it isn't just full of posh people!"

Students represented Hazel Wood with pride throughout and arrived home in the evening tired but inspired.





Unsworth Primary School

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first term at Unsworth Primary School. The children, parents and staff team have made me feel very welcome.

We have had a busy summer term, with many educational visits having taken place together with forest schools opportunities. Our extracurricular clubs have gone from strength to strength with some new and exciting clubs on offer including Judo, Signing club and Spanish. There have been many opportunities for our children to represent school in inter school sporting competitions too. Staff continue to work hard to raise standards and embed our ambitious curriculum.

Jo Grundy
Head of School



Key Stage 2 Sports Day

The children had a wonderful time at the farm. They saw lots of farm animals up close and were even able to handle and feed some of them. The day also included a tractor and trailer ride and time in the outdoor play area. What an exciting day!

Year 1 Trip to Smithills Farm

The children had a wonderful time at the farm. They saw lots of farm animals up close and were even able to handle and feed some of them. The day also included a tractor and trailer ride and time in the outdoor play area. What an exciting day!



YR Communitree Day

The children had fun in our forest school area with Communitree. Activities included building dens, singing songs and eating s'mores!



Rounders

Congratulations to our Unsworth rounders team for winning the inter-schools tournament!

Superb teamwork!



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.

As the summer term comes to a close, we wanted to thank all our trust staff and parents for their dedication, hard work, and support throughout this academic year which has helped shape our growth and success. Wishing you all a lovely summer and look forward to seeing you in September.



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.

