



**GMET**

Greater Manchester  
Education Trust

# Newsletter

Spring 2026

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# Welcome

## to the GMET Spring 26 Trust Newsletter



Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the Spring edition of our Greater Manchester Education Trust newsletter.

This newsletter shares updates from across our academies, celebrating successes from the past term and outlining our plans for the months ahead. As ever, it reflects the hard work taking place in our schools and the strong partnership we value with families.

For many of our pupils, this term brings a focus on assessments and examinations. We know this can be a demanding time for children and young people, and for those supporting them at home. Within this edition, you will find guidance and advice on how you can help your child prepare, manage pressure and feel confident as they approach this important period. Our approach across the Trust remains one of high expectations, balanced with care, reassurance and wellbeing.

We are also pleased to share news about the continued growth of the Trust. From September, [Queensgate Primary School](#) will be joining Greater Manchester Education Trust. Queensgate is a wonderful, warm school where staff deliver an amazing experience for children and look forward very much to welcoming colleagues, pupils and families into our community, working together to learn from their excellent practice and sharing this across our schools.

Throughout this issue, you will find updates from each of our academies, alongside information about the support available to children, young people and families. Strengthening our work with families and communities remains a key priority for us, and we are committed to ensuring support is clear, accessible and responsive to need.

Thank you, as always, for the role you play in supporting your child's education and in working in partnership with our schools. As we come to the end of term, I hope you and your family are able to enjoy a well-earned break in whatever way is right for you, and I wish our pupils every success in the weeks ahead.

**Damian Owen**  
CEO

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# 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://gmtrust.org/bdi5>

## 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)

## 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)

## 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)

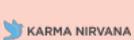


**The Children's Society**  
Information for young people  
[www.childrensociety.org.uk/information/young-people](http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/information/young-people)

## 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 [fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk)

## 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)

## 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)

## Substance Misuse and Abuse



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

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



## Exam Stress

If you're looking for guidance on how to best support your child during the exam period, there's a helpful range of tips and resources available to make things a little easier. From revision strategies and wellbeing support to practical advice on managing stress, the following link provides clear and accessible information for families.

Visit [help your child swot for exams](#) to find useful tools and advice to help your child feel more confident and prepared.



## Online Safety



With many parents and carers feeling concerned about their child's use of social media and screen time, it's worth remembering that the Manchester Safeguarding Partnership has teamed up with Qustodio to provide families with a FREE account. This free offer lets you monitor and manage up to two devices, helping you set screen-time limits, block unsuitable content, and get a clearer picture of your child's online activity.

If you need additional features—such as more detailed reports, expanded filtering options, or support for more devices—there is also the option to upgrade to the premium version. This gives you greater control and flexibility, while the two-device version remains free for all parents and carers through this partnership.

You can find out more and access your free account by visiting the [Online Safety Hub – MSP](#).



# News from our Schools

Inspiring highlights from our  
school community





Alexandra Park Primary School  
Care, Aspire, Achieve

# Inspiring Creativity at Alexandra Park Primary

The school buzzes with creativity as children explore, perform and grow with confidence



At Alexandra Park Primary, learning goes beyond the curriculum. We believe every child deserves opportunities to shine, explore their passions, and enjoy school in new and exciting ways—and the arts are at the heart of this.

A walk around the school in February highlighted just how much is happening. Children from Reception to Year 6 were rehearsing in their own rock bands, preparing for end-of-term performances. In another classroom, Mr Jowett led a session on the 12-bar blues, with the whole class taking part—keyboard players, vocal backing, and some dance moves.

Meanwhile, Year 5 pupils are rehearsing for their performance of *Oliver Twist*, after-school street dance, drama and choir sessions are full of energy, and the day before our choir took part in Young Voices at the Co-Op Arena,

performing alongside thousands of children from across the country.

These activities give children the chance to develop confidence, work together, and enjoy learning in different ways. None of this would be possible without our dedicated staff, who go above and beyond to provide experiences that help children grow and put smiles on their faces.

So, for our first good news story in the Trust newsletter, we'd like to use it as an opportunity to thank our team for making all of these experiences possible for our children.

# Spooky Spectacular Levenshulme show!

Four nights of talent, teamwork and heart created an unforgettable celebration of the performing arts.



For three consecutive nights, from the 3rd to the 5th February, the Levenshulme students put on the most wonderful production of *The Addams Family* (Young@Part).

Such is the thespian talent at LHS that two separate casts prepared for the production. Both casts delivered performances packed with energy, humour and heart and, in doing so, demonstrated remarkable professionalism, commitment and versatility.



The three evening shows were delivered to delighted sold-out audiences. And in addition to the evening shows, LHS was delighted to welcome pupils from local primaries for a special matinée performance, giving these younger audiences the chance to experience live theatre and inspire the

next generation of performers. Four shows in all, two each for the two casts.

Behind the scenes, other students worked tirelessly across acting, technical theatre, costumes, set, lighting and sound – coming together as a true company to produce a memorable community event. We were fortunate to have the support of several staff and students from our partners at Pendleton College, further strengthening community ties.

Performing Arts Team staff excelled in their work on this triumph, led by director-in-chief Ms Mian, staff fastidiously prepared and developed learners in terms of theatrical performance, musical accompaniment, design and much more.

A true team effort and a fabulous success. Roll on next year!





# Empowering Our Students Through Opportunity

A range of inspiring programmes is helping students explore careers, build skills and discover new passions.

## Mosaic Programme: The King's Trust

Students in Years 8 and 9 at Parrs Wood have been actively involved in Mosaic, a mentoring programme run by The King's Trust. Over the past six weeks, students have been developing a range of vital personal and employability skills, including: working with others, wellbeing and resilience, communication, perspective and identity.

As part of the programme, students also took part in a World of Work visit to Worldpay in Manchester, giving them valuable insight into the workplace and helping to broaden their understanding of future careers and pathways.

The students have been fantastic throughout, demonstrating maturity, enthusiasm and a



real willingness to engage. They have truly impressed The King's Trust mentors, who praised their confidence, teamwork and positive attitude. We are proud of how well our students have represented both their school and the Trust, and of the opportunities Mosaic continues to provide in raising aspirations, building self-belief and developing employability skills.

## Go Live Theatre Programme

Go Live is an exciting two-term programme designed to explore hidden careers within the arts and creative industries. The programme

gives 12 of our KS3 students first-hand experience of the many roles that exist beyond the stage, helping to broaden aspirations and deepen understanding of the theatre industry.



Students are currently developing a devised performance, which will be showcased in a working theatre, giving them an authentic insight into professional creative environments. Alongside this, students have taken part in industry talks and practical workshops, including sessions focused on set design, allowing them to explore the technical and creative processes behind live performance.

As part of the programme, students also had the opportunity to watch Cinderella at the Palace Theatre, linking directly to their learning and enriching their understanding of large-scale theatrical production. This experience was delivered in conjunction with our ongoing work with PwC, strengthening the connection between education, creativity and the world of work.

Go Live aims to connect students with the theatre industry, opening up pathways to future employment and inspiring the next generation of theatre makers and creatives. Through professional insight, practical experience and exposure to live performance, the programme is helping students to see the arts as a viable, exciting and inclusive career pathway.





# Music students visit the BRITS!

An inspiring BRIT Awards trip gave budding musicians a close-up look at the world of music.

Recently, music students from TEMA had a special surprise, with 10 lucky students getting the opportunity to visit the BRIT Awards 2026! The music students were given a guided tour of the Co-op Arena from the production team, getting to meet all the important people who make the BRITs event happen. The event included a tour of the Artist guest rooms, chats with industry professionals, a first view of the stage and it culminated in the students getting their photo taken at the winner's circle by the BRITs official photographer.

A big thank you to our local music hub, One Education, Brighter Sounds, the team at the British Phonographic Institute and the whole team at the BRIT Awards for the opportunity.

*"The event was an amazing experience and helped me to learn a lot about what needs to take place for a show of this size to put on! I plan to come back myself as a an artist in the future and show my talents."*

- Kieron, Year 10 Student

*"The opportunity to tour the BRITs for our students could not be passed up. The wealth of industry experience on show was awe inspiring and the fact that our students were able to learn from these industry professionals is amazing. Thank you to Kelly, Adam and Kate for helping this come together."*

- Mr Hatton, Teacher of Music





# Driving Curiosity Through F1 STEM

Students explored the world of Formula 1 through racing, design and inspiring STEM challenges.

Earlier this month, a group of Year 9 students took part in the Williams Formula 1 STEM Experience Day at the Williams Racing Experience Centre in Oxfordshire. The event aimed to inspire young people to consider future careers in motorsport engineering and STEM.

The day began with a warm welcome and an introduction video about the history of the Williams team—one of Formula 1's most iconic names. Students then explored the museum, a striking



gallery displaying every car the team has produced. From the earliest models to modern machines like the FW48, the exhibit showcased how F1 cars have evolved through engineering and innovation. Many were surprised by the size of the cars and the strength of lightweight materials such as carbon fibre.

A highlight for many was the sim racing experience. Using state-of-the-art simulators, students got a taste of what it feels like to race like an F1 driver.



Competitive energy quickly filled the room as they tackled real circuits from around the world.

The final activity was a design and engineering workshop where students were challenged to design and build a miniature F1 nose cone. Working under time pressure and a tight budget, teams tested ideas, refined their designs, and finally put them through a crash test. The activity emphasised the importance of safety, teamwork, and problem solving in motorsport careers.

Students also learned why a Formula 1 nose is designed to crumple on impact—absorbing energy to protect the driver. The workshop gave them a real sense of what engineering work involves: collaborating with new people, managing stress, and thinking creatively.

Overall, the Williams F1 trip was not only enjoyable but inspiring. Students gained insight into the motorsport industry, the value of STEM subjects, and the wide range of careers in engineering, design, physics, and technology.

*"This trip was amazing eye-opening, exciting, and something I would recommend to everyone."*

The day truly fulfilled its aim of opening doors to future ambitions.



# GMET

Greater Manchester  
Education Trust

## Primary

Alexandra Park Primary School

## Secondary

Levenshulme High School | Parrs Wood High School | The East Manchester Academy  
Whalley Range 11-18 High School

## Sixth Form

Parrs Wood Sixth Form College | Whalley Range Sixth Form

[www.gmetrust.org](http://www.gmetrust.org)

 Trust\_GMET

Greater Manchester Education Trust

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