OAK

Multi Academy Trust

Opportunity • Achievement • Kindness

DECEMBER 2022

# OUR TRUST NEWS

## THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF OAK MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## CEO Update

As we break for the seasonal holidays with time to reflect, relax and enjoy the festivities, I would like to thank our parents and community for your continuing support.

We recognise and share your aspirations and, despite the challenges associated with numerous pent-up winter bugs, as a community you understand just how important it is for our children to be in school and learning.

It may therefore appear counter-intuitive to be faced with the possibility of industrial action over the coming months as we are seeing across so many of our valued public services. It is this dilemma that faces so many who give their lives to helping others and yet are being placed into incredibly difficult personal situations through no fault of their own. At OAK we will do everything possible to maintain learning should we be faced with action next year whilst recognising and respecting the extraordinary challenges being faced by colleagues and many of our friends and partners across our communities.

Once again, we reflect on fantastic achievement across our schools. In the summer I was able to report on the success of our primary phase schools and we can now celebrate the extraordinary achievement of our year 11 students at Manor whose exam results were, yet again amongst the very best in the country. The progress and achievement of students at Manor High School is truly exceptional and I am proud to recognise that our secondary school serves our community more effectively than any other school in Oadby or indeed Leicester and Leicestershire. To be in the top 1% of schools nationally means that your children are receiving the very best opportunities to make the choices which give them the next steps in education or work that they wish to pursue.

And so, have a wonderful break with families and friends. We look forward to the coming year and to welcoming pupils and students back for an exciting and productive 2023.

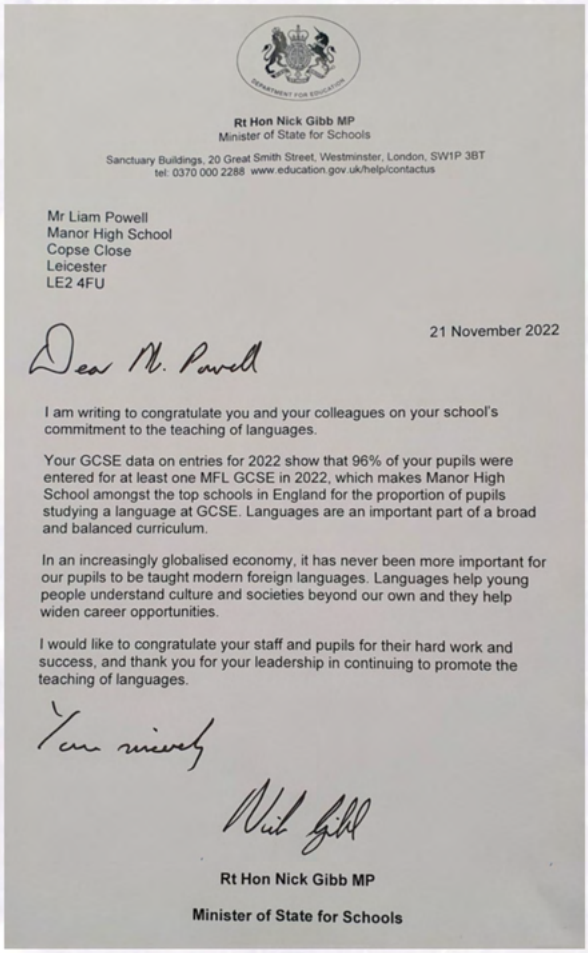
**Andy Wilson, CEO**

# MANOR HIGH SCHOOL

www.manorhigh.leics.sch.uk

It is wonderful to see Christmas festivities back in full swing across the schools. Manor High started the celebrations with a Christmas Concert organised by the Performing Arts department.

This year's production was titled Back to the '60s, and featured a collection of '60s Hits and Christmas Classics, including performances from Drama Club, MHS Orchestra, Manor Voices and Pitch Perfect.



Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for Schools

Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Mr Liam Powell
Manor High School
Copse Close
Leicester
LE2 4FU

21 November 2022

Dear Mr. Powell

I am writing to congratulate you and your colleagues on your school's commitment to the teaching of languages.

Your GCSE data on entries for 2022 show that 96% of your pupils were entered for at least one MFL GCSE in 2022, which makes Manor High School amongst the top schools in England for the proportion of pupils studying a language at GCSE. Languages are an important part of a broad and balanced curriculum.

In an increasingly globalised economy, it has never been more important for our pupils to be taught modern foreign languages. Languages help young people understand culture and societies beyond our own and they help widen career opportunities.

I would like to congratulate your staff and pupils for their hard work and success, and thank you for your leadership in continuing to promote the teaching of languages.

Yours sincerely

Nick Gibb

Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP

Minister of State for Schools

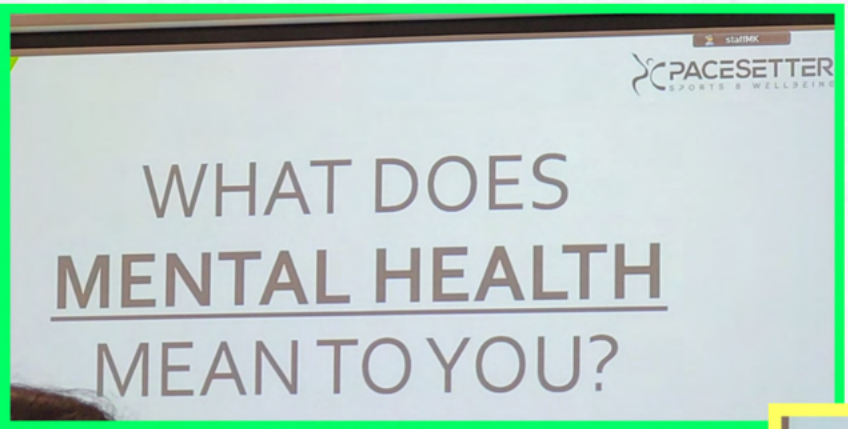
Manor High were recognised recently for their ambitious inclusive curriculum resulting in them being one of the top schools in England for the proportion of pupils studying a language. A great achievement!

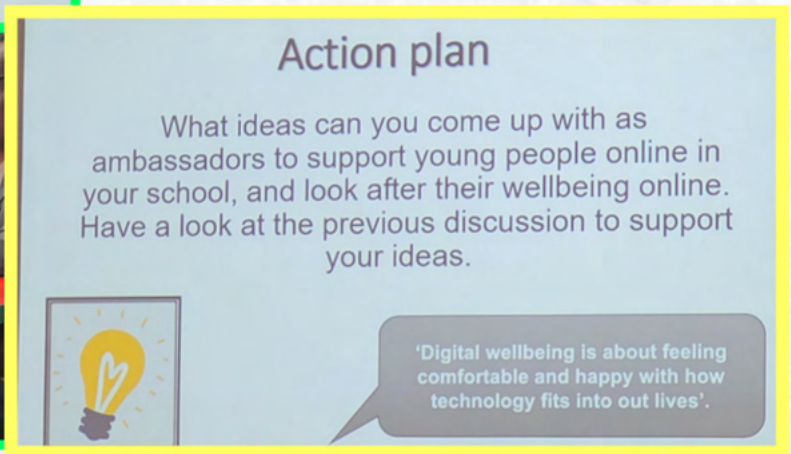
# MANOR HIGH SCHOOL

www.manorhigh.leics.sch.uk

It's fantastic to see mental health and wellbeing taken very seriously within our schools. Manor High is training Wellbeing Ambassadors who will work to champion wellbeing and support mental health with students across school. They will help to drive the message forward and release the stigma around mental health. We look forward to seeing what initiatives these young ambassadors come up with.

.





# BROOKSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.brookside.leics.sch.uk

This term at Brookside we have looked at our values and realigned them to what we feel is more our ethos going forward.

Staff and children decided to go with BPS for obvious reasons, and decided:

**Be kind**
**Promote equality**
**Strive to achieve**

The school is working with all our stakeholders to promote these and learning the signs to use in assemblies.

Year 3 and the Otters class from Riverbank lead our Diwali celebration day which was a huge success! The children retold the story of Rama and Sita, with the help of firework dancers. We have got through an awful lot of glitter and sparkles, but a fabulous day was had by all! Huge thanks to all the grown-ups involved in the production, it was so good to have our celebration days back as they were before covid!

For Anti-Bullying week we have held whole school circle time, led by our Yr 6 children. The whole school is mixed into groups of 15 and discuss how important it is to look after each other and how/where to seek help if needed.

Brookside have been awarded Gold for their work in PE! We are only 1 of 5 schools to be given Gold in Oadby and Wigston!

Year 2 with the Dragonflies class from Riverbank will lead our Nativity at the end of term, we will also hold a Christmas sing a long for parents outside as the sun sets during the last week of term.

Christmas activities have begun, with Riverside visiting the Snow Dome and the year groups working hard on their Christmas displays.

## Ofsted

Brookside have also been inspected this term, we are delighted with our report! The opening line of 'At Brookside every child is a valued member of the community' hopefully shows the care and commitment we have for all our 'Brooksiders'.

Our report can be found here

Ofsted also recognised our work around mental health and well-being. We have trained 30 children to be well-being ambassadors who will be advocates on the playground and help to make sure all our children have a happy lunchtime.

The inspectors commented that we have real team spirit and as a whole school we are united.

# WOODLAND GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.woodlandwideweb.org.uk

## Welcome to our Assistant Head

My name is Samantha Brewster and I joined Woodland Grange Primary School as Assistant Head and EYFS Lead in August. I have enjoyed getting to know all members of the school community at Woodland Grange and have had opportunities to meet and work alongside colleagues within Oak Academy trust.

I began teaching in 2002 after training in Liverpool for four years. My first post was at a newly opened school in Market Harborough and I remained at this school for 16 years before embarking on an Early Years Lead position for 5 years. This lead role also gave me the opportunity to support schools within the Trust in Leicester City and Leicestershire where I was privileged to work with many passionate Early Year's practitioners. I currently deliver the Early Years training through Inspiring Leaders and I am extremely dedicated to inspiring others to ensure all children have the best possible start to their education.

I am married and have two children called Ray and Stan who keep me extremely busy in my spare time with many football matches! I enjoy art, travelling and spending time with family and friends. I also support my son's school by being an active member of their Parent Teacher Association.
I hope to meet lots more colleagues across the trust during the rest of this academic year and I wish you all a well-deserved Christmas break!

## New classrooms

Our year 4 children are very excited about having brand new classrooms to move into at the end of this term. The new building work preparations began earlier on in September and on 29 November the mobile sections were all craned into place. The building not only provides a much bigger classroom space and cloakroom for the children, it also comes with solar panels allowing us to generate some of our own electricity!

## KWEST charity

Woodland Grange children have been busy donating some of their older reading books to a charity that supports schools in Kenya. The charity is called KWEST. We hope that the pupils there enjoy them as much as our children have.

## Putting the spotlight on...table tennis

We are extremely proud of our table tennis team who have represented the school this term. In the first round, against Oadby and Wigston schools, the boys team finished 1stand the girls' team were 2nd. This gave the squads an opportunity to play in the next round, the Level 2 finals. Some great performances led to them both winning this tournament, securing a place in the County Finals. Competition here was fierce and both teams battled really hard. On the day, all of the children worked incredibly hard and Mr Evans was proud of the way they represented the school. The boys even managed to come away with the bronze medals. Well done to the whole squad.

# OVERDALE INFANT SCHOOL

www.overdale-inf.leicester.sch.uk

## St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival

This year Overdale Infant School participated in the Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church. The theme for our tress was 'Lighting our Hearts at Christmas.' This links to our school mission statement 'Lighting the hearts and minds of our community' and the tree featured beautiful decorations from all year groups and included the firefly from our school logo. We were pleased to be able to participate in this community event and many of our families enjoyed visiting the Church to see our tree and other trees that were part of the festival.

# The new book vending machine is loaded and ready!

We have recently launched our new reading incentive where children work towards reading 100 times. For each 10 occasions a child reads they will receive a reward right up to when they have read on 100 occasions. On reaching 100 the child will be presented with the prize of their very own book from our brand new book vending machine. There is a buzz about reading at the moment and the children are enjoying reading at home.

# OVERDALE JUNIOR SCHOOL

www.overdale-jun.leicester.sch.uk

It's been a busy but exciting term at Overdale Juniors. A term full of sporting events and achievements from our boys and girls football fixtures, year 5 swimming, archery, table tennis and representation from Years 3-6 at the Leicester City Cross Country Festival. We are so proud of all of our pupils who represent our school so wonderfully at all sporting fixtures and cannot wait to see what the new year brings for sport at Overdale.

In September, we were greeted with our long awaited Ofsted call! Finally, a chance to share with Ofsted the journey we have been on as a school since our last inspection in 2013. We are delighted to share that Overdale Junior School continues to be a good school with the report stating that 'this is an inclusive and caring school. Pupils are proud of their culturally diverse school. They appreciate their helpful teachers. Leaders are ambitious about what every pupil can achieve.' We are so proud of the Overdale team and our pupils who go above and beyond each day to make our school the special place it is.

Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed their Stone Age Day this term. Children worked hard to create clay pots and learnt about houses from the Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic period before venturing in to the Addy and using natural resources to create their own versions of these homes. A wonderful day spent creatively immersing ourselves in some additional learning to enhance our knowledge of the Stone Age.

On November 18th, the whole school enjoyed coming together for our 'Great SPORTY Spotacular' – as Friday's involve our whole school 'Friday Fitness' afternoon what better way than to come to school dressed in our best spotty sports clothes! We saw spotty nails, spotty headbands, painted faces and some truly spotacular clothes! We were delighted to have raised £290 for Children in Need and were bowled over by the number of children who entered our spotacular doodle competition Congratulations to the winner from each year group.

## School games award

As always, our sporting achievements play a big part in Overdale life and after achieving the gold award in the last four applicable years we are now delighted to have achieved the platinum School Games Mark. A huge thank you to Mrs Chalk for all of your hardwork and dedication to sport at Overdale, we hope to retain this award as PE is handed over to our new lead, Mrs Dowson, this year.

## Music mark

Mrs Thomas' dedication to our music curriculum means that every child in years 3-5 has access to music tuition and learns a musical instrument and we were delighted to recently be named as a 'Music Mark' school, in recognition of providing a high-quality music education for the children at Overdale Junior School.

# It's Christmas!

Christmas festivities are well underway at Overdale, one of our favourite times of the school year. Our traditional festive hoops are hanging proudly all the way along the bottom corridor and the children worked hard together to create some extremely creative class crafts and designs. We look forward to joining Rev. Adrian Jones at St Mary's Church next week where Overdale will perform the nativity and the whole school will perform our Christmas concert to parents.

The final week of term will be celebrated with a flurry of class parties and year group discos kindly organised by our wonderful PA and on the last day of term we look forward to see everyone wearing their Christmas Jumpers, as the whole Overdale site come together for Christmas jumper day in aid of Save the Children.

# Remembrance Day

This Remembrance Day, the OAK Multi Academy Trust schools honoured those who died during the First World War. Our schools were adorned with red poppies. School assemblies observed a two-minute silence to allow students and staff the time to reflect on the sacrifices and bravery of those soldiers past and present.

## Carbon Reduction

We are all affected by climate change and pollution - as while as rising energy costs - and we are encouraging all our staff and pupils to do their bit to help the environment and save on costs. So, first of all, a big thank you to all staff and pupils across the OAK Trust for making a concerted effort to help lighten our carbon footprint; particular praise should go to Overdale Infants and Juniors for achieving a C on their DEC (Energy Performance Certificate), this is a huge improvement on last years rating of E and to achieve this over a 12 month period is almost unheard of.

# Opportunity

# Achievement

# Kindness

Follow us on Twitter: **Oak Trust @OakMATrust**

**E: admin@oaktrust.org**
**T: 0116 303 3721**