



Multi Academy Trust

Opportunity • Achievement • Kindness

DECEMBER 2025

OUR TRUST NEWS

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



Opportunity

Achievement

Kindness



Dear Parents and Carers,

As another successful year of learning draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on the significant changes and notable achievements across all OAK schools over the past year. It has been a year of which we can all be extremely proud.

This has been another year of strong academic achievement. Excellent outcomes have been secured across our infant, junior and primary schools, alongside very impressive GCSE results at Manor. These results are a direct reflection of the hard work, resilience and commitment of our young people, supported by the dedication of our teachers and the wider staff teams across the Trust.

These successes highlight the strength of our collaborative approach, which lies at the heart of OAK. When schools, families and communities work together, our children thrive.

I am also delighted to share that we will be opening a new SEND unit at Overdale School in January. This important development continues our commitment to supporting pupils with the greatest needs and ensuring that every child receives the care, understanding and opportunities they deserve.

This year has also marked a significant milestone with the launch and ongoing embedding of Frontiers, our 1:1 digital transformation programme. The use of iPads across our schools is opening new possibilities for learning, creativity and accessibility. Importantly, this technology is being carefully balanced with high-quality traditional teaching methods, particularly in core skills such as reading and writing.

Another highlight has been the opening of Manor's new sports hall. This outstanding facility supports not only our students' physical development and wellbeing, but also serves the wider local community. It is a wonderful example of how educational spaces can be inclusive, functional and inspiring.

Our schools have continued to celebrate a wide range of cultural and religious events throughout the year, reflecting the genuine diversity of our community. These celebrations bring our shared values to life and help our young people develop respect, understanding and a sense of belonging.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our parents and carers, governors, trustees and volunteers. Your ongoing support plays a vital role in the success of our schools and the achievements of our young people.

To showcase some of the excellent work taking place across OAK, a series of short videos highlighting our collective achievements will be shared early in the New Year. I hope you will enjoy seeing these updates.

As we approach a well-earned break, I remain incredibly positive and thankful for the journey we are on together. I look forward to welcoming students back in the New Year as we continue our work to provide education of the highest quality, rooted in inclusivity and ambition.

With best wishes,
Andy Wilson
CEO, OAK Multi Academy Trust





Governance

We're delighted to welcome three new Education Trustees to the OAK Multi Academy Trust Board — **Alastair Mitchell, David Bray and Graeme Smith.**

Alastair is Co-Principal at Sir Christopher Hatton Academy, a large and successful secondary school. His extensive leadership experience and deep understanding of school improvement will be invaluable in supporting our schools and communities.

David brings a wealth of experience from across the education sector, having worked with schools serving different age ranges. His previous roles include Director of Education and Ofsted Inspector, offering insight and expertise that will strengthen our Trust's strategic vision.

Graeme has over two decades of experience in secondary education. His current role as Trust Leader and Executive Principal at The Spencer Academies Trust gives him profound insights into systemic educational transformation. His extensive background encompasses strategic leadership, governance frameworks, and a nuanced understanding of the profound, multifaceted impact of educational institutions. The integration of such experienced leadership represents our ongoing commitment to continuous improvement and strategic development. Graeme's expertise will contribute significantly to our governance structures.

We're excited about the perspectives and skills all three will bring as we continue our mission to ensure every child across our Trust achieves their full potential.

Climate and Nature Action in Education

Learn more about our new Trust Sustainability Lead, **Sophie Bodycote**. Our latest blog post shares Sophie's journey, from her background as an environmental protection officer to her vision for our Trust. She believes this new role shows our "commitment to sustainability across all schools". Her ultimate vision is for our communities to learn from our sustainability improvements and spread them beyond the school grounds. Click the link to read the full article and discover the exciting plans for the year ahead! <https://lnkd.in/e-4CHCKz>

Sophie shares some of her undertakings this term:

"Since I have started in my role as the sustainability lead for the trust I have kept myself busy. Working alongside the estates manager I surveyed each of the school sites and identified areas which could be planted with additional trees and hedgerows then ordered free plants from the Woodland Trust. Brookside Primary School trees have arrived and I had a lovely morning with the eco-council planting them. Only another 150 to go! The trees for the other school's will be arriving in Spring 2026, so we will have a major planting job on our hands.



Each school has made a commitment to take part in the eco-school green flag award this year. I have met with the eco-leads from are schools and provided guidance on completing the application online as well as sharing some of the activities they could involve their eco-councils with.

One of the main areas I have initially focused on is waste. As a result, I have met with the education officer at our waste company Veolia to determine what support she can give schools, purchased food waste recycling bins for some schools who identified a need and purchased recycling bins for Manor High School.

In November I arranged a visit from a representative of the National Education Nature Park. She spent the afternoon with children from Brookside delivering lessons on outdoor learning, which they loved. After that, she met with all the sustainability leads and demonstrated how the NENP site is used. She has offered to deliver staff meetings in each school and this is something I will be pursuing over the spring term.

In addition, I am working with teaching staff to map out their curriculum and identify areas where a sustainability focus could be incorporated. This will be ongoing in 2026. So, lots has happened, and lots still to do! I am looking forward to much more to come in 2026 and will keep everybody updated!"



Why is it important? Because children should not be worrying about the future. Let's help them be the change.

- 78% of primary-aged children in the UK say they are worried about climate change, with 27% "very worried". [[greenpeace.org.uk](https://www.greenpeace.org.uk)].
- 70% of children aged 12–18 are worried about the world they will inherit due to climate change. [[savethechildren.org.uk](https://www.savethechildren.org.uk)].
- A 2022 scoping review in Frontiers in Psychology found that children experience depression, anxiety, sadness, anger, and fear in response to climate change awareness. [[frontiersin.org](https://www.frontiersin.org)].

We are pleased to share the results of this year's OAK Trust Christmas Card Competition. Pupils across our schools have shown exceptional creativity, producing a wide range of thoughtful and festive designs in response to this year's brief. Thank you to all staff who supported the competition in classrooms and encouraged pupils to take part. The quality of entries highlights the talent and enthusiasm present across the Trust.

Our winning design comes from **Clara** (Overdale Junior School, Year 4). Her bright, colourful artwork delivered a clear message of kindness and featured a beautifully glowing Christmas tree.

In second place is Sameer (Manor High School, Year 7), recognised for his detailed work, mixed materials and nostalgic feel. Third place goes to Haris (Woodland Grange Primary School, Year 6), whose expressive swirly sky and effective use of colour created a striking winter scene. Finally, our runner up was Anastasia for her creative use of the iPad in her design.

Clara's design has been printed and shared as the official OAK Trust Christmas card for 2025.

Thank you once again to colleagues for facilitating entries and celebrating pupils' creativity. We look forward to seeing even more fantastic artwork in next year's competition.





Clara and her winning design "Christmas Light"



Sameer at Manor with his beautiful card and an Amazon voucher

Below left: runner up Anastasia's design and below right, third place Haris



Spotlight on Leadership: Andy Wilson, CEO

This term, we are pleased to feature Andy Wilson, Chief Executive Officer of OAK Multi Academy Trust. Andy has led the trust since January 2022 and brings more than two decades of experience in education, spanning teaching, senior leadership and the oversight of multiple schools. His early experiences supporting community projects in The Gambia inspired a lifelong commitment to helping others, which later led him to retrain as a mathematics teacher and pursue a career dedicated to improving the lives of young people.



Andy places great value on collaboration, school identity and listening closely to both colleagues and pupils. He is proud of the strong culture that exists across OAK's schools and is committed to driving key strategic priorities including digital transformation, instructional coaching, strengthened SEND provision, and continued investment in early years and sustainability. Guided by the trust's values of Opportunity, Achievement and Kindness, Andy is optimistic about the next phase of OAK's development and the ongoing impact of the trust's shared work.

"I am very proud of our colleagues, young people, communities, and our incredible local governing bodies and trustees who have worked with us to ensure outstanding governance and a commitment to high-level, appropriate support and challenge."

You can read the full article about Andy and his vision for the trust [here](#).

This term we have continued on our Eco journey with a wide variety of activities including tree and shrub planting near our newly revamped field, workshops to look at diversity and a Christmas Jumper swap to try and stop 'fast fashion.' We are also running a Space Race waste competition over the holidays for our Brooksidians to make a space object to reuse some Christmas waste. We have been awarded the Green Flag award with distinction which are very proud of!



In other news, we have run our annual reverse advent, where we ask for items to be donated to the food bank during advent, to give rather than receive.

Nativity is well under way and the hall is alive with Christmas songs thanks to Year 2 who are leading our Christmas celebrations. We have also had our Diwali celebration day led by Year 3 who shared what Diwali symbolises and how light triumphs over darkness.



Hello Yellow day was also a fun day for us! We asked everyone to wear something yellow and held workshops with the Mental Health Team to support positive mental health, looking at how we all have mental health and this needs to be managed just the same as physical health. We spoke to our children about managing anxiety and worries, that we all experience these at different times and gave strategies to help as needed. We had a Red card to Racism day, where we discussed 'kindness has no colour' which links perfectly to both our values of Kindness and Promoting Equality.



Year 6 had an online meeting with Lord Ballinamallard who answered many questions about how he became a Lord and many other things like 'what is the food like in the House of Lords?'

We also took them to Cambridge University for the day, which was fabulous.





Form 7.1 have been busy collecting contributions to their **Hurricane Aid appeal**. They would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to everyone who generously contributed. Your donations, encouragement, and willingness to help made a tremendous difference to families and communities working to rebuild their lives after the storm. And well done 7.1 for your kindness and effort.



The Oadby Schools Joint Choir performed for the residents of Devonshire Court. It was a wonderfully uplifting experience. The students spent 2 hours together in the morning rehearsing and it was really impressive to see what they were able to produce after such a short time.



The Chess Competition of 8.10.2025 took place at Market Bosworth School. There were 8 excellent students representing Manor High School, along with teams from a number of other schools from all over Leicestershire. All teams played against each other and the results were recorded. Our pupils won a number of rounds and showed nerves of steel. Well done to our students who should be very proud!

On Culture Day, Year 7 students wrote about a meaningful celebration to them. It was a pleasure to read such wonderful and diverse descriptions. Here are some examples:

Izaic

Holy, sacred and spiritual - Diwali. Fireworks make contact with the jet-black sky, creating a mesmerising atmosphere. These explosive rockets are whistling before they crash. Inside, the spices combine and present a breath-taking scent. You taste the food - it is like you are in an Indian restaurant!



Clara

What was it? It was the smell of Christmas. Sparkling lights shone brightly, a faint sound of carollers singing sweetly, snow falling slowly: it was wonderful. The decorated tree stood confidently looming over the already wrapped presents, waiting to be opened. The flames in the fireplace crackled and danced as they heated up my freezing cold hands. Stockings stuffed full of goodies were waiting until morning.



Zayd

Delicious, scrumptious and breath-taking food is sat on the table, with golden plates and cutlery laid out evenly, above a white, clean cloth that stretches over the wooden table. Family arrive throughout the day, spreading blessings and laughter that fill the room. Food covers the tables; you can smell an aroma of rice, chicken and mouth-watering biscuits that dissolve in your mouth. Presents are scattered across the living room; creating happiness on the children's faces. Blessings and prayers leave and enter the room, and familiar guests come and go. The sound of utensils scarping against the plates creates a high-pitch ring that goes across the room. Smiles spread across the faces of people that eat happily as the day goes by.

A busy Autumn term has seen Manor students in all years compete in the South Leicestershire **Football, Netball, Table Tennis and Basketball leagues**. Some notable successes along the way saw the free scoring Year 7 boys win their football league, remaining unbeaten throughout, and the Year 8 basketball team crowning their first tournament using the new sports hall with league winning performances. Both teams have now qualified for the knockout stages of the Leicestershire competitions, taking place in the new year.



Maths Primary School Visits

Earlier this term, Mrs Patel visited Brookside Primary School and Overdale Junior School to lead Maths relay activities. Pupils enjoyed tackling challenging problems and expressed excitement about joining their siblings at Manor High School in the future.

**European Day of Languages**

In the Autumn term, Manor High School MFL department celebrated the European Day of Languages, an annual event which promotes cultural diversity and celebrates the variety of languages spoken in school. This year, the whole of Year 7 were invited to participate in a French breakfast in the hall whilst participating in a languages quiz. The rest of the school participated in a tutor time quiz. Later in the day, students were able to enjoy a Mexican, Spanish and French-themed lunch courtesy of our new catering company, with dishes such as fajitas, albóndigas and ratatouille available for students to try.

**It's been a busy and inspiring term for our budding scientists.**

Students recently enjoyed an incredible visit to the Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge University for Physics at Work 2025, gaining a fascinating insight into cutting-edge research. The toilet of the future sparked the most discussion between our students! In school, our Eco Ambassadors have recently launched their project to help make Manor High a greener place.

Students also had a brilliant time at the Ministry of Science show! There were fire tornadoes, smoke cannons, electric shocks, mind boggling facts and more explosions than they could count!



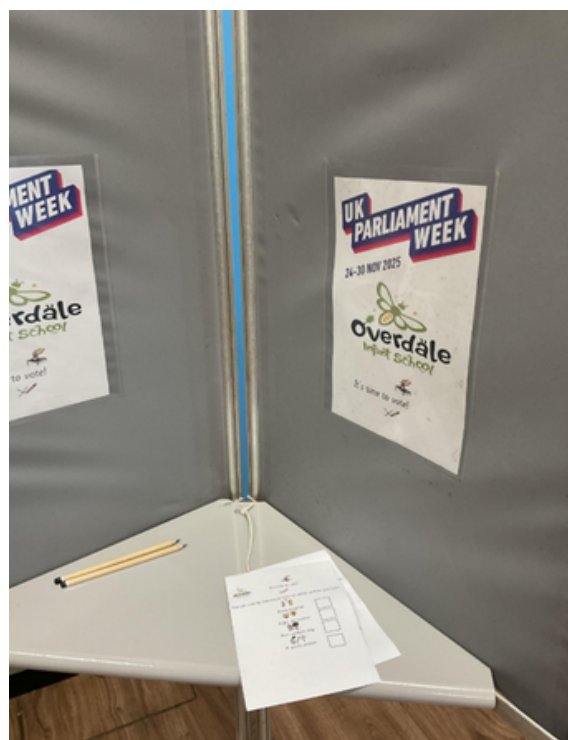


The Eco Ambassadors planted some bluebell bulbs. This is the perfect time to plant bulbs ready for a spring display next year. The children planted native English bluebells which are protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. Spanish bluebells were introduced by the Victorians as a garden plant but they escaped into the wild. When choosing bluebell bulbs, choose native. Well done, Eco Ambassadors!

We met with our school counsellors and discussed Parliament Week 2025, and we held a whole-school election. To help the children experience how democratic voting works, they voted for one special activity for the school:

- Extra playtime
- A fun art session
- A non-uniform day
- A sports session

Each child had the chance to cast their vote in school and it was revealed that the majority went to a non-school uniform day which we all enjoyed. Democracy in action!



Christmas at the Infants is full of fun, excitement and festive cheer. Year 1 enjoyed a wonderful trip to the Curve to watch Aliens Love Santa Claus, which was a memorable experience for everyone seeing live performers and getting involved. We loved having our families in for a decorations day. The children also loved Christmas dinner, wearing their festive jumpers and celebrating together at class parties. We enjoyed a trip to the church for our annual Christmas service, which was a lovely opportunity to come together and reflect during the season. The recently re-launched PTFA organised excellent Christmas discos, which were thoroughly enjoyed by the children and successfully raised an impressive £1,700 for the schools and organised the cake sale too. Our wonderful Reception pupils and staff delighted families with a brilliant Nativity performance. It was a truly special highlight of the season. Everyone is in good spirits and looking forward to a well-earned break.



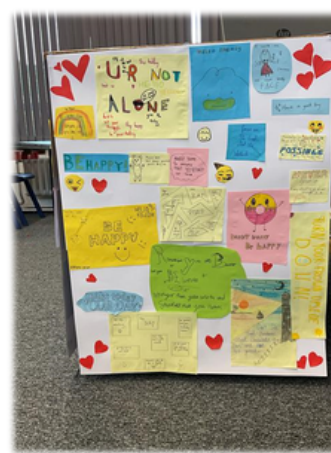
Earlier in the term, in assembly, Year 1 and 2 were lucky enough to be visited by GB Olympic gymnast Sam Oldham. He gave a fantastic talk to the children about his successful gymnastics career and the resilience it took him to achieve all that he has done. He showed his Olympic torch, his Olympic medal and gave some brilliant demonstrations! The children were inspired by his journey and captivated the whole time- especially with the backflip.

It has been an uplifting and memorable few months for our school community. Our children have continued to shine; from their growing confidence in the classroom to the kindness they show one another each day, they have truly embodied the values that make Overdale Junior School such a special place.

We were delighted to have welcomed Mrs Holmes to Overdale Junior School this term and it has been wonderful to work together closely with Mr Evans over at Overdale Infant School. Our first joint occasion, Remembrance Day, was a really thought provoking and powerful event and we look to the future of the Overdales as we can take part in more combined celebrations together.

Other special events such as Children in Need and Hello Yellow Day have also been wonderful to be a part of.

Another standout moment was our fantastic series of Christmas discos, which were a huge success. The children had an amazing time, and it was wonderful to see so much joy and festive spirit. The children also worked incredibly hard creating their own decorations which went on display at St Mary's church as part of the Knighton Church Christmas Tree Festival. Thank you to all of the children (and staff!) for their contributions to the festival.



Year 6s have been learning about World War 1, and a particular highlight was a webinar with author Tom Palmer, where pupils learned about the true story behind War Dog and enjoyed a live illustration session with Caroline Rabei. In keeping with the war theme, pupils made Christmas decorations sewn onto luggage tags. Year 6 also enjoyed a trip to the Warning Zone, learning about e-safety, rail safety and staying safe in the community. It is always a fun but educational day out!



Year 3 also finished their topic on the Stone Age with a trip to Bradgate Park. Children handled artefacts, tried spear throwing, experimented with cave painting and imagined life as nomadic hunters. Their behaviour, curiosity and teamwork were outstanding throughout the day.



Stone Age Day was a real highlight: pupils built Mesolithic and Neolithic shelters in the forest, and really utilised our fantastic outdoor learning spaces at the school.





Staff and pupils had great fun dressing up for Children in Need on 14 November. Thank you to everyone who donated, and who made the effort – there were some amazing outfits.

Autumn Term Celebration Assemblies at Woodland Grange

Throughout the year, every year group has the chance to put on a special assembly for the school and their parents. These are an opportunity for the children to find out about how major faiths celebrate key festivals during the year. Year 1 got the year off to a great start with their assembly about Rosh Hashanah. This was less than a month into the school year and they did a brilliant job. Moving up from Foundation Stage and into Year 1 and putting together a whole school celebration assembly in such a short time was brilliant. They showed us their special shofar horns that they had made and fish that they had drawn and painted, and tasted apples and honey.



Just last week, Foundation Stage performed their nativity show. They performed twice to school and also twice to their parents – a huge feat at the end of such a long term! The show this year was called 'A Twinkly Nativity' and was a really ambitious production with seven songs and a whole lot of words to learn. They were brilliant and they absolutely delighted all who watched.



This half term, we also held our annual 'Decorations Day' and were delighted to welcome a number of parents into school to join their children and get crafty on a range of projects. There was a huge amount of fun and a fantastic atmosphere in every class across the school. A number of the projects also involved recycling which was an added bonus. During the break, parents were treated to some cakes, courtesy of Aspens, our new school caterers, and also to teas and coffees.



Activities

KIDS ULTIMATE FRISBEE



- GREAT FITNESS
- SPORTSMANSHIP AND TEAMWORK
- SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING
- AWESOME FUN!!!
- SOON TO BE IN THE OLYMPICS!

AGES 9-12 WEDNESDAYS, 5:30-6:30pm. @ MANOR HIGH SCHOOL

AGES 12-17 WEDNESDAYS, 6:30-8pm @ MANOR HIGH SCHOOL

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. ALL WELCOME. FIRST SESSION IS FREE! (£6/£8 after)

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