



Multi Academy Trust

Opportunity • Achievement • Kindness

DECEMBER 2023

OUR TRUST NEWS

**THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
OAK MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**



Opportunity

Achievement

Kindness

CEO Update

It is always a huge privilege to visit our schools and witness the diversity, respect and kindness that is evident in each of them. As I attended nativity productions over the last week I have been reminded of the way we engage with the full range of faith celebrations, particularly over this long autumn term. Seeing children across our trust "Growing Together" is a real joy and a hugely positive aspect of the OAK family.

This newsletter brings together some of these wonderful activities and events and, in addition, I am also delighted to be able to report that a new sports hall for Manor High School has been given the go ahead which means that we will have a fantastic new facility available to students and community. We look forward to seeing this take shape over the next 12 months.

We have some exciting developments coming over the next few years, each of which are designed to support both quality of education and also your wellbeing and workload. In addition to directly relevant support through Vivup, the three key strands to our strategy will be "Professional Growth" supported in part by the further embedding of "Coaching" and opening new horizons through the next phase of our "Digital Transformation". You are a huge part of OAK and we are committed to ensuring that all our strategic decisions consider workload and wellbeing as key factors, alongside the improvement that such decisions will make to our pupils' learning.

I also want to recognise that 2023 has been a hugely difficult year for many, with people suffering unnecessarily across the globe. At this time of reflection we trust that our political leaders across the world will recognise their duty to not only protect innocent civilians, but to work to rebuild, and actively engage with the many charities who seek to support an end to conflicts. Whatever your background or faith, we thank you for adding to the diversity and ethos in each of our schools. Have a wonderful break and we look forward to working with all our stakeholders in 2024.

Governance

Thank you to our Trustees and Governors: as volunteers they freely give of their time to support and challenge our CEO, our central team and our schools in a positive and professional manner. May we extend a warm welcome to our new Trustees who have joined us this term:

Dina Nathwani

Dina is a qualified solicitor, having practised for many years, she is now non-practising and teaches law at university. She is also a legal trainer, providing corporate legal training to various industry sectors. Dina is a devoted mother and is passionate about a fair and inclusive education system – both inside and outside of school.



Farhan Adam

Farhan is Principal of Crownhills Community College. He was recently the recipient of the Pearson National Teaching Awards Award for Headteacher of the Year in a Secondary School, awarded for his values-led approach and transformation of the progress and attainment for the pupils. As a long-time senior leader in education and having been an Ofsted Inspector for ten years, we are thrilled to benefit from the breadth of experience and skills Farhan will bring to the Board.



Over the next few months, we will be introducing Dina and Farhan to the work of the Trust, and they will come and introduce themselves to the schools this term.

Governance



At Manor High School, we continue to seek strong governors to sit on the school's Local Governing Body; if you are aware of anybody looking to sit on a Local Governing Body in the local area then please do encourage them to get in touch via admin@oaktrust.org.

In the meantime, we welcome Laura-Jayne Ward to the Governing Body. Laura is an EHC Inclusion Officer at Leicester City Council with a wealth of experience in working with children and young people. The school also welcomes Monika Bassi, a former pupil and local resident who, as a content designer for HMRC, brings some excellent skills to the Board.

Training opportunities for Governors and Trustees

A reminder that all Governors and Trustees have access to the National Governance Association's [Learning Link](#) and Leicestershire's [Governor Support and Development](#). Both of these services offer an extensive range of training, both pre-recorded and live, which you can sign up for. Please speak to your governance professional for more information.

We have added all training brochures to the shared resources area on Governor Hub for ease of access. In this area, you can find a range of useful guides, policies and procedures to assist you in your role as governor. So remember to keep using Governor Hub and making the most of these resources.



Employee Benefits



EYE TEST VOUCHERS (FURTHER INFORMATION ON VIVUP OR HR LEAD)



LIFESTYLE SAVINGS (FURTHER INFORMATION ON VIVUP OR HR LEAD)



CYCLE TO WORK SCHEME (FURTHER INFORMATION ON VIVUP OR HR LEAD)



HOME AND ELECTRONIC SCHEME (FURTHER INFORMATION ON VIVUP OR HR LEAD)



GYM MEMBERSHIP SCHEME (FURTHER INFORMATION ON VIVUP OR HR LEAD)



HEALTH CASH PLAN (FURTHER INFORMATION ON VIVUP OR HR LEAD)



MENOPAUSE SUPPORT (FURTHER INFORMATION ON VIVUP ,SAS OR HR LEAD)



GP CONSULTATION (FURTHER INFORMATION ON VIVUP ,SAS OR HR LEAD)



EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME FOR SUPPORT STAFF

Accessing the online platform and app
The EAP and wellbeing benefits are integrated across phone, an online platform and the app. To access the online platform, go to legalandgeneral.com/eap and use the access code: BeWellEap
Download the app by searching Spectrum.Life in the IOS or Android app stores.
Use access code: BeWellEap



EMPLOYEE HEALTH
AND WELLBEING
SERVICES
(FURTHER INFORMATION ON VIVUP
OR FROM HR LEAD)



Vivup offer a range of employee benefits via their online platform including a Health Cash Plan, Cycle to Work Scheme, Gym Membership, Home & Electronics Scheme and Lifestyle Savings.

To help you understand the value of each benefit in more detail, we will provide a summary of each benefit in the next few newsletters.

In this newsletter, we are providing further details about the benefits of purchasing the Health Cash Plan for a monthly fee.

You can claim back 100% reimbursement (up to the specified annual benefit allowance) in every category.

HEALTH CASH PLAN

Everyday Health and Wellbeing

- Optician costs including: sight test, glasses and contact lenses
- Dental costs including: check ups and routine treatment e.g. hygienist, fillings, etc

Professional Therapy

Physiotherapy, osteopathy and chiropractic treatment, acupuncture, reflexology, homeopathy and chiropody.

Prevention and Fast Diagnosis, Hospital Stays plus more...

- Health screening
- Mammography and heart disease screening
- Quicker specialists consultations and tests including MRI, CT and PET scans
- Cash payout for hospital day case surgery, hospital stays and new babies
- Access to a 24/7 GP consultation service, 365 days a year

How to opt in for a Health Cash Plan

If you are already registered with Vivup:

- Login to your account and click on Health Cash Plan under Payroll Pay
- Click on 'Apply Today' for further details
- Once you start your application you will be shown the benefits and premiums table so you can choose the most appropriate option for you and your family. You can explore your options without committing to apply. Monthly fees start from £6.93 which would be deducted from your monthly net pay.

If you are not registered with Vivup [click here](#).

If you would prefer to speak to the Vivup Customer Service team please call 01252 784 540 or email them at: customersupport@vivup.co.uk

Estates News

Sports Hall

As many of you will know Manor High School have had an ambition to improve its sporting facilities for many years and it gives us pleasure to announce that after securing finance and with planning permission now in place we have a provisional start date for the build of May 2024. The sports hall will be located behind the Viking building on Brookside's field, and its facilities will be shared with Brookside and open to the public in the evenings, at weekends and during the school holidays.

While its primary function is to replace the old gym at Manor with a much larger state of the art 4 court space built to Sport England specification, it will also provide 4 new classrooms with the ability to expand into a 170 metre-squared conferencing space. GCSE exams will be centralised into the sports hall which will negate the necessity to constantly set and unset exam desks, as is currently the case. Completion of the project is scheduled for Christmas 2024, with final fit out and opening due January 2025.

Overdale Expansion Project

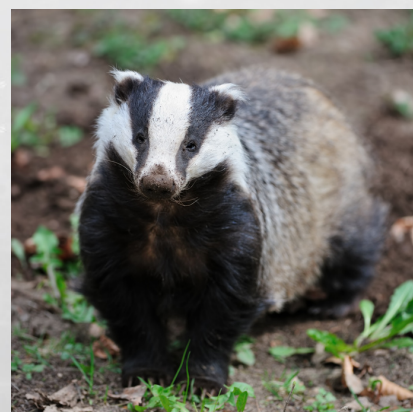
After many patient years, work finally started early this year on the expansion project at Overdale Infants and Juniors. On the Junior site, the old swimming pool has been removed and replaced with a stunning new 3 classroom block built to the latest sustainable building standards incorporating an air source heat pump and a heat recovery system. Expected completion is February 29th 2024.

Also at the Juniors, the old store room to the rear of the main hall has been demolished and replaced with a brand new store, doubling the old capacity, with the expected completion date being January 30th 2024.

Overdale Infants have been coping well with their own 2 classroom extension, which has involved the temporary closure of a main corridor and toilet block and access to a classroom severely hampered. Thankfully the end is now in sight with completion expected by the end of February 2024.

The Infants much needed storage solution has been addressed with an extension to their main hall with completion of this project expected mid-February 2024.

These projects have thrown up numerous challenges not least of which has been accommodating the onsite badger population. They now have a lovely new badger mansion located in the woods by the stream and to mark their unique contribution to the Overdale site, the Juniors new block will be named the Badger Building.



Brookside



Brookside suffered a major flood earlier this year after unprecedented rainfall but thanks to Miss Brown and her dedicated team, the clean up operation was carried quickly and effectively with the school only having to close for 1 day. Hundreds of square meters of flooring had to be ripped up and replaced, after a 3 week drying out period, this operation was carried out during the summer holidays.

Brookside's aged and dangerous swimming pool has now been removed and replaced with an Astro-turf play area, which is proving popular with the children, as is the installation of the new Cubbie, which is an immersive sensory sound and vision experience located in the old, and now refurbished, ICT suite.

Woodland Grange

Owls Hoot, the pre and after school care unit which was in desperate need of some TLC has finally had a full interior and exterior refurb which included the installation of new heating and cooling, upgrading the insulation both inside and out to keep its occupants cool in the summer and cosy in the winter, and a whole new drainage system along with new lighting, flooring and kitchen.

A big thank you to Friends Of Woodland Grange for funding the wonderful and innovative new library and to the many staff members who gave up their time to help with the painting; this is a fantastic new resource which will benefit the school for years to come.



Thank you

A number of colleagues will have received a little thank you in the post this week for their exceptional contributions.

Do you think someone you work with deserves a thank you, perhaps a cuppa and a slice of cake?

Each term, we will send people you nominate a little thank you from OAK to hopefully brighten their day.

Nominating is easy – just use this link to tell us their name and why!
<https://www.surveymhero.com/c/nominations>

A form for nominating someone. It features the OAK Multi Academy Trust logo at the top right, which includes the text 'OAK Multi Academy Trust' and 'Opportunity • Achievement • Kindness'. Below the logo is a 'To :' label followed by five horizontal lines for an address. At the bottom right, there is contact information: 'admin@oaktrust.org; www.oaktrust.org; 0116 303 3720'.



IT Remote Access

If staff do struggle to access the server remotely for any reason, then an alternative link to enable staff to log on to the remote desktop access to the network can be found here.



How to report a problem or make a request

- Email helpdesk@aitn.co.uk explaining the issue you have.

You can only use the email option once you have created an account as below at <http://support.aitn.co.uk>

- You can also call the helpdesk on 0116 4828401 or Ext 723

The help desk opening hours are 7.30am – 5pm



Introduction to our schools...

Each half term, we will provide an update from one of the OAK MAT schools so that we as a Trust can learn more about one another. This term it is: **Woodland Grange Primary School**

Lessons at 10

There are some special days at school that provide lasting memories. Truly, a once in a lifetime opportunity that children are lucky enough to be a part of and that was exactly what happened to a group of our pupils on Friday 3rd November. Woodland Grange was invited by Mrs Akshata Murty (wife of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak) to visit 10 Downing Street and spend the day behind the world famous, shiny black door. Children and staff had a memorable day with a tour of Number 10, workshops and talks and even interviews for BBC Newsround, incredible! Speaking to the children after the event, it was clear that lasting memories had been made. They described the huge interior of Number 10, and gained an insight into what it is like to govern the country. The workshops covered sustainable travel and were run by the Young V&A museum. One of our children had even found out that Mrs Murty's favourite sweets come from Milan Sweets in Leicester so he was able to present her with a box that he had purchased especially for the visit.



New School Library

During November, staff and parent volunteers worked hard clearing, sorting and painting a room, ready for our new school library. The old library was not easy to access and was uninviting to the children. Following several meetings with companies we were delighted with a design produced by Peters Ltd and they came into school in November to install our brand-new library. We are now in the process of organising the shelves and bookcases ready for the classes to start to using it. The new school library has only been made possible by the Friends of Woodland Grange (FOWG). Through their hard work, and parental support at the events they have organised, this project has been able to be funded. There will be a grand opening ceremony soon which we are really looking forward to.



Silver Music Mark

This term we were delighted to welcome Leicestershire Music into Woodland Grange to carry out an assessment of the music offer we provide for our children. Mrs Bowe explained all of the curriculum provision as well as the many additional music activities that are planned for our children. We are delighted to say that they agreed that music at Woodland Grange has a high priority and awarded us with the Silver Quality Mark. This has been seen in action lots more recently with every year group, from preschool all the way up to Year 6 incorporating music into their winter shows.



Spark Arts for Children

In November we were delighted to welcome the 'Spark Arts For Children' group in to Woodland Grange for three special performances as part of their Spark Festival. Spark Arts are a local organisation who help children access the arts in a variety of places, for us that was in our very own school hall. Having the capacity to take children out to see a theatre show when you have to factor in the cost of a bus, as well as the theatre ticket prices makes this quite a challenge. To be able to do something like this for just £4 per child is an absolute dream and the Sparks Art group did not disappoint. The shows were amazing spectacles which captured the children's imagination. EYFS – Year 3 were delighted with the performance 'Luna Loves Library Day', based on Joseph Coelho book about the power of stories. Whilst Year 4 – Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed 'Botown' with the UK's leading Bollywood live music act that included many musical instruments and performances.



**WE IN THE CENTRAL TEAM WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM
OUR COLLEAGUES AT OAK. BE THAT IDEAS, NEWS,
ACHIEVEMENTS (FOR STAFF OR STUDENTS), PLEASE
CONTACT US AND LET US KNOW!**

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