



# Newsletter

Summer 2026

**Balancing Screen  
Time** p5

**News from our  
Schools** p6

# Welcome

## to the GMET Summer 26 Trust Newsletter



Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Greater Manchester Education Trust newsletter.

As we move towards the end of the academic year, this edition shares just some of the work taking place across our schools, and reflects our continued focus on providing the best possible education and opportunities for every child.

One highlight this term has been the work of our **Alexandra Park Research School**, and the growing impact this is having both across GMET and beyond. We are proud to see this recognised nationally through the EEF's "[Clip from the Classroom](#)" series, which features **Jen Beckensall, Trust Lead for Early Career Teacher Development and Assistant Director at the Alexandra Park Research School**, demonstrating how teachers use questioning to identify and address gaps in understanding. It is a brilliant example of the high-quality teaching taking place in our schools every day.

I am also delighted to share some excellent news regarding our Research School. We are incredibly proud to congratulate **Amy Kaur, Janine Carter, Grant Jones and Emily Bird** on their successful appointment as **Evidence Leads in Education (ELEs)**. This is a significant achievement and reflects their expertise, commitment to evidence-informed practice and the strength of leadership we have across the Trust.

Alongside this, we have continued to strengthen collaboration across our schools. Earlier this term, leaders and governors came together to focus on **SEND and oracy** as part of our wider work on inclusion - an important area which you can read more about later in this edition.

We are also delighted to welcome **Abby Morris as our new Director of People**. This is a key appointment for the Trust, strengthening our work to support and develop our staff across all schools. High-quality teaching starts with investing in the people within our classrooms, and Abby's role will be central to ensuring we continue to attract, support and develop excellent staff for our children.

Looking ahead, we are excited that [Rose Hill Primary School](#) will be joining GMET in January, further strengthening our growing primary phase and the connections between our schools.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. The partnership we have with families is central to our work, and we are grateful for the role you play in supporting your child's education.

**Damian Owen**  
CEO

## In This Issue

p3 **Help & Support**

Where to get help and guidance

p4 **Being Apart of GMET**

Schools unite to support every learner

p5 **Balancing Screen Time**

Plan balanced summer fun for children

p6 **News From Our Schools**

Help to keep children safe online

p14 **Research School Update**

Evidence-led partnerships improve schools through development

# 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](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)

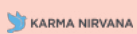


**The Children's Society**  
Information for young people  
[www.childrensociety.org.uk/information/young-people](http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/information/young-people)

## Forced Marriage & FGM



**Foreign & Commonwealth Office**  
Telephone **020 7008 0151**  
or email [fmufcdo.gov.uk](mailto:fmufcdo.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

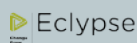


**Beat**  
The eating disorders charity  
[www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk](http://www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk)



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

## Substance Misuse and Abuse



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

## 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**



# Why being part of GMET matters

Bringing schools together to share strengths, expand opportunities and support every child throughout their learning journey.

When you choose one of our schools, you're not just joining a single school community - you're becoming part of the Greater Manchester Education Trust.

What that really means is that our schools don't work in isolation. They work together, sharing ideas, supporting one another and learning from each other, so that every child benefits from the very best practice.

One of the things that really matters to us is that every one of our schools keeps its own identity, character and strengths. Our schools serve different communities and have their own histories, and we're proud of that. Being part of GMET isn't about making every school the same - it's about supporting each school to thrive in its own context.

Over the past year, our Trust has continued to grow, and we're now proud to support children from early years, through primary, and right up to secondary and sixth form. This helps us build

stronger connections between each stage of education, making key transitions smoother and more consistent for children as they move through their school journey.

Behind the scenes, staff from different schools regularly work together - whether that's through joint training, planning lessons, or sharing what works well in their classrooms. Through our Alexandra Park Research School, teachers also stay up-to-date with the latest research to help deliver high-quality teaching every day.

For pupils, this joined-up approach opens up more opportunities too, from enrichment activities and wider experiences to clear pathways into sixth form and future careers.

Most importantly, being part of a Trust means our schools are always improving - together.

Thank you for being part of our community and for the support you continue to give your child's school.



# Balancing Screen Time Over the Summer Holidays

Post-exam time and the upcoming summer holidays are a great time for students to relax and have fun after the hard work at school, but it is important to plan this time together to make sure that your child achieves the right balance of on-screen/off-screen time. Here are a few ideas to make this work smoothly for you and your family.

## Have 'the conversation' now

don't wait until your child is off school/at home. The earlier you begin to plan ahead, the more smoothly things will run.

## Plan for the off-screen time

maybe some family activities, visits/walks, create a family challenge, organise meet up sessions with family/friends. Don't just expect your child to 'know' what to do when the screens go off!

[Activity ideas for parents - BBC Parents' Toolkit - BBC Bitesize](#)

Manchester Active [HAF - MCRactive](#) - [Get active in Manchester](#)

Loads to do [School Holidays in Manchester](#) | [What's On](#) | [Loads to Do](#)

Local SEND offers [Stuff to do](#) - [Highlights](#) | [Help & Support Manchester](#)  
[SEND Local Offer - Stockport Council](#)

## Agree limits together

and make sure that it covers all screens including phones, gaming consoles and TV. Talk about why the limits should be in place, include times of day, not just total time. You might also want to consider parental controls to help enforce these limits if you aren't going to be around.

## Allow some unstructured time too

allow their creativity to develop and flourish.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/articles/zdbbsk7>

## Set a good example

this is a great opportunity for you to learn these same skills for yourself!

# News from our Schools

Inspiring highlights from our  
school community





Alexandra Park Primary School  
Care, Aspire, Achieve

# Learning for Life at Alexandra Park

At Alexandra Park, pupils develop confidence, teamwork and real-world skills through meaningful learning experiences.



At Alexandra Park, we believe education goes beyond academic achievement. While strong results remain important, preparing pupils for the future also means developing confidence, teamwork and real-world understanding. By creating meaningful learning experiences, we ensure children are ready for life beyond the classroom.

A recent example of this approach was our volunteering day in partnership with Empowering Volunteers. Professionals from a range of business backgrounds spent the day working with Year 6 pupils, supporting them in small groups. Each volunteer guided discussions, encouraged collaboration and shared valuable insights into their own careers and workplace experiences.

One of the most impactful aspects of the day was the opportunity for pupils to engage in open conversations with adults outside of school. They asked thoughtful and often searching questions about careers, responsibilities and pathways into different industries. These discussions

helped broaden horizons, raise aspirations and give pupils a clearer understanding of the world of work.

The day also included a creative project where pupils designed and presented posters about admirable figures. With guidance from their group leaders, they developed key communication skills, learning how to present ideas clearly, speak with confidence, respond to feedback and work effectively as a team—skills that will support them throughout their education and beyond.

This focus on real-world learning continues with our Year 6 "Ten Pound Challenge." Following SATs, pupils work in teams to turn a £10 investment into a profitable business. They explore budgeting, marketing, teamwork and financial management before bringing their ideas to life through market days. From inventive products to creative stalls, pupils gain hands-on experience of entrepreneurship while developing resilience and problem-solving skills.

Through opportunities like these, Alexandra Park ensures pupils leave with both strong academic foundations and the life skills needed to thrive in an ever-changing world.



# The Strength of Partnership

a decade-long partnership with Manchester United Foundation expands opportunities, skills and experiences for students.

At Levenshulme, we are proud of our long-standing partnership with the Manchester United Foundation, now spanning over a decade. This collaboration plays a central role in enriching opportunities for our students and broadening their experiences.

School Partnership Officers are based full-time in school, working closely with staff to provide mentoring, deliver developmental programmes, and support students across all year groups. Their work enhances the curriculum and connects students with industry professionals, helping them build key skills and confidence for life beyond school.



A major highlight this year has been the success of our Year 11 students graduating

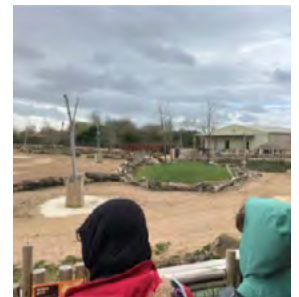
from the DXC Futures Academy, which they joined in Year 8. Through the programme, students worked with technology specialists, developed digital skills, and created innovative apps designed to support their communities.

Our extra-curricular offer continues to grow. Students recently completed the Junior Darts Corporation ABC Darts Leadership Course, exploring how darts can support learning while gaining insight into talent pathways.



Students have also represented the school in football and Boccia competitions.

The Eco Reds programme promotes sustainability through practical activities supported by the Premier League and its players, including Phallon Tullis-Joyce.



Activities have included upcycling projects and educational visits, most recently to Chester Zoo, where students explored conservation in greater depth.

Leadership development remains a key focus, with students completing leadership courses that strengthen wellbeing and equip them to support others. Many have applied these skills by leading and assisting in school activities.

Students have also enjoyed memorable enrichment experiences, including attending Premier League fixtures and representing the school as flag bearers at a UEFA Women's Champions League match. During Kindness Week, they embraced the 'United in Kindness' initiative, completing acts of kindness at school and home.



This partnership continues to inspire, challenge, and prepare our students for the future.



# Peak District Fieldwork Enhances Learning

Students at Parrs Wood explore river processes in the Peak District, applying classroom learning through hands-on fieldwork.



Geography students at Parrs Wood have brought their classroom studies to life through a recent fieldwork visit to the Peak District National Park. As part of their GCSE course, students must complete two fieldwork investigations, and this term 100 students took part in a hands-on physical geography enquiry.

The focus of the visit was an evaluation of Bradshaw's Model, which explores how rivers change as they move downstream. Working along the River Bollin, students investigated whether the river becomes wider, deeper and faster, while the size of the bedload decreases and becomes more rounded. This provided an excellent opportunity to test theory in a real-world setting and deepen their understanding of river processes.



Students developed valuable practical skills by using specialist geographical equipment, including ranging poles, metre rulers and callipers, to measure river depth and width

accurately. They also used creative methods to measure velocity, such as timing the movement of corks along the river. They will now use the data to create cross sectional diagrams of width and depth and Box and Whisker Plots of velocity.

Beyond data collection, the experience encouraged teamwork, problem-solving and resilience, as students worked collaboratively in an outdoor environment. These wider skills are essential not only for success in Geography but across all areas of study.



Back in school, students are now analysing their results and writing up their findings. This work will form a key component of their GCSE assessment and will be examined as part of Paper 3 next summer.

The trip was a fantastic success, and students should be commended for their enthusiasm, focus and excellent conduct throughout the visit.



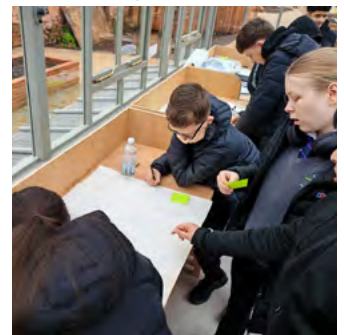
# Growing Together:

## SEND Students Thrive Through RHS Partnership

Since September, five of our students have been taking part in the Growing Together project, a collaborative initiative between the Royal Horticultural Society and The Comino Foundation.



demonstrated fantastic teamwork, resilience, and communication skills. The hands-on nature of the project allowed them to build confidence outside of the traditional classroom environment and develop a real



The project was created to provide young people with SEND the opportunity to develop confidence, independence, and practical skills through outdoor learning and horticulture. Working alongside students from other schools at RHS Bridgewater, our students explored activities such as seed sowing, soil testing, composting, planting, and garden maintenance, while also learning about sustainability and careers within horticulture.

sense of pride in their achievements. The project has had a positive impact on both wellbeing and engagement, giving students the chance to learn in a calm, supportive, and therapeutic setting. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow with each session.

Throughout the programme, students

We are incredibly proud of the students for their enthusiasm and commitment throughout the project and would like to thank the Royal Horticultural Society and The Comino Foundation for providing such a valuable experience.





# Tomi Komoly's visit to WRHS

**A powerful first-hand account brought history to life, deepening understanding of the Holocaust and its lasting lessons.**



Recently, us students have had the honour to meet Tomi, a Holocaust survivor, who visited us to share his life story and teach us the importance of remembering the past.

During his talk, Tomi explained how his mother made a massively brave decision to flee in order to save him from being captured and sent to a death camp. In our history lessons, we learnt that death camps were horrific places where they captured innocents, making them believe they were going for labour, when in reality they were being sentenced to death.

Tomi also spoke on how his came to England to continue his studies. What began as a new chapter in his life eventually led him to settle, where he later met his wife and started a family.

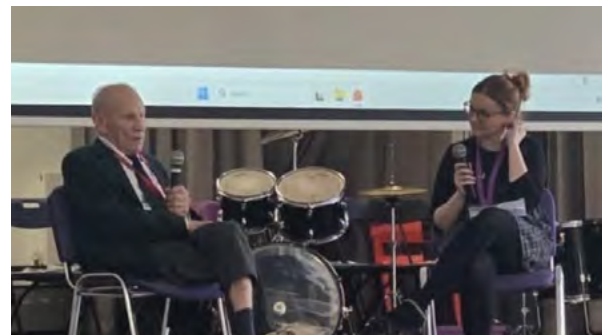
Despite his hardship, Tomi built a successful life.

Students also had the chance to have a Q&A with Tomi, with questions like how he

felt having to hide his religion. His story brought history to life in a way that the books couldn't, reminding everyone of the devastating consequences of hatred and discrimination.

Many students found Tomi's visit extremely moving and inspiring. This message of resilience, hope and the importance of how you treat others left a lasting impression on our year group.

Overall, Tomi's visit was an unforgettable experience and a valuable learning opportunity.



We thank everyone who allowed this visit to happen as it was a brilliant lesson for everyone.

*Article by ET & LY*

# Expert Masterclasses Build Ambition

Students at Parrs Wood explore diverse career pathways through expert masterclasses, inspiring ambition and future success.

Parrs Wood continues to broaden students' ambitions by combining academic excellence with real-world insight through an engaging programme of enrichment opportunities. Alongside supporting strong A Level outcomes, the college is committed to helping students explore the diverse career pathways open to them.

A key part of this approach is a series of masterclasses delivered throughout



the year by parents and professionals from a wide range of fields, including engineering, medicine, law, and digital media. In March, five legal specialists visited the college to share their expertise on areas such as immigration, family and probate law, and careers at the Bar. Students gained a clear understanding of both the rewards and challenges within the legal profession, asking thoughtful and probing questions throughout.



In May, students also welcomed John Bowers KC, Principal of Brasenose College, Oxford. Drawing on his extensive experience as a barrister, judge and author, he offered valuable insights into applying to Oxbridge and succeeding in competitive academic and professional environments. The event, chaired by Governor Dr Sally Penni, gave students an exceptional opportunity to engage in high-level discussion.



Further inspiration came from former students Ioan Davies and Nida Azhar, who returned to share their career journeys. Now a CPS Prosecutor, Ioan spoke about his path into law, while Nida, working in genomics, highlighted the importance of resilience and transferable skills.

These experiences continue to motivate students, helping them envision bright and ambitious futures.

# Inspiring Futures and Strong Community Spirit

**Sixth Form students broaden horizons through university experiences and meaningful community events that inspire and unite.**

## Sixth Form Visit Corpus Christi College, Oxford University

Twelve committed Sixth Form students began their journey at 6am for an



inspiring visit to Corpus Christi College at the University of Oxford. During the trip, students enjoyed a personal tour of the college, gaining an insight into student life at one of the world's leading universities.

Students also had the opportunity to dine in the historic college hall before exploring some of Oxford's most famous landmarks and learning more about the city's rich academic history.

A highlight of the visit was meeting former student Noor, who is currently studying Medicine at Oxford. Noor led an insightful Q&A session, sharing advice on preparing a strong Oxford application, interview tips and her own experiences of university life. Students found the session incredibly motivating and valuable.

The visit was a highly inspiring experience, helping to raise aspirations and encourage students to consider applying to top universities in the future.

## Sixth Form Community Unites for Annual Iftar

On Thursday 5th March, the Sixth Form community came together for the annual

Iftar, organised by the Sixth Form Student Union and coordinated by Mrs Abdul Salam. Students, staff and families shared a meal to mark the breaking of the fast during Ramadan while raising money for the UNICEF Children in Gaza Crisis Appeal.



A highlight of the evening was the student-led quiz, with staff once again claiming victory for the second year running.

Thanks to the generosity of all who attended, the event raised an impressive £442.96 for UNICEF's appeal.



Assistant Headteacher & Head of Sixth Form Mr Mycock said: "Our Sixth Formers continue to demonstrate incredible empathy and initiative. This event wasn't just about sharing a meal—it was about coming together as a community to make a meaningful difference."



**Alexandra Park  
Research  
School**

Supported by the Education Endowment Foundation

# Advancing Practice Through Research

**Alexandra Park Research School drives improvement through evidence-led practice, partnerships and professional development across schools.**

It has been an extremely busy and productive term for Alexandra Park Research School. We are delighted to have appointed our first four Evidence Leads in Education (ELEs) from across the GMET secondary phase, and we are very much looking forward to working with them from September as they begin to support evidence-informed practice across the Trust.



Our Assistant Director, Jen Beckensall, features in our latest [Clip from the Classroom](#). It is fantastic to see research evidence being translated so effectively into classroom practice at Whalley Range. An accompanying [blog](#) further unpacks the approach and signposts to relevant EEF guidance and further reading.



In addition, Mike Williams, Maths Lead and ELE at Alexandra Park, features in the latest [EEF podcast](#), where he shares his work on problem solving in mathematics. The episode provides an insightful discussion relevant to colleagues across all phases.

Our three-year partnership with the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and Stockport



Council is now moving into its sustaining phase. Over 60 Stockport primary schools have engaged with our training and school support programme to develop oracy. It has been a genuine privilege to work alongside such committed teachers and school leaders, and to see the impact of this work grow across the borough.

Finally, we were proud to host the North West Research Schools' annual ELE conference. With a focus on tackling disadvantage, the conference brought together colleagues from across the region for a day of rich professional dialogue and reflection. We were delighted to welcome [Sean Harris](#) as our keynote speaker, alongside workshops led by each Research School. A huge thank you goes to all of our ELEs who attended, and to Aimee Corten, who expertly organised and managed such a successful event



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Alexandra Park Research School



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AlexParkRS



# 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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