



# NEWSLETTER

## Spring Term 2024



## Welcome

to the Trust's Spring Newsletter.

On 22nd of March our pupils will come together to take part in our second Personal Development Conference. Last year pupils from all of our schools worked together to develop a student charter, which outlines what pupils should expect to experience in our schools, and what our academies can expect of them in return. The focus of this year's event at Old Trafford Stadium will be to revisit those commitments and consider what needs to be done next. The main focus of the event will be on climate change and groups will develop actions plans to be taken into their schools to help promote awareness and action to contribute to saving our planet.



In the last issue I outlined our shared work on ensuring that attendance and behaviour are a consistent focus for all of our academies. I am pleased to report that attendance at all of our academies has been consistently better than national averages. The proportion of pupils with attendance below 90% is also clearly lower than the national picture. Attendance at school means, quite simply, that pupils have a better opportunity to achieve, because they are being taught more. Please continue to share the message with your children. Equally we can report that, where suspensions are rising rapidly across the area and the country, our academies have a stable and often declining trend. Again, this is because there is a clear focus on expectations around behaviour, both in classrooms and around the academy. Those expectations are shared on each of our academy websites and I would encourage you to familiarise yourselves with those expectations and share them with your children in order to support our message further. We hope that you enjoy this issue!

Very best wishes

Damian Owen  
Chief Executive Officer



## Cost of living Information

If you need help and advice with the cost of living crisis, Manchester City Council provide lots of useful information on their dedicated webpage:



Click or  
Scan here



## Supporting your child through exam stress

For a guide to the 2024 exam season and help and advice in supporting your child through the exam period, visit:



Click or  
Scan here

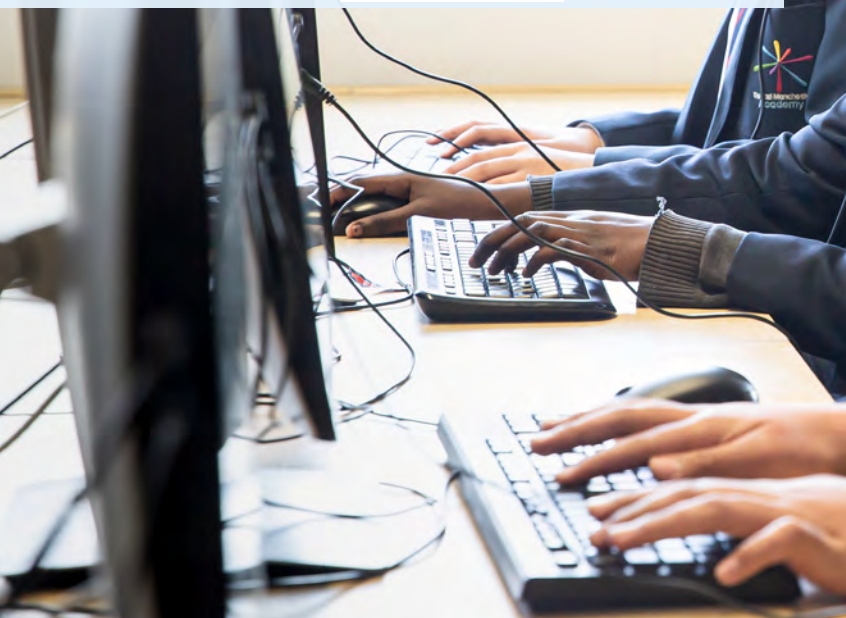


## Online Safety

With many parents/carers worried about their child's use of social media, a reminder that the Manchester Safeguarding Partnership have teamed up with Qustodio to offer a FREE account to help you control 2 devices. There is also an option to upgrade to the premium version with more features and the ability to control more devices.



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# News from our Schools



## TEMA perform to Royalty

Over the past few months, the Beswick Young Company met weekly to collaboratively create a devised short performance. Our Beswick Young Company is part of our exciting programme of activity for residents in Beswick, Openshaw and Clayton. The group meet each week in the library and taking inspiration from the ghosts of Shakespeare, the group added their own Beswick twist to the story, as well as incorporating music and poetry into



the final piece. This group of highly talented and creative TEMA students were excited to perform again at the Royal Exchange Theatre and even had a visit from His Royal Highness Prince Edward! The students had the opportunity to meet Prince Edward after the performance, David Shoneye Year 9 said “It was such a honour to be part of such a prestigious event at the Royal Exchange, the opportunity to perform in a professional theatre and to meet the Prince – I will never forget this!” ■





## Students perform “Frozen Junior”



In January 2024, Levenshulme High School transformed into the magical land of Arendelle as students performed “Frozen Junior” to 3 sold out audiences. Starting with over 100 auditionees in September, the cast, the musicians, technicians, stage and costume crew showcased months of dedication and hard work to produce a spectacular production of the well-known story. Princess Anna sets out to rescue her Kingdom which was accidentally Frozen and trapped in a perpetual winter by her sister, Queen Elsa. She joins forces with a supportive team along the way, including the charming Kristoff and Sven, cheeky Olaf and the mysterious hidden folk who guide the sisters to “Let it Go” and embrace their strengths together.



For our première performance, we welcomed an audience from Parrs Wood High School, as well as a range of local primary schools, to enjoy a matinee. This performance was well received and the students were a fantastic audience! Our cast and crew were professional and performed with absolute pride. Reviews from the audience were glowing, with many young people struggling to choose their favourite characters because of the impressive interpretation from all of our performers.



The production came together so effectively thanks to the wonderful support from our school community and external performing arts networks. Snowflakes filled our school as the whole school competition to create beautiful 3D origami snowflakes was embraced by so many. Thank you to Sian Millington for organising this, they looked fantastic! For the past 3 years we have been extremely lucky to collaborate with Pendelton College; this year we are so thankful to them for their help with the staging and sound equipment. We look forward to continuing this collaboration in the future, particularly to embrace the skills and knowledge of the technical elements of a show for our students.



2024’s production was magical in many ways, but mostly because of how all elements of the show were delivered by students. The crew included: a student band conducted by David Williams, student directors, student dance choreographers, student costume crew, student stage designers, student light and sound technicians as well as managing the beautiful projections. It was also a huge treat to have the support and guidance of Levenshulme Alumni, Safiya Begum, who continues to study theatre at university. We are incredibly proud of all of the students involved; they were a calm and collected cast who wholly supported each other every step of the way. Their demonstration of team work, commitment and resilience as well as empathy and understanding made every step of the way a true delight. ■





## Parrs Wood - EY Careers Workshop

On January 12th, Year 10 students studying BTEC Enterprise at Parrs Wood High School were invited to attend a careers workshop delivered by EY Foundation. EY Foundation is an independent charity dedicated to giving young people from all backgrounds a great start to their working lives.

Held at the prestigious EY Head Office situated at 2 St Peter's Square in Manchester City Centre, students spent the morning learning about how to be successful in the job application process and finding out more about a variety of future career pathways.

Sarah Batty (Programme Lead) delivered a workshop on preparing a CV and gave the students much to think about in terms of structure, including the 'do's and don'ts' of preparing a CV and some career advice.

"The best piece of career/ general advice that I regularly share is to back yourself! Confidence is the key to encouraging you to push yourself, you have to believe in



yourself otherwise how can you expect anyone else to!"

The visit ended with a speed career networking event with several EY employees from departments including IT, risk management and auditing who shared their career journeys with groups of students and engaged in Q & A about their job roles.

"I didn't know you could do those types of jobs – I am going to look into an apprenticeship."

"I really enjoyed seeing what it was like to work in a busy office building – it helps you see what the world of work might be like."

At Parrs Wood, we believe that achieving excellent outcomes academically and pastorally will allow our students to make a positive contribution to society, regardless of background. The visit to EY is a reflection of this ethos and part of a wider Business programme that allows business students from all backgrounds to access internships, speaker visits and engage with industry professionals. ■





## Whalley Range Achieves the One Education Reading Award (Gold)

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the One Education Reading Award (at GOLD level), for our commitment towards building a successful reading curriculum.

members of staff, in supporting students developing their reading ability and their enjoyment of reading.

*“Reading is such a fundamental life skill, so we are honoured for the school to be recognised for its excellence in supporting students to improve in their reading, as well as developing a love for reading too.” ■*



The One Education Reading Award is a comprehensive assessment of how a school improves the reading for all its students. The award looks at the whole school reading curriculum, continuing professional development for staff, disciplinary literacy and specific reading strategies, and ways in which students’ opportunities to read have improved. Achieving this award at the gold level is testament to the hard work which goes on every day in school, from all



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Greater Manchester Education Trust

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