



NEWSLETTER

Summer Term 2023



Welcome

to the summer edition of our Trust newsletter

As always, the newsletter provides a number of updates on the work of our academies and the highlights of their successes over the past term as well as our plans for the future. There is also plenty of information for you as families to access support for your children and for yourselves.

As the summer holiday approaches, we recognise that there may still be a need for our families to make contact or access support from school, and I would encourage you to visit your child's academy website to see both what may be on offer over the holiday period or to assure yourself of what support is available should you need it.

To all of those pupils who have taken examinations this summer, well done! Each year the exam season seems to become longer and there seem to be more papers than ever to sit. Our pupils show such great levels of resilience in seeing this through. I hope they will now find time for a well-earned rest.

To all our families and their children, Happy Holidays!



Damian Owen
CEO



Staying safe during the holidays

Safe4Summer is an annual partnership campaign involving Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, Greater Manchester Police, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, and local councils with the aim of keeping young people safe over the summer months.

Please follow the links below to some useful advice on how to support your children to stay safe over the holidays.

Safe4Summer - [Click Here](#)

Water safety - [Click Here](#)

Pedestrian Safety for Teenagers - [Click Here](#)



Cost of living support

We understand that it is a challenging time for lots of families who are trying to manage increases in food prices and energy bills. It's ok to ask for help.

[The Manchester City Council web pages](#) are available to point residents in the right direction for support with the cost of living.

Manchester City Council also offer a Cost of Living Advice Line: 0800 023 2692. This freephone number is available from 9:00am-4:30pm Monday to Friday to provide:-

- Support with benefits and help with rent
- Advice about debt and paying bills
- Food support – help to find community food provision near you
- Help to get online – support to access the internet, laptops, phones and data

Agents on the phone line have access to language line for those residents whose first language is not English. Sign Video is also available for residents who may require this facility. An [online form](#) is also available if you do not wish to make contact by phone.

Responding to online issues

With the summer holidays on the horizon, this article will help to get you ready to support your family with online safety over the summer.

Prevention is better than cure:

- Have you talked to them about their life online? - You may not understand the appeal but ask them to show you the things they like, what apps or sites they go on and ask them to show you the privacy and security settings that they have set up.
- Do you have rules about when and where your child can use their mobile phone? Encourage them to take regular breaks from their screens, spend some time away from their devices every day and begin to form healthy habits around phone use
- Have you looked at the parental controls and resources that many companies offer? – Snap Chat, Tik Tok and Instagram all have family settings whereby you can control some aspects of their life on line and lots of phone companies have dedicated family sharing settings.

What to do if your child has come to you and needs help:

- Don't panic! – Although it will be worrying, if a child thinks they could get into more trouble by telling you, they are less likely to ask for help. Reassure them as much as you can and remember that they are asking for help
- Gather evidence if you can – Take screenshots, save messages and make a note of usernames, dates and times
- Report and Block it! – Most platforms allow you to report concerns to their safeguarding teams and all of them allow you to block inappropriate or unwanted content. You must report concerns to the individual platform before you can report anything elsewhere
- If there are more concerning issues, then you can report online concerns or risks as below:
 - Grooming or other suspicious behaviour towards a child should be reported to CEOP, the Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre.
<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>
 - Online child sexual abuse should be reported to IWF, The Internet Watch Foundation.
<https://www.iwf.org.uk/report/>
 - Online content that encourages hatred on the grounds of race, religion, disability and sexual orientation or transgender identity, should be reported to True Vision.
<https://www.report-it.org.uk/>
 - Inappropriate or harmful content including unwanted sexual advances, self-harm or suicide content, bullying or threats should be reported to Report Harmful Content.
<https://reportharmfulcontent.com/report/>
- Keep supporting the child after the incident – make sure they don't keep going back to the same place or account to keep reviewing comments or see if a post has been taken down. Make sure they don't retaliate by replying or making horrible comments themselves, this just escalates things and never works as a way of stopping online bullying. Finally, make sure they understand not to share names, accounts or other details with their friends. Bullies want to know that their behaviour has had an impact and lots of people reacting to their horrible comments will just encourage them to keep on posting.

For more help with this topic, check out our 'Digital Parenting' pages at the Trust website but remember, if you think a child is at immediate risk of harm, please call the Police on 999





News from our Schools



Manchester Poet, Mike Garry delivers poetry workshop to students

Mike Garry is a well-renowned Manchester poet and former librarian who is heard regularly on the BBC, performs worldwide with John Cooper Clarke and has collaborated with artists including New Order, Iggy Pop and Philip Glass. Mike visited Parrs Wood on Thursday 29th June to perform his poetry and deliver workshops for groups of Year 10 and Year 12 students.



Mike performed several poems including 'Mancunian Meander', 'The Fallow Field', 'Ryan's Lament' and 'Pay As You Go'. The Year 10s annotated poems and discussed their favourite lines. Rather than written work Mike encouraged free and open discussion of his poems focusing on enjoyment, the music of poetry and what techniques made them enjoyable to listen to. Mike delivered a funny, gritty, honest and inspirational session during which he spoke of his Manchester upbringing, his Irish immigrant background and mental health.

He dispelled negative misconceptions about careers in the creative arts, and discussed the career successes of his daughters who attended Parrs Wood!

Mike spoke at length about the power of reading for pleasure to not only drive education and knowledge but also to benefit the soul by teaching things like kindness, emotional intelligence and improving your ability to communicate - which makes you powerful.

The Year 12s also learnt about kennings. They did group exercises making up their own kennings for given words and trying to guess each other's word from the kennings - the results were impressively poetic. Mike



also spoke about the barriers to enjoyment of reading, how to overcome these, and was also very encouraging of budding writers within the group. ■



Envision Racing Team and the ‘Race Against Climate Change’

It’s not every day that you’ll find a Formula E racing car sitting outside the main entrance of our school! Just as we approached the Easter break, we were lucky enough to secure a visit from Envision Racing, a Formula E team that is dedicated to accelerating the transition to e-mobility and renewable energy.



Alongside testing new battery technology for cars, Envision Racing is on a mission to tackle e-waste and ensure the precious minerals and other materials found in old laptops, mobile phones and other electrical devices are extracted and reused.

Envision Racing launched their Recover-E Campaign and Waste to Race competition at the Climate Champions event in Moss Side in March. Working in partnership with Manchester-based artist and designer Liam Hopkins, it is creating a full-size replica Formula E racing car from e-waste that will be unveiled at the London E-Prix on 29 July.

To encourage wider awareness – and

unlock brilliant ideas from children and young people – they have also launched a global Waste to Race challenge for children and young people to design and build their own mini racing cars from e-waste.

Our students heard from an Envision Racing representative and designer Liam Hopkins who:

- Introduced Formula E and how it is changing the cars on our roads by testing and trailing new battery technology
- Talked about the need for a circular economy – where we use and reuse items to cut carbon emissions and protect our planet
- Explained the importance of recycling e-waste (phones, laptops, electrical devices) so the minerals can be used
- Launched the Waste to Race competition and provided a short ‘how to’ guide for students to build their own mini racing cars from e-waste
- Hosted a Q&A session



Our students were then able to see the Envision Racing car for themselves. We think you’ll agree it’s quite impressive! <https://envision-racing.com/> ■



Inspiring Women's Conference – Manchester Business School

20 year 10 students attended the 8th Annual Inspiring Women's Conference at The Manchester Business School on the 18th May. Levenshulme High School has attended every year and the students involved have always found the day useful when applying for colleges in Year 11 and for developing their leadership skills in various roles within the school.

They were joined by students from TEMA, Whalley Range and Parrs Wood High School. The day started with Inspiring Journey stories from four Manchester Business School students from The Manchester business School. Students then asked questions about their presentations. This was followed by workshops on Emotional Wellbeing, Interview techniques and transferable skills.

The Keynote speaker Oyebanji Adewumi MBE (Director of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) closed the day. The students found her speech inspiring and full of humour and warmth. They asked lots of questions about Oyebanji's journey to her current role and the difficulties that she had to overcome in order to get to her current position.

New friends were made and skills acquired to support the Year 10's on their future Career pathways.



"During the conference I was able to gain an insight into certain skills to think about and improve on in the future. It was interesting to see the diversity of lifestyles and academics of the speakers. The sessions were all thoroughly enjoyable as we got to meet with other students and learn about one another and our aspirations in life; how they differ from one another"

"I extremely enjoyed the conference. It taught me a lot and expanded my horizons, listening to a variety of women talk about their career paths. It inspired me and taught me to be proud of my past" ■

To find out more about the amazing things our schools are doing...

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