



NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 2025



Welcome to the GMET Autumn Trust Newsletter

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the Autumn term edition of our Trust newsletter.

The Trust newsletter contains updates on the work of our academies and their successes over the past term as well as our plans for the future.



In the summer, examination results for pupils in all of our academies were well above national figures. The approach in all of our academies is one of high expectations balanced with care and support and this includes the value of good attendance and conduct. Despite the challenges faced by schools across the country all of our academies compared very well to national averages in both of these areas.

I would like to thank all of our parents for ensuring that attendance is regular, so that pupils can learn and achieve more. We know that if children are not in school they do not achieve as well as they should. A reminder also that our term dates for next year have now been published and are available for each of our academies to enable you to plan ahead.

We recently consulted with our families on the growth of the trust. I am delighted to say that Alexandra Park Primary School, in Stockport, will join our trust in January. This is the first primary school in our trust and will give us a great opportunity to learn about what works best for younger children. This will help us to improve our work in our secondary schools.

In this issue you will find lots of information about how to support your children and about the successes and good news stories relating to each of our academies. 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 in our families and communities across the Trust.

I hope that you find the newsletter interesting and helpful and wish you and your loved ones an enjoyable holiday period.

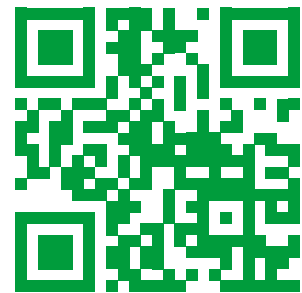
Very best wishes

Damian Owen
Chief Executive Officer

Cost of living support

The rising cost of living continues to be a challenge for many, especially during the colder months. To help manage everyday expenses, access advice, and stay connected, Manchester City Council and the UK Government have introduced a range of new and ongoing support schemes.

Scan the QR code to find out more about the support available both nationally and locally in Manchester.



<https://gmetrust.org/bdi5>

Mental Health & Wellbeing



KOOTH
Free, safe and anonymous online support for young people
www.kooth.com



Mind
Help for mental health in Manchester
www.manchestermind.org



Health4Teens
Range of advice
www.healthforteens.co.uk



Young Minds
Parental helpline
www.youngminds.org.uk



42nd Street
Parental helpline
www.42ndstreet.org.uk



Anna Freud
National centre for children's mental health
www.annafreud.org

Internet Safety



Report Harmful Content
Report Harmful Content on Social Media and the web
www.reportharmfulcontent.com



Report Online Sexual Abuse
www.ceop.police.uk



Report Hate Crime
www.report-it.org.uk

Suicide



Papyrus
Prevention of young suicide
Call free on **0800 068 4141**
www.papyrus-uk.org



Samaritans
For support relating to all aspects of suicide -
Call free on **116 123**
www.samaritans.org

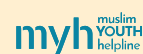
Other useful links and information



The Proud Trust
For local information and advice about all LGBTQIA+ matters
www.theproudtrust.org



Brook
For information and advice about sexual health
www.brook.org.uk



Muslim youth helpline
Faith and culturally sensitive support
www.myh.org.uk



Womens Aid
Domestic abuse
www.womensaid.org.uk

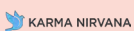


The Children's Society
Information for young people
www.childrenssociety.org.uk/information/young-people

Forced Marriage & FGM



Foreign & Commonwealth Office
Telephone **020 7008 0151**
or email fmu@fco.gov.uk



Karma Nirvana
Call free on **0800 5999 247**
www.karmanirvana.org.uk



NSPCC
Call free on **0800 028 3550**
or email fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk

Substance Misuse and Abuse



Eclipse (Manchester)
Local information and support
www.changegrowlive.org/eclipse

Bereavement



Child Bereavement UK
Supporting bereaved children and young people
www.childbereavementuk.org



Winston's Wish
Bereavement charity supporting grieving children and families
www.winstonswish.org

Eating Concerns



Beat
The eating disorders charity
www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk



Seed
Support and Empathy for people with Eating Disorders
www.seed.charity

Not sure who to contact?

Get free and confidential advice from:



www.childline.org.uk



www.nspcc.org.uk



www.barnardos.org.uk

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

Staying Safe Online in the Holidays

As the holidays approach, many young people will spend more time online—gaming, chatting, and sharing festive moments. While the internet offers fun and connection, it also brings risks. Here's how you can help your child stay safe and confident online.

1. Talk Openly and Positively

Start conversations by asking what apps and games your child enjoys and why. **Avoid criticising their choices - keeps communication open and build trust. Make online safety part of everyday discussion so they feel comfortable sharing concerns.**

2. Create a Family Agreement

Agree together on when devices can be used and why these rules matter. Consider using printable family pledges from Vodafone or NetAware to make this easier and don't forget to include yourself! Balance screen-time by agreeing clear boundaries—such as device-free mealtimes or no screens in bedrooms at night. Encourage offline activities to maintain a healthy balance.

3. Check Privacy Settings

Review privacy settings together on apps like Instagram, TikTok, and Snapchat. Ensure posts are only visible to trusted friends, turn off location sharing, and enable parental controls where appropriate.

4. Use Parental Controls Wisely

Tools like Google Family Link, Apple Parental Controls, OurPact, or Qustodio can help manage screen time, block inappropriate apps, and track location. Manchester Safeguarding Partnership even offers free access to Qustodio Basic for two devices.

5. Be Alert to New Apps and Trends

Friend-finding apps and anonymous chat platforms can pose safeguarding risks. Discuss why these apps might be unsafe and agree on which platforms are allowed. Keep an eye on emerging trends like livestreaming, which increases visibility and vulnerability.

7. Protect Personal Information and Digital Reputation

Remind your child never to share personal details—such as address, school name, or phone number—online. Talk about the risks of sharing holiday photos that reveal locations. Encourage strong passwords, locking devices, and regularly checking app permissions. **Remind them that nothing online is truly private.**

8. Teach Them What to Do if Something Goes Wrong

Show your child how to report and block harmful content. Useful resources include:

- **Report Harmful Content (UK)**
- **Thinkuknow** for reporting to social networks
- **CEOP** for grooming concerns
- **True Vision** for online hate crimes

Check out our curated set of resources for parents including more help, advice and links,



Personal Development Conference: Preparing for the Future

Thursday 10th July 2025

This year's Personal Development Conference was inspired by a powerful conversation between students from TEMA and former Levenshulme co-headteacher Donna Johnson during our inaugural event in 2023. That first conference brought students from all four Trust schools together for the very first time, leading to the creation of the **Greater Manchester Education Trust Student Charter**.

During that discussion, students shared an honest reflection: while they enjoyed the event, walking into a room full of new faces and not knowing how to introduce themselves was a real challenge. This is something many young people experience—whether at cross-curricular activities, sporting events, or most importantly, when preparing for interviews and planning their next steps.

With this in mind, the focus of this year's conference was clear: to equip students with the confidence and communication skills they need to thrive in these situations—and to empower them to share these skills with peers back in their schools.



A Prestigious Venue and Inspiring Voices

We were delighted to host the event at **Old Trafford**, thanks to the support of **John Shields MBE**, Chief Executive Officer of the Manchester United Foundation. The Foundation works closely with several of our schools, making a real difference through mentoring, support, and extra-curricular opportunities.

Our Trust CEO, **Damian Owen**, opened the day with an inspiring message about the power of effective communication and its role in shaping future success.

Students also had the privilege of hearing from **Ayesha Nayyar**, a former Levenshulme student who shared her remarkable career journey in law, television, and radio. Her story of resilience, networking, and determination was a powerful reminder to never give up on your dreams.

Building Skills for Life

Throughout the day, students engaged in a series of interactive activities designed to develop key skills, including:

- Teamwork
- Communication
- Confidence
- Time Management



By the end of the conference, student feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Many expressed a desire for **more opportunities to take part in similar events** and to hear from former students and external speakers who can help them prepare for life beyond school. This is something all our schools are committed to delivering in the future.

Thank You

A huge thank you to all staff across our Trust schools who helped design and deliver the day's activities. Your support made this event possible and ensured it was a memorable and impactful experience for every student involved:

Alex Reed - LHS
Ayesha Qureshi - LHS
Katie Catterall - PWHS
Emma Woodward- PWHS
Steph Lonsdale - TEMA
Lee Beckinsall - WRHS





News from our Schools



Whalley Range students attend Action for Conservation Summer Camp

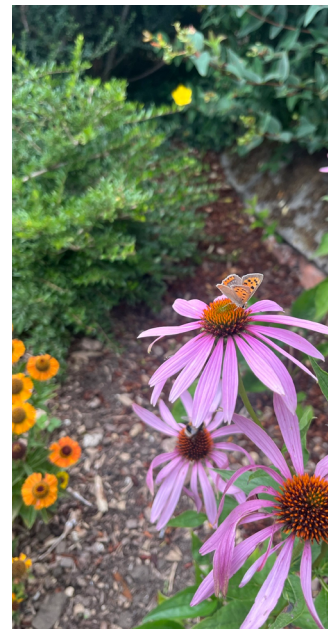
This summer, students from Whalley Range were given the exciting opportunity to apply for a summer school with the charity Action for Conservation (AFC), following a series of workshops delivered by the charity in school. Two Year 7 students, Nasreen Hanafi and Polly Proudfoot, were selected to attend the free week-long summer camp with other young people from around the UK. Now in Year 8, they have shared their amazing experience:



"AFC Summer Camp was an incredible opportunity, and I'm so glad I took part. Activities like stargazing, bat spotting, foraging, and hiking were all part of the unforgettable experience that I was grateful to be selected for. Over five days and four nights, we shared our passion for nature and discussed problems and solutions in fun, creative ways. You're looked after by really friendly staff, and you're guaranteed to make new friends because everyone is so welcoming."

We stayed in the beautiful Ilam Park, surrounded by stunning views of the Peak District, and even had the chance to visit the famous Dovedale stepping stones when the weather allowed. AFC is an inspiring charity that works to change the world one step at a time. I highly recommend the camp to anyone with an interest in nature or a desire to learn more."

Since the camp, both students have continued to work with AFC as ambassadors for the charity, working on ways use social media to create impactful conservation campaigns. We hope that other students have the opportunity to apply and attend future summer camps.





The BBC Phil fills Parrs Wood!



The BBC Philharmonic Orchestra recently visited Parrs Wood to deliver a wonderful series of concerts for our students, showcasing an exceptional breadth of composers, genres, and musical styles. It was a truly special opportunity to host a world-class orchestra in our school, and we were delighted to welcome several local primary and secondary schools to join us for this memorable experience.



Students were treated to music from across the globe and throughout the orchestral repertoire—from ballets and operas to musicals and even a piece from *Plants vs Zombies*! A highlight of the day was seeing one of our Year 7 students step up to the podium to try his hand at conducting the orchestra—a remarkable, once-in-a-lifetime moment.

We hope that experiences like these will continue to inspire a love of music in our young people and further enrich their cultural capital. Our students are fortunate to live in an incredibly musically vibrant city, and we remain committed to encouraging them to explore and enjoy its rich cultural offerings at every opportunity.

“Thanks so much for having us Parrs Wood High School! We loved performing for you all, especially as the audience was fantastic and your hall has a great acoustic for an orchestra which was a lovely surprise!”

- Jennifer Redmond, Head of Learning, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and Producer, BBC Ten Pieces





TEMA Hosts Community Stars for Landmark Celebration of Girls' Football

The East Manchester Academy was filled with excitement and pride as we had the honour of hosting a special event, that celebrated community spirit and the power of sport.

We were thrilled to welcome a host of special guests to our school for a day that championed local talent and forged stronger community partnerships.



The highlight of the day was a special training session with the talented girls' team from Beswick CFC. The team's hard work and dedication were recognised with a fantastic £5,000 donation, generously provided by the global clothing company, SHEIN, in partnership with the incredible charity, Football For Change. This significant contribution will provide vital support for the team and help nurture the next generation of sporting talent right here in our community.

We were extremely honoured to welcome two inspirational figures to mark the occasion. Lucy Powell, MP for Manchester Central, joined us to celebrate the achievement and speak with students. Adding to the excitement, former England Lioness player and Arsenal star, now renowned football pundit, Lianne Sanderson, was also in attendance, offering words of encouragement and inspiration to the young athletes.

Our own students at The East Manchester Academy played a central role in the day's success. They acted as wonderful ambassadors for our school, assisting with the event, welcoming our esteemed visitors, and liaising with representatives from SHEIN and Football For Change.

Students also had the valuable opportunity to engage directly with Lucy Powell MP, discussing current events and the importance of community engagement.

It was a wonderful event that showcased the very best of Beswick.

We are incredibly proud to have provided the venue for such a positive and impactful day and are so pleased to continue our work with partners who share our commitment to this brilliant community. We extend our warmest thanks to Beswick CFC, SHEIN, Football For Change, Lucy Powell MP, and Lianne Sanderson for making today an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.





Record-Breaking Race for Life: Our School Runs Together for Cancer Research UK

On Monday 22nd September, our school community came together with incredible energy, compassion, and determination for our annual Race for Life event. The day was filled with smiles, laughter, and a shared sense of purpose as students and staff joined forces to raise money for Cancer Research UK and to raise awareness of cancer and its impact on individuals, families, and the wider community.

This year's event was extra special! Together we raised an amazing £1,607.87, a new school record! This fantastic total is a true reflection of everyone's generosity, effort, and commitment to making a difference.

Students from all year groups took part, showing outstanding enthusiasm and pride as they ran, jogged, or walked the course. The atmosphere was joyful and heart-warming, with cheering, encouragement, and smiles all around. What truly stood out was the empathy and unity shown throughout the event, students supported one another and staff alike, showing compassion and teamwork.

A heartfelt thank you also goes to the members of staff who bravely shared their personal stories with students. Their honesty and openness had a profound impact, helping everyone understand why events like this matter so deeply, and inspiring students to take part with even greater purpose and empathy.

Beyond the fundraising success, the Race for Life reminded us of the importance of community spirit and the power we have when we come together for a cause that touches so many lives.



A huge thank you to everyone who took part, donated, or helped to organise the event. Your energy, kindness, and generosity made this year's Race for Life our most successful yet and one we'll never forget!

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

Follow
on Social Media



