



Multi Academy Trust

Opportunity • Achievement • Kindness

MARCH 2023

OUR TRUST NEWS

**THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
OAK MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**



Opportunity

Achievement

Kindness

CEO Update

Andy Wilson



As we approach the end of the spring term and, despite the best attempts of the UK weather, there are many many green shoots developing across OAK, we celebrate five years as a trust on 5th April 2023.

We have begun our “Growing Together” programme linking schools, governors and trustees in better understanding our schools, and working closely together to support further improvements. To assist us, we are working both with a strategic partner, Melton Education Trust, to quality assure each other’s work, and with the widely renowned “Challenge Partners” to help provide exceptional development for our colleagues and external reviews for our schools.

I am delighted to report that following the Challenge Partner review at Brookside Primary School this month, the school achieved the “Leading” grade, which is the highest grade achievable and is extremely challenging to attain. Congratulations to Miss Brown and the team at the school. We are also delighted to welcome Challenge Partners to Woodland Grange Primary in this last week of term.

As the days become lighter and the Easter holiday beckons, we look forward to the summer term and give our best wishes to all pupils across OAK who are preparing for external examinations.

Wishing you a restful break.





MANOR HIGH SCHOOL
www.manorhigh.leics.sch.uk

Ski Trip 2023

The annual Manor High Ski Trip returned on Friday 24th March 2023, after a fantastic week spent in Pinzolo, Italy. Activities throughout the week included a night-time snowshoe walk, trip to the Gelateria, torch-lit walk around the resort and ice-skating at a local ice rink in Pinzolo. Staff have said they were really impressed with the progress made across all ability groups, and were extremely proud of the way the students represented Manor High School and OAK.



Knighton DeChox

Knighton House students at Manor High School decided to raise money for The British Heart Foundation (BHF) as part of the DeChox initiative. Students were asked to give up chocolate throughout March, to raise money for BHF whilst also highlighting the link between consuming excessive amounts of unhealthy food and heart disease. Knighton smashed their target, raising a total of £850 to support BHF's research. Well done, to all!



New Kit for PE!

Thanks to the generosity of our local sponsors: CBA Business Solutions, Dale Studios, Heitrich, JB Commercial Finance and kit provider MDH Teamwear and Trophies, the school was able to get brand new kit for its PE students. Feedback from the students has been great, with many incredibly appreciative of the work that went in to getting this kit for the school community.

MANOR HIGH SCHOOL



National Careers Week 2023

Manor High School is proud to partake in National Careers Week, sponsored by NatWest. Our students show great cooperation and leadership skills whilst at school, and it was fantastic to have their efforts rewarded in the form of certificates presented to them by Assistant Headteacher and Post-16 Lead, Mr. Croucher. Sessions throughout the week focused on preparing now, for success in the future – aligning perfectly with the #ManorHighWay.



Wellbeing Day

From 7th–8th February, Manor High School celebrated Wellbeing Day in a variety of ways. First, a talk from Bernie at Enterprise Soapbox that challenged ideas about traditional masculinity and the importance of equality in society. Then, Irish Dancers were welcomed to the school to teach the students something entirely new – the students loved it, and behaved incredibly well throughout. Other activities included arts and crafts, colouring and problem-solving tasks which students found refreshing and relaxing.





Brookside had their Challenge Partners Review 2 weeks ago, the school was given 'Leading' in both areas: the reviewers thought Brookside was delivering **a high-quality education for all** and absolutely loved their work around Personal Development! We are thrilled with the report. Miss Brown in particular feels so fortunate to have a highly skilled, dedicated team.

Brookside also has 6 new additions! Well for 21 days at least... The school has hatched 6 chicks who they are currently looking after. They have caused much excitement in school and everyone has loved watching them develop and grow! Naming is just taking place with staff and children alike; one front runner for the name, Grace, has lots of ginger markings on her, is very loud and rather bossy - we cannot imagine why that name is in the mix...

It has been lovely to see Brookside's sports coach supporting Manor students on their ski trip. Mr B is enjoying spending time with quite a few ex pupils of Brookside, plus developing his own dancing on ice skills! Not sure we can accommodate an ice rink on site, but who knows in the future?





WOODLAND GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL
www.woodlandwideweb.org.uk

Online Safety Parents Event

In February Woodland Grange ran an online safety event for parents at school. They planned the session to both highlight the risks of online safety and also offer help and support to families. Being safe online has become a major part of the safeguarding and child protection role at school and they wanted to offer an opportunity to share information with parents. The online world is vast and increasingly all-consuming for children and young people. During the session we outlined the 4 Cs:

Content deals with age-appropriate digital content and the risks of interacting with content that is not meant for children and young people.

Conduct is all about the impact of our 'digital footprint'. How we interact with others online, what we post/share and comment.

Contact looks at unwanted attention or inappropriate online contact.

Commerce is linked to online gaming, micro transactions, phishing messages and advertising.

The school discussed this notion that whatever is done online, there are associated risks linked to one or more of the above statements. In school, staff support the children with an online safety curriculum, regular guides and newsletters to parents, an online pupil survey (with results that shape our work in school) and input in assemblies. At home, we want our parents and carers to feel empowered and supported to deal with the online world. The main message was 'Communication is Key'.

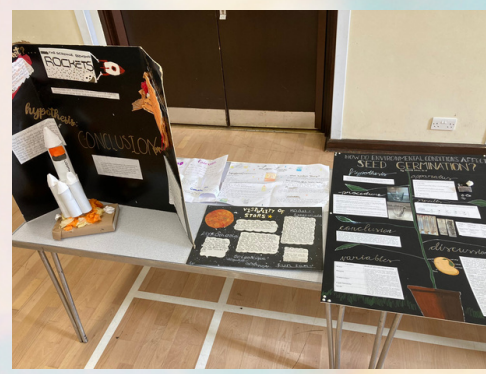
British Science Week

For British Science Week, Woodland Grange held science themed competitions between classes where each class had to come up with an investigation to find out the answer to something that interested them.

The range of ideas was incredible! Just some of the ideas included: looking at the variables affecting the height of a rocket launch, exploring what affected the amount of mould to grow on food, how to make flowers absorb coloured water faster and one class even managed to create a working battery from raw materials!

They had to carefully plan out the investigation thinking of what resources they would need, what they would keep the same to make it a fair test and how to record their results. They then carried out their investigations and analysed their results. They had to draw conclusions and then present what they had found in a creative way.

The school opened up the competition so that individuals could put together and carry out investigations of their choice at home and present in any way they wanted. The effort from the children at home was phenomenal! The hall was transformed with wonderful imaginative investigations all presented in a variety of ways! We were all so proud of the effort the children put into this and feel privileged to have had a role in helping our future scientists develop and showcase their skills.





In February, Year 6 pupils had a fantastic time visiting the Warning Zone Life Skills Centre in Leicester. This exciting day out was based around staying safe in the wider world, and with secondary school transition on the horizon, it came at the perfect time! The school has been thinking a lot about growing responsibilities and independence, and the staff at Warning Zone provided an immersive and important experience. Everyone was impressed by the hard work and dedication of the volunteer-run centre.

The day was split in half, with one session focused on e-safety, the dangers online and how to recognise and deal with risks. A funfair theme made this potentially intimidating topic accessible, age-appropriate and, most importantly, fun. The children took part in 6 activities and learned about subjects such as online gaming, cyber bullying and the importance of having a trusted adult to talk to. The second part of the day was spent visiting eight themed safety zones which combined impressive set design, interactive components and special effects. Children learnt about how to stay safe on the road, in the home and potential dangers when out and about. The children were brimming with excitement and facts with how to deal with various dangerous situations!

As this trip is one that supports our pupils in their move to secondary schools, as well as living in the wider world, the majority of the cost was covered by the Oadby Education Foundation- so a big thank you to them!



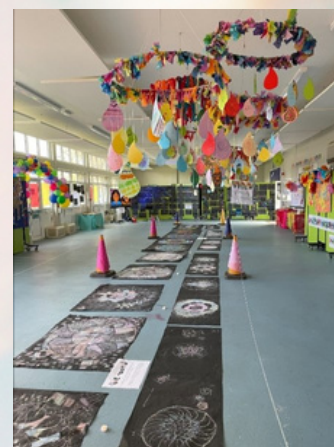
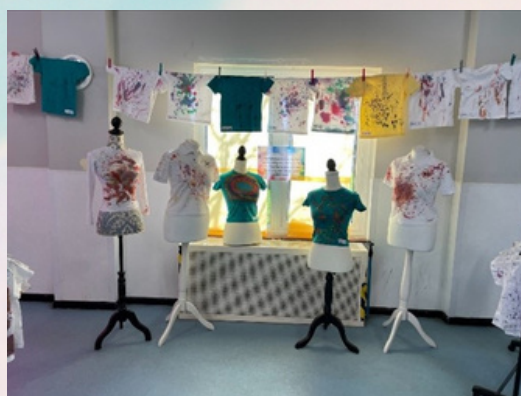
Mental Health Champions

On the 16th of January, 30 of our KS1 children participated in a workshop run by One Goal to become 'Mental Health Champions'. During the session, the children learnt about what mental health is and how they can support it, both for themselves and their peers. This included practising some mindfulness techniques as well as making calm bottles to aid self-regulation. Going forward, the children will be able to help others and will also get involved in helping our pastoral team to plan for any mental health awareness events.



Holi

Holi is a Hindu festival to mark the start of Spring. It is also known as the festival of colour. This year to celebrate, Overdale Pre-school, Infants and Juniors collaborated to create a multi-sensory RE exhibition. Over the course of two days, children learnt about the core religious beliefs, stories and how people celebrated Holi. Each class worked to create a piece of learning to reflect the day. Some of the art included Holi paint t-shirts, cooking samosas, creating rangoli patterns and dancing. Year 2 and Year 4 children worked collaboratively to create a pattern raindrop which was hung from a decorative hoop. All art was showcased in the dining hall for parents, staff and children to enjoy.





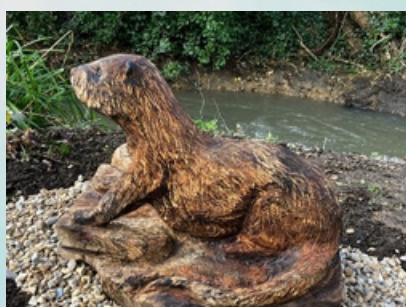
Sustainability Awards

The third biennial Sustainable Schools Celebration took place on 10 January, which saw schools across Leicester receive awards for their hard work in environmental education, health and wellbeing at a celebration event. A huge congratulations goes to Mrs Scott for winning the award for 'Sustainable Teacher Champion'. For many years now Mrs Scott has been ahead of the game in all things environmental and has ensured that all members of the Overdale community know how to make eco-friendly choices and how their actions today affect our world tomorrow.

Over the last 10 years Mrs Scott has worked tirelessly to earn and sustain Overdale Junior's Eco Green Flag award. As part of this, Mrs Scott runs the EcOverdale club, champions the Walk to School scheme and encourages staff and students to make eco-friendly choices regarding travel. Thank you, Mrs Scott, for driving this vital and important part of Overdale Junior School culture.

Saving Saffron Brook – Sculpture delivery

A huge thank you to Sabina Schaflinger for our beautiful new school members: an otter, dragonfly and bat. The sculptures came to the school via the Saving Saffron Brook project which is looking to encourage new wildlife into the brook area – otters, bats and kingfishers. One final sculpture will be put up in a few weeks' time. The children were excited to see the grand unveiling of the new sculptures as the team carefully placed them in their correct habitat on Tuesday 14th March. We hope the whole community enjoy our new friends.



Children's Mental Health Week



Children's Mental Health Week took place from 6th-12th February, with a theme this year of 'Let's connect'. The week provided an opportunity for us to have important conversations about what mental health is and the importance of making healthy, rewarding and meaningful connections. Some of our Year 6 children supported this with a 'lucky dip' box full of positive little notes to spread some joy around the school.

Snackalicious

Overdale Juniors were delighted to relaunch our fresh fruit tuck shop Snackalicious for a 7-week trial period this February. The uptake has been fantastic with more than a third of pupils signing up. The school teamed up with local, environmentally friendly company Green Tomato, to provide quality fresh produce. This is part of a healthy eating research project to find out if eating fruit at break time helps children to be healthier and happier, promoting learning in classroom.



100 Species – Local Photography Competition

A massive congratulations to Max and his beautifully photographed swan and Ishaan who captured the stunning colours of the kingfisher in Year 6 who both won prizes in the 100 Species Challenge which was run by the Saving Saffron Brook Project. Students were invited to draw or photograph their favourite local species. Many children from Overdale Juniors entered the competition and rose to the challenge magnificently. Congratulations, to all who took part and thank you to Mrs Scott for sharing the competition.



500 words competition



We are looking forward to seeing some more fantastic stories from Year 2 and Year 6 across the Trust after the launch of our annual 500 words competition.

All finalists in both year groups will be published in a Trust-wide book and winners will receive a trophy and book vouchers. It is a wonderful event which really showcases the writing talent in our primary schools.

Entry deadline: 24 May 2023
Awards Ceremony: 29 June 2023

World Book Day 2023

World Book Day is a chance to get creative, using imagination, enthusiasm and a love of reading. And that is what our schools did! Each school celebrated in a different way, with dress-up, pyjamas, author visits, book props and much more.



Pyjama day at Brookside – and of course Miss Brown joined in!

Woodland Grange were delighted to invite Joe Wilson, author of 'The Island That Didn't Exist' into school on World Book Day to work with our Year 5 and 6 classes. The children had a wonderful day listening to Joe share his passion for words and the power of writing as well as the joys of reading, sharing extracts from his book. Along with sharing his journey to becoming an author, which was a lifetime ambition fulfilled, the children also learnt about his 'day job' as a journalist and Sports Correspondent for the BBC; they were amazed to learn that he grew up just down the road from Oadby and went to Overdale School! Additionally, it was fantastic to invite Kibworth Books into school to sell signed copies of Joe's book and support a local independent bookshop.



World Book Day 2023

Across Woodland Grange, children shared their book props in games of 20 questions guessing the characters and books they belonged to as well as swapping classes to share favourite stories. There was some 'draw-alongs' with World Book Day live events and parents invited in to share stories in Key Stage one.



The annual tradition of door-decorating to mark World Book Day at Manor High did not disappoint:



Would you or someone you know make a good Trustee?



We are now seeking to appoint five new Trustees to support the delivery of the Trust's vision, ethos and strategy in our journey to inspire our students to achieve and flourish.

Becoming a Trustee is a strategic commitment which typically involves attending at least four board meetings per year; between 5 and 8 hours per month. You will attend full board meetings and sit on a relevant committee.

People from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Becoming a Trustee is an exciting opportunity to give back to the community, whilst also developing your professional skills and experience portfolio. A background in education is not a requirement, as a strong Trustee Board balances a mix of different backgrounds, skills and experiences. We particularly encourage applications from those with skills in HR, Finance, Marketing and Community Engagement.

Volunteering on an academy trust board is deeply rewarding; there is no more important social mission than improving the life chances of young people. In this role you will be responsible for making decisions that directly impact the prosperity of the next generation and beyond. Becoming a Trustee is a fantastic opportunity to give back and impact your local community, by strengthening education.

Please contact us for an informal conversation, in the first instance,
via the Trust Governance Manager, Danielle Benyon-Payne:
admin@oaktrust.org



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