



# NEWSLETTER

## Summer Term 2024



Greater  
Manchester  
Education Trust  
*creating great futures*

# Welcome

## to the Summer edition of the GMET Newsletter

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the Summer term edition of our Trust newsletter.

As always, the Trust 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.



GMET recently hosted its first Trust Climate Conference (GMET1). You will be able to read about the event in this issue, and we will be coordinating our actions across all of our schools together to protect the environment for all our pupils. This group of Trust Student Leaders will be working with our staff and pupils across our community to make sure that we can take effective action, working together to make a difference to our area.

There is also plenty of information for you as families to access support for your children and for yourselves. Over the next year we will be focusing on how we can develop our support for our families and communities across the Trust. During the summer holiday 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.

Please also be sure to check the dates for the return to school for your children after the summer break and the holidays for the coming year to make sure that these can always be booked so that they do not affect attendance. You will find inside this issue an article about the impact of attendance on children's education. I hope that you find these articles interesting and helpful and wish you an enjoyable summer holiday period.

Very best wishes  
Damian Owen  
Chief Executive Officer



**Has your child been offered a place at one of our schools for this September?  
Don't delay in accepting the offer.**



## Attendance Matters

All Greater Manchester Education Trust schools have been working hard to improve the attendance and punctuality of students in line with the latest DfE guidance – Working Together To Improve Attendance. It is widely recognised that the educational outcomes and future life chances of children and young people can be significantly impacted upon by periods of absence. Students who have irregular attendance achieve fewer qualifications and are less able to access higher education, employment or training.

At the heart of the latest joint HM Government & NHS 'Moments Matter, Attendance Counts' campaign

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

is the importance of getting your child to school even when they might be feeling worried or 'under the weather' so that school can support.

All schools offer a twin stranded challenge and support based approach designed to ensure that we can work together to achieve a great future for every student. Once a student attends; even for part of the day, we can start to help and support.



## 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





## Staying safe over the summer

The recently passed Online Safety Bill has been written to try to make the Internet a safer place for children, but the new rules won't come into effect until late 2025 and some critics say that the measures don't go far enough to protect our children. In the meantime, parents and schools are left to try to safeguard our children from an online culture where pornography, violence, self-harm, grooming and bullying are common place.

In school, students regularly receive online safety lessons. It is part of our statutory personal development curriculums, but often students say that whilst they know what to do and how to stay safe, they don't always take those crucial steps to protect themselves online.

In a very powerful interview during BBC Breakfast on 08/05/2024 a group of parents discussed the issues of online harm. A spokesperson from Internet Matters.org emphasised the need for parents to take an active role in managing their children's online life, particularly in helping them to understand the risks that they are taking and in establishing rules and boundaries for the use of mobile devices.

As a Trust, we have gathered some resources to support parents in this complex space by thinking about 7 key questions: <https://gmetrust.org/esafety/digital-parenting>

1. Do you know what your child is doing online?
2. Are there rules about when they can and can't use their device?
3. Do they know what to do if something goes wrong?
4. What do you do if your child has come to you and needs help?
5. Can they keep themselves and their information safe?
6. Are they careful about their own digital reputation?
7. Do they know how to decide if something is true or if someone is genuine?



Over the summer break, if something does go wrong, a great website to start with is Report Harmful Content <https://reportharmfulcontent.com/report/> published by the South West Grid for Learning. This has a section that guides you through reporting concerns on all social media platforms, even if you don't have an account on the platform.



Manchester Safeguarding Partnership have also teamed up with Qustodio to offer free basic accounts for all parents of children in Manchester schools. Qustodio allows parents to set up controls to try to keep their child's screen time safe and balanced on every device.

Set up your free account here

<https://manchestersafeguardingpartnership.onlinesafetyhub.uk/parent/parent-app/qustodio/get-started>





# NEWSLETTER SUMMER Term 2024



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



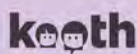
## Water safety



## Pedestrian Safety for Teenagers



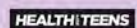
## Mental Health & Wellbeing



**KOOTH**  
Free, safe and anonymous online support for young people  
[www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)



**Mind**  
Help for mental health in Manchester  
[www.manchestermind.org](http://www.manchestermind.org)



**Health for Teens**  
Range of advice  
[www.healthforteens.co.uk](http://www.healthforteens.co.uk)



**Young Minds**  
Parental helpline  
[www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

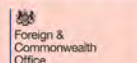


**42nd Street**  
Parental helpline  
[www.42ndstreet.org.uk](http://www.42ndstreet.org.uk)

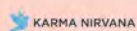


**Anna Freud**  
National centre for children's mental health  
[www.annafreud.org](http://www.annafreud.org)

## Forced Marriage & FGM



**Foreign & Commonwealth Office**  
Telephone **020 7008 0151**  
or email [fmu@fco.gov.uk](mailto:fmu@fco.gov.uk)

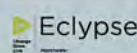


**Karma Nirvana**  
Call free on **0800 5999 247**  
[www.karmanirvana.org.uk](http://www.karmanirvana.org.uk)



**NSPCC**  
Call free on **0800 028 3550**  
or email [fghelp@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:fghelp@nspcc.org.uk)

## Substance Misuse and Abuse



**Eclipse (Manchester)**  
Local information and support  
[www.changegrowlive.org/eclipse](http://www.changegrowlive.org/eclipse)

## Internet Safety



**Report Harmful Content**  
Report Harmful Content on Social Media and the web  
[www.reportharmfulcontent.com](http://www.reportharmfulcontent.com)



**Report Online Sexual Abuse**  
[www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)

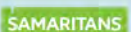


**Report Hate Crime**  
[www.report-it.org.uk](http://www.report-it.org.uk)

## Suicide



**Papyrus**  
Prevention of young suicide  
Call free on **0800 068 4141**  
[www.papyrus-uk.org](http://www.papyrus-uk.org)



**Samaritans**  
For support relating to all aspects of suicide -  
Call free on **116 123**  
[www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

## Bereavement



**Child Bereavement UK**  
Supporting bereaved children and young people  
[www.childbereavementuk.org](http://www.childbereavementuk.org)



**Winston's Wish**  
Bereavement charity supporting grieving children and families  
[www.winstonswish.org](http://www.winstonswish.org)

## Eating Concerns



**Beat**  
The eating disorders charity  
[www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk](http://www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk)



**Seed**  
Support and Empathy for people with Eating Disorders  
[www.seed.charity](http://www.seed.charity)

## Other useful links and information



**The Proud Trust**  
For local information and advice about all LGBTQIA+ matters  
[www.theproudtrust.org](http://www.theproudtrust.org)



**Brook**  
For information and advice about sexual health  
[www.brook.org.uk](http://www.brook.org.uk)



**Muslim youth helpline**  
Faith and culturally sensitive support  
[www.myh.org.uk](http://www.myh.org.uk)



**Womens Aid**  
Domestic abuse  
[www.womensaid.org.uk](http://www.womensaid.org.uk)



**The Children's Society**  
Information for young people  
[www.childrenssociety.org.uk/information/young-people](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/information/young-people)

## Not sure who to contact?

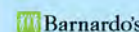
Get free and confidential advice from:



[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)



[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)



[www.barnardos.org.uk](http://www.barnardos.org.uk)

**In an emergency call 999 or  
Children's Services 0161 234 5001**



## GMET | Climate Conference

On Friday 22nd March 2024, we brought together students representing the Eco Clubs from across the Trust for our inaugural Climate Conference held at Old Trafford. Students in each of our schools supported by teams of dedicated staff, have been working tirelessly over recent years to make sizeable changes for the benefit of our school communities. GMET I was an opportunity for members of these teams to come together to share their work so far, present future ideas and work in collaboration with students from across the trust to further develop action plans to improve the impact of their work.



With an ambitious agenda planned, we were fortunate to be welcomed to Old Trafford by John Shields MBE, Chief Executive Officer of the Manchester United Foundation who partner with each of our schools, making a difference to so many young people in a number of ways. The conference was then officially opened by our trust CEO Damian Owen who shared some very inspiring words with students and most importantly highlighted to students that the answer to improving the climate and the problems we are currently facing was in the room with the students.

Following some Ice Breaker activities led by Coach Jo from the MU Foundation it was over to the students to share with one another the projects they had been working on in their individual schools.

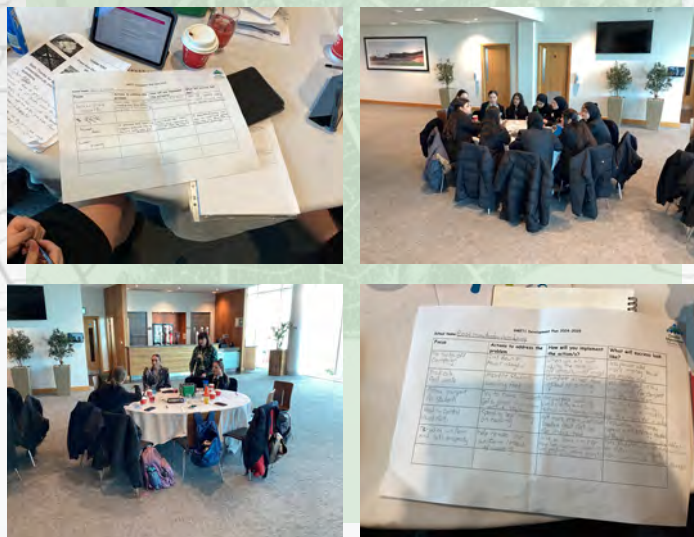
Our guest speaker, Chris Baker from Parrs Wood High School, shared some of the many projects which he has undertaken with the sixth form students at PWHS to provide students with some inspiration. He also provided guidance on how to assess the impact of projects and advice for sustainability planning to enable students to move their projects forward.



# NEWSLETTER SUMMER Term 2024



Students were then given time to work across schools to share their ideas regarding their future projects and get advice from their peers on any difficulties they had faced with similar projects and how they could overcome these. Each team spent the final part of the afternoon putting together an action plan to take back to their individual school and make a reality with the help of the school community. Over the coming weeks, each team will present their action plans to the Senior Leadership Teams and start to put their plans in place. Thank you to all of the staff in each of the four schools who support the Eco clubs and to the students who continue to make a difference to our school communities. Our schools are very lucky to have such dedicated students and we look forward to seeing their progress over the coming months.



Below is an outline of the projects undertaken by each school and following the conference their future planned projects:

## Levenshulme High School

- Tree planting
- New efficient radiators
- Food waste bins
- Reform the pond area for use by GCSE Geography students and Acacias Primary school
- Walking Bus

### Future Projects

- Solar Panels
- Bug Hotels
- Eco Ties
- Recycle Prom Dresses



## Parrs Wood High School

- Crisp Packet Project to create bivvy bags for the homeless
- Reducing single use plastics

### Future Projects

- Reduce Litter on the school site
- Reduce the use of plastics
- Reduce the use of fast fashion
- Use of an energy bike



## The East Manchester Academy

- City of Trees gardening project – planting trees and hedges to combat greenhouse gases
- Big switch off- to save energy
- Composting food waste
- Sending left over food to local food banks
- Reducing use of plastic – Radnor bottles to cartons
- Recycle uniform

### Future Projects

- Reduce litter on the school site
- Reduce food waste
- Active transport project
- Heating control to save money
- Reuse uniform project



## Whalley Range High School

- Gardening Club
- Action for Conservation workshops
- Eco Reds – Happy to Chat space
- Prom dress recycling
- Eco ties
- Food waste with donations to food banks
- Bikeability, encouraging more students to cycle to school

### Future Projects

- Reducing Litter on the school site
- Recycling school uniform





# News from our Schools



## Published author visits WRHS!

On Friday 22 March a very special visitor came to our school. Kimberly Whittam delivered a workshop based around her book, *Quiet Storm*. This book is a beautiful story about shyness and strength and has been nominated for the Read for Empathy Collection award. Storm, the focus of the novel, is a Year 8 secondary school student who is struggling with shyness and lack of confidence. Through sport and gaining confidence from being part of a team, Storm eventually finds her voice.



Kimberly shared her own personal experiences of shyness when she was at school, something a lot of the students identified with. Students explored what barriers girls face in sport and how they can overcome these challenges. Then, through a

number of team building activities, students explored how sport helped Storm develop confidence. To finish off, students created their own 'girls in sport collage', which will hopefully inspire them to pursue sports in the future.



'Students were engaged from the outset. Kimberly really connected with them and got them thinking!

*Quiet Storm* is an excellent story, with lots of positive messages and we can't wait for Kimberly's next book to be published!'

- Mrs Davies, LRC Manager. ■







## Celebrating Diversity at TEMA

At the East Manchester Academy, we are incredibly proud of our vibrant and diverse community. At TEMA, there are over 50 languages spoken and we have staff and students with roots in all of continents of the world.

We celebrate our diversity and our REACH values of Respect, Equality and Ambition annually during our Diversity Week. We celebrate achievement by inviting in career role models from a wide variety of backgrounds to work with our students. This year these included scientists, academics, poets, publishers and sportspeople. Our Diversity Leaders set up an information trail around school where students could learn about some of the nations that are most represented here at TEMA. In their PE lessons, students took part in a range of parasports to gain a firsthand experience of playing sport with a disability, including being blind.

All students had the opportunity to watch our Diversity Bash student performance. As ever, we were impressed by the phenomenal

talent of our students. We enjoyed an eclectic range of performances; dances from Pakistan, Afghanistan and West Africa and musical performances representing cultures from all over the world – including a heavy metal guitar solo.



As Diversity Week took place during Ramadan, we were also pleased to celebrate our first TEMA community Iftar, attended by over 100 students and their families.



We rounded off the week with our Diversity Festival where students and staff are encouraged to come in dress celebrating their heritage. During the festival, students had the chance to take part in Henna painting, arts workshops with the Manchester Chinese Centre, dance with the Manchester Chinese Academy of Dance, professional hair trims and braiding and trainer cleaning with Nusole services. Students celebrated their outfits with our



TEMA catwalk accompanied by our afrobeats DJ and had the chance to enjoy the British classics of chips and a 99 from the ice cream van.

We know children and young people learn best when they are in an environment where they feel safe and seen. In our REACH value of Respect, we ask students to show respect for all people and recognise our common humanity. Events such as our Diversity Festival allow our students the opportunity to live this value in a celebration of togetherness and joy. ■





## Eco-club students develop school site

Students from eco-club at Levenshulme High School have been working tirelessly over the last few months to make their school site more eco-friendly and develop a climate change action plan. The DfE's sustainability and climate change strategy states: "By 2025, all education settings will have nominated a sustainability lead and put in place a climate action plan". Eco-club worked with their teachers and business manager, Mr McNulty, as well as the wider school community to devise such a plan and are currently working hard to achieve their targets.



A focus for the summer terms was to increase the biodiversity of their school site. Students learned to identify plants in an area around their school pond. They surveyed the habitat which included highlights such as seeing a newt for the first time. Students then weeded and tidied the area which helped them to develop their gardening skills. The pond area can now also be used as an outdoor learning resource. For example, Geography GCSE classes completed a pond dipping activity which enhanced their understanding of the pond as a small-scale ecosystem.

At Levenshulme High School we are blessed with having large school grounds. This school year, we partnered with the charity City of Trees to identify areas that would be suitable for future tree planting. This will form part of our schools' climate action plan to adapt to hotter summers and mitigate the effects of global warming. We are also hoping that the trees will provide shade for outdoor learning activities. In April, we planted the first fruit trees

which are now looked after by eco-club tree carers and we are hoping to plant a hedge and many more trees after the construction of our new building in 2025.

HLa, who has been involved in the tree planting project says: "Eco-club has helped me grow as a person; working on projects as a team has been encouraging, and it has given me more confidence and taught me numerous skills that I will need in the future."

In April, eco-club visited Acacias primary school to learn how they have filled their insect hotels. This is part of a wider cooperation between Acacias and Levenshulme that is being developed.

Eco-club also recognised the need to develop more bee and insect friendly spaces around our school grounds. We arranged a visit to our neighbouring primary school Acacias Community Primary School to learn how they have designed their insect hotels. Eco-club students are now in the process of finalising their own bug hotel.

Nada, a Year 10 student, appreciates the community action she has been able to take in her role as eco-leader: "Eco-club helps me grow as a person; when I change the world, I feel bolder and more impassioned than before. It's an opportunity to do more than simply learn about our world; it's an opportunity to make changes, encourage others to do the same, and collectively create a brighter future".

In the coming months, students will concentrate on finalising additional projects, including recycling blazers and ties donated by departing Year 11 students, alongside efforts to obtain preloved prom dresses from fashion companies. ■



City of Trees kindly donated and provided the trees and planting equipment to enable us to plant the fruit trees.





## Gardening Therapy Group

Since September, I have been running a Gardening Therapy Group at the Parrs Wood Environment Centre with Kit Walker. It is the continuation of an Intervention Group previously run by Kit and Mrs Fletcher. We take 5 or 6 pupils from Year 7 for a two-hour session each week. The children access the wonderful rural surroundings, and we cover different aspects of wildlife, teach them how to grow their own fruit and vegetables and help them understand how to care for plants. Besides being a great opportunity to learn about a healthy lifestyle (i.e. exercise, diet and teamwork) the time the pupils spend together helps to build friendships. They are provided with a safe place to talk and encourage



positive Mental Health and wellbeing. Furthermore, it helps develop their speech, language and communication needs. Through the patience, kindness and enthusiasm delivered by Kit, the children learn how to form and sustain positive relationships not



just with their peers, but adults as well. There is definitely a great sense that we all work together as a team. After a specified period of time the pupils receive Certification from the John Muir Award Institution. They also reap the rewards of harvesting what they have grown over the seasons. I have seen bags of carrots and onions, beans and tomatoes and flowers and more all collected and taken home by the children. I am extremely pleased to be part of this group. I enjoy being in the delightful grounds that the 'Friends of Parrs Wood' nurture and maintain. It is a good link between themselves and the school. I love the peacefulness of the gardens, the lush trees and full orchards that appear. I know that the children really appreciate it all as well. I also love to tell people that I am part of a team that can cultivate pineapples, even in Manchester! - Mr Largon ■

We hope you're enjoying our  
Termly Newsletter.

To help us improve the content, please  
fill out the quick feedback form.  
Your opinion matters.



Click or  
Scan here

To find out more about the amazing things  
our schools are doing...  
Follow the Schools  
on Social Media





