

# RISING STARS



**Bright Futures Newsletter**  
Summer 2023 Edition



Welcome to our summer edition of 'Rising Stars'. Once again, there is so much to celebrate in the diverse achievements across the Trust. I am particularly pleased to see the increasing attention being given to climate change and sustainability. We all need to be good custodians of our shared planet and it's great to see our schools playing their part. This isn't just in terms of the curriculum but also in our habits and routines and in our planning and implementation of major capital projects. We are working carefully with our partners to ensure that we find the most sustainable solutions to construction.

It's been so good to see so many improvements to our estates over the year. It's lovely to see our young people accessing high quality and safe outdoor spaces and the expansion at Melland (which was no more than a giant hole 12 months ago) will make a significant contribution to the delivery of high-quality specialist provision in Manchester.

I hope you enjoy reading about the many, wonderfully enriching experiences that our children and young people have been able to access through the year, with huge thanks and appreciation to our colleagues who make these exciting opportunities possible.



**Dr John Wm Stephens CBE**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Bright Futures Educational Trust

## Star-studded events help to launch new facilities at three Trust schools

Guinness world record-breaking professional freestyle footballer, Rebaz Mohammed, went 'back to school' to celebrate the official launch of Acre Hall Primary School's and Rusbrook Primary Academy's new sports pitches.

Rushbrook's launch took place at the end of March, where England and Liverpool legend, John Barnes, former Lioness and Manchester City goalkeeper, Karen Bardsley, and Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, were all in attendance. While Acre Hall celebrated their new pitch in July.

Continued overleaf...





At both events, Rebaz delighted pupils by showcasing and teaching new skills. At Rushbrook we had the help of Sports Leaders from Cedar Mount leading football skills sessions and at Acre Hall we welcomed Wellacre Academy who led basketball sessions while dancers from Altrincham Grammar School for Girls both taught and performed dance to mark the occasion. It was wonderful to see two of our schools collaborating artistically.



The new facilities have already had a huge impact enabling pupils to play a variety of sports in all weathers. You will read later in this issue about Rushbrook's sports going from strength to strength.

Of the benefits for Acre Hall, Head of School, Mr Catherall said: "This is a very exciting time for us all here at Acre Hall, the new pitch enables children to participate in a wider range of sports, which form a major part of the PE and PSHE curriculum, as well as many extra-curricular activities, all-year round. From the children at breakfast club to those participating in competitive sports after school, and everything in between, this facility brings huge benefits for the Acre Hall family and beyond."



The Lord Mayor of Manchester, Yasmin Dar, joined students and staff at Melland High School for the grand launch of its new expansion which coincided with the school's hugely popular annual Summer Festival, and it was certainly a morning to remember.

A joyous occasion filled with music, song, dance with students and guests delighted in visiting the numerous stalls. A surprise appearance from Spiderman really stole the show though, and he later joining Principal, Mrs Warner, to cut the ribbon and declare the new 'BREEAM Excellent' building open.

Due to Melland High School's outstanding reputation, Manchester Local Authority sought an increase in the SEND student numbers at Melland by 2023. Since the school was already at capacity, it was necessary to expand the site.

Mrs Warner, commented: "The expansion of Melland High enables the school to provide more exciting, innovative, and aspirational learning opportunities to an increased number of students who experience a wide range of SEND.

"As a result of this expansion, we are delighted to be able to welcome a larger group of Year 7 students this September and have been busily working through an exciting programme of transition events and activities with them. The whole school community is excited about the journey ahead."



## Barton Clough's eco-pledge!

Here you can read more about some of the initiatives Barton Clough Primary School is involved with to help the environment:

"Our school truly cares about the environment and makes sure everyone who visits Barton Clough Primary School knows what we need to do to take care of it and our local community. Our school decided to take part in the Great British Spring Clean week. We pledged to collect nine bags of litter and we ended up with sixteen and a half! After that, two boys from our school were inspired to clean up their local area of Eccles, and we had members of the public calling our school to let us know how proud they were of them. I, as Eco Prefect, was very proud of all students. The teachers took part as well and they all did amazing. We even have a Forest School at Barton Clough, and we make sure to take great care of that too.

"Our school encouraged every pupil to plant a few trees in our school field. We even have Forest School sessions to make sure we know how to keep safe in the wilderness and all Year 5 and 6 students can ride a bike which helps the environment."

By Macey – Y6 Eco Prefect







# A team effort puts sports back on the map at Rushbrook

By the end of the year, Rushbrook will have taken part in thirty events and competitions, not to mention attending five Manchester citywide finals for Basketball, Hi 5 Netball, Rounders, Cricket, and Cycling – a huge achievement for any school! To top it off, Rushbrook won the Hi 5 Netball and the Tri-Golf events. That said, the rationale behind participating in all these events is not about winning. Far from it. Instead, the idea is to engage pupils and show them the variety of sports and activities available with support from Team MCR and MPEA (Manchester Schools PE Association).

Early morning (7.45am!) football training sessions for have been heavily subscribed. This has enabled Rushbrook to field two girls' teams who enjoyed the Girls Football Festival at the Manchester City Academy. The Year 3 and 4 football team qualified for the final of Manchester United's Emerging Talent PowerPlay Tournament and finished an impressive tenth among school from across Manchester. The girls' team have just been crowned the Gorton Schools Cup Winners 2023 too!

Mr Hau, PE Teacher, enthused: "The emergence of sports and the opportunity to represent Rushbrook has motivated children to engage in their PE lessons with more rigour. There is a clear understanding of why we focus on developing our agility, balance, and coordination and why we focus on challenging ourselves to achieve our personal best and much more.

"As well as participating in various events, ranging from Tri-Golf to American Football, our inspirational children are always up to the task. Selection for events has been fiercely competitive, yet it has brought out compassion from the children towards others, teamwork, and the ability to demonstrate excellent leadership skills. This inspired our National School Sports Week planning which had the strapline 'Sports day – run by the children, for the children' where sports leaders did an excellent job planning and setting up some of the activities and leading teams. Their efforts were commended by all."

Don't forget to follow @RushbrookSport to keep up to date with all of Rushbrook's sporting adventures.



# Stanley Grove's community enjoys all the fun of the 'Eco' fair



This term, Stanley Grove hosted its first ever Eco fair! The after-school event was hosted by the school's Eco group, the wonderful Miss Jones, plus their fantastic partners at Manchester Environmental Education Network (MEEN) and Keep Britain Tidy.

Children and their families enjoyed the various stalls and activities at the event, including the Sewing and Mending corner, planting with recycled compost, electronics recycling, plus a timed recycling sorting game which promoted some healthy competition between the children!

Stanley Grove's highly knowledgeable Eco Ambassadors spoke with confidence and passion at the fair and shared all they have been learning in their after-school club.

Stanley Grove hopes this is the first of many similar events!

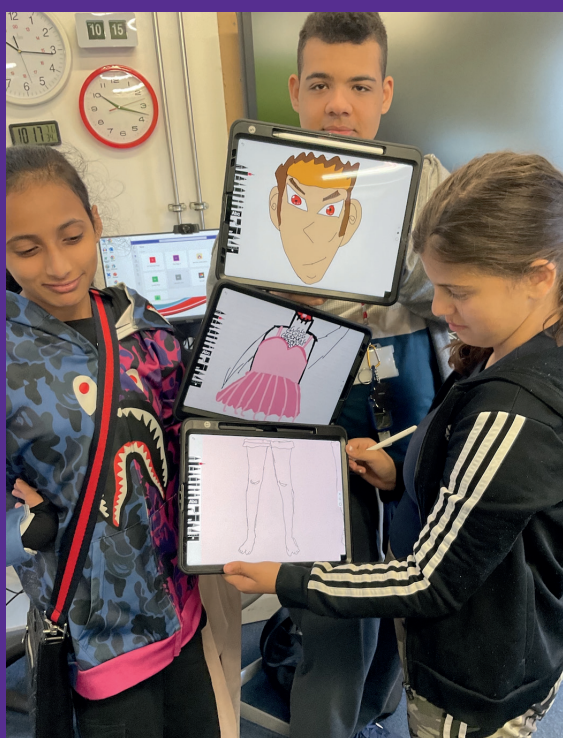


# Factory International collaboration with Melland High School

Melland students were recently offered an amazing creative opportunity. They were invited to take part in the 'Reframe: Inspire Schools' creative project with Factory International supported by Apple. The programme was a unique opportunity for Melland to respond to the climate emergency in a creative way, providing students with the opportunity to use their artistic knowledge, learn new digital skills, and make their own 'zine': a DIY, self-published magazine.

From Year 7 students excitedly participating in their first creative project to experienced Sixth Form Media Crew students they all focused on different curriculum areas including Art, Design, Citizenship and English. Everyone worked together creatively on the latest Apple technology using an iPad Pro equipped with an Apple pencil and using Apps such as GarageBand, iMovie, Pages and Sketch.

The project was run by talented, established artists over four days in Melland's multi-media studio. Students received input from poets, film makers and sculptures who shared their knowledge and creativity.



The 'zine' element provided students with the opportunity to have their voices heard on a national scale and served as a call to action for the school community, galvanising both individual and collective action for positive and purposeful change. The 'zine' will be shared on the school website once it has been published, so please keep an eye out for the fantastic work.

Following this highly successful project, Melland will continue to work with Factory International in September having been successful in its application to have a professional creative practitioner on site one day a week for the next academic year.

This pilot programme for the five chosen secondary schools brings an abundance of creativity, international art, music, theatre, and dance directly to school. Taking place both in school and the new home of Factory International, the programme offers weekly creative sessions with clear links to the National Curriculum, as well as enrichment opportunities and exposure to the variety of creative careers within the industry. Factory International Schools is designed to improve wellbeing and unlock creativity through participation in creative workshops linked to major commissions, including 'Free Your Mind', 'The Welcome' and other work to be announced in the new year.

Melland feel extremely lucky that its students and staff will get to work collaboratively with such an amazing group of talented artists.

## Elmridge's Got Talent!

During the Summer term, Elmridge hosted its first ever talent show. Children from Years 1 to 6 auditioned to gain a spot in the finale show where they came head-to-head with three very experienced, fierce judges and a very enthusiastic audience. Due to the sheer amount of talent Elmridge ended up having to host two shows.

On the night, the finalists performed to the best of their abilities and showed amazing courage and aptitude.

Performances ranged from gymnastics and dancing to music and comedy. The evening was a huge success, and everyone is incredibly proud of the children's talents. Well done!







# Exciting times for EYFS at Barton Clough



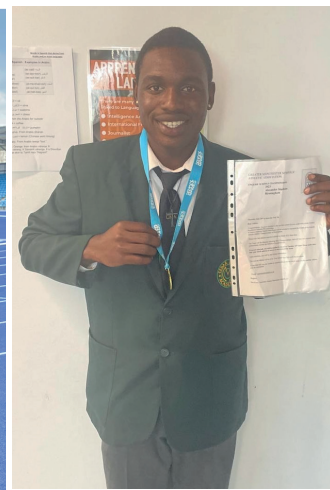
Barton Clough's Reception children have loved their very first term in their new classroom and purpose-built outdoor area. They have had so much fun utilising this new space to enhance their learning and development through the new provision. They have loved the bright, indoor space full of natural light, this has been fantastic for both children's and staff's wellbeing.

The large new outdoor space is equipped with an outdoor reading area, a writing area, a painting and mark making station, a stage area, a builder's yard, risky play and obstacle course equipment, bikes, an understanding of the world area kitted out with planters, a huge bug hotel and a large mud kitchen. This space has been used each day and it has been a joy for colleagues to observe the children immerse themselves in the new provision areas.

Miss Hulme has particularly enjoyed watching the children pick their own home-grown strawberries and herbs!

## CMA's impressive sporting achievements

Cedar Mount's Rounders, Cricket, and Athletics teams had an active Summer term with impressive performances from students. A special mention to James in Year 7 for taking first place in the 100m at the Manchester Schools Athletics Competition and Romaine in Year 10 for securing first place in the 800m. Additionally, Derick in Year 9 has qualified for the English Schools' Athletics Competition later this year. These achievements highlight the hard work and dedication of both students and staff in the PE department.



## SSA DofE Bronze expedition goal reached

The Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze expedition goal for students at South Shore Academy was to improve personal resilience and learn about the environment, and they certainly did just that!

Forty students trekked over fields, collected bones, took pictures of wildlife, and ran away from sheep! Several unplanned detours later and they arrived at camp. The weather was perfect as students put up their tents and cooked food. They relaxed and chilled out, their energy restored in time for kayaking.

The weekend allowed for new opportunities to be explored, friendships to be built and existing friendships to be strengthened. The experience tested the students beyond what they thought they could do, and they succeeded!





# A celebration fit for a king at The Orchards

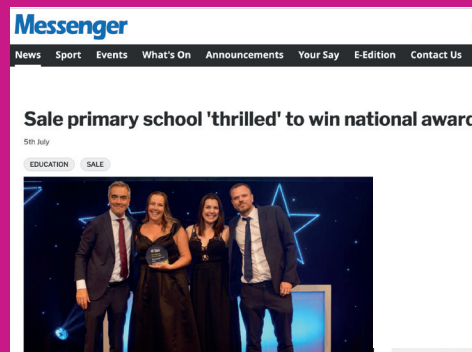
Children at The Orchards enjoyed their own parties to commemorate the coronation of King Charles II.

Staff and children alike had a wonderful time with a plethora of activities on offer including cake decorating, scone making, flag making and waving, pin the crown on the king, ballroom dancing to classical music, wearing crowns and robes, listening to a sensory story about all the different people King Charles would meet on the way to his coronation, as well as sharing some of their favourite sweets and chocolate and, of course, a tea party and a picnic!



## In the media

As well as featuring in TES Magazine, Lime Tree's win at the TES Awards 2023 was also picked up by local media as the story featured on 'www.manchester-world.uk' and 'www.messengernewspapers.co.uk'.



Congratulations to Mr Dalton, South Shore Academy's Librarian, who has been awarded a Certificate of Excellence as a Pearson National Teaching Awards 'Unsung Hero'.



## Modeshift Stars Education Green Award for AGGS

Altrincham Grammar School for Girls has been awarded a 'Modeshift Stars Education' Green Award for the work it undertook as part of Travel Wise Week.

Travel Wise Week was led by the devoted AGGS Youth Travel Ambassadors. After many after-school meetings with Trafford Active Travel office and a Dragon's Den-style pitch for funding, the YTAs led a week of competition to raise awareness and motivation for more active travel modes to and from school with a particular focus on walking and cycling.

With the support of many parents and carers more students walked to school as a part of the inter-form Active Travel Bingo competition, with a Coronation themed Afternoon Tea party the prize. The YTAs also led a photo collage/montage competition with several forms winning hampers of goodies to share.

As part of the campaign, YTAs chose to focus on pavement parking safety. Funding was secured, 'no parking' signs were purchased and reminders about pavement parking rules and safety were sent to all parents/carers. Many more engaged with the park and stride initiative as the week progressed.

The YTAs also led a staff step count competition and ensured that cyclists were included by awarding raffle tickets to those who parked in the bike stores. To encourage cycling, the YTAs also arranged a cycling proficiency course which has proved to be so successful that there is now a waiting list for the next course.

The school community enjoyed walking, engaging in the competitions, and thinking about choosing more active travel options. AGGS looks forward to building on the success of the first campaign later in the year.







# Lime Tree Primary Academy's Early Years Foundation Stage achieves national award

Lime Tree won the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Setting of Year prize at the national TES Schools Awards 2023.

Judge, Eunice Lumsden, who is the Professor of Child Advocacy and the Head of Childhood Youth and Families at the University of Northampton said: "This school stood out due to the very strong interdisciplinary approaches taken and the fantastic partnerships with families and communications across the school."

As well as the award for EYFS, the school was also shortlisted for three other awards: Pupil Mental Health Initiative of the Year, School of the Year for Staff Wellbeing and Primary School of the Year.

Clare Larkin, Head of School, commented: "We were thrilled to have again been recognised by TES at these coveted awards; being shortlisted for four awards this year was an achievement in itself. We are delighted to have won the Early Years Foundation Stage award highlighting the hard work and dedication of the whole Lime Tree community and especially the Early Years team. I know I speak on behalf of all pupils when I say a huge thank you to staff, parents, carers and our school community."

"We are hugely grateful to our local community and partner organisations who contribute so much to our school. We see each and every day how the commitment of our whole team helps to support our children with whatever it takes to help them thrive through careful nurturing using creativity, innovation, and academic challenge."

Bright Futures CEO, John Stephens, added: "It is so wonderful to see this very special school and the lead setting for our Early Years Hub win such a well-deserved national award. We have a brilliant staff team, children, parents/carers, governors and school community at Lime Tree. This is reflected in the many plaudits the school receives. Their commitment to living our Trust vision 'the best for everyone, the best from everyone' is exemplary."

Lime Tree also achieved Highly Commended status when it was shortlisted for the Chester Zoo Outstanding Conservation School Awards 2023.



## Tes Schools Awards 2023

**Winner: Early Years  
Foundation Stage (EYFS)  
Setting of the Year**

Lime Tree Primary Academy



Left to right: James Nesbitt, Clare Larkin, Head of School at Lime Tree, Danielle Lloyd, Lead Assistant Headteacher and SENCo at Lime Tree, and Jon Severs, editor of TES Magazine.

## A taste for music and dance at CMA

BTEC Dance students at Cedar Mount Academy were thrilled to have Layton Williams, a professional performer, conduct a workshop on the musical 'Everyone's Talking About Jamie'. The class really enjoyed meeting Layton, learning new dance skills, and hearing about his experience in the industry as a northern performer of colour.

In addition, BTEC Music students attended a thrilling 'Young Fathers' concert at Manchester Academy and had the opportunity to meet the performers beforehand - which they loved!







# National Art Competition winner at AGGS

Congratulations to Ola in Year 12, from Altrincham Grammar School for Girls, for her outstanding achievement in winning the National Art Competition with Medic Mentor. This accomplishment is testament to her exceptional talent, dedication, and creative flair.

The artwork submitted by Ola demonstrated a deep understanding of the theme 'Holism' and captivated the judges with its originality and creativity. Her A4 piece of work beautifully depicted the interconnectedness of healthcare and holism, impressing the panel with its artistic excellence. It is evident that Ola invested great effort and thought into her submission, producing a thought-provoking piece of art.

As the winner of this competition, Ola will have her artwork featured on the front cover of Mentor's 'Holism' issue. Additionally, she will be presented with a certificate to commemorate her accomplishment.

Furthermore, her success will be celebrated on the Medic Mentor website and social media platforms, showcasing her talent to a wider audience.



## Eco Day at Marton

Children at Marton Primary Academy and Nursery had an amazing time participating in the school's first Eco Day. They all planted flowers in biodegradable milk cartons, went on the Eco lorry, took part in litter picking and listened intently to how small changes can help us all protect our planet. Thank you to the Enveco Environmental Services team who supported the event and congratulated Marton for having 'such lovely, well-behaved children'.



## South Shore's lawyers in the making

South Shore Academy's Year 9 visited Edge Hill University in Ormskirk to participate in a literacy festival. Students enjoyed a campus tour, being part of a moot court trial (which simulates a real court environment to give law students an opportunity to put their learning into practice) and joining a criminology seminar. Year 9 were enthusiastic about the events of the day and contributed thoughtful responses. Staff at Edge Hill commented 'Watch out for these future lawyers!'.







# Professional Development Institute



## Bright Futures Training

We feel that now is the right time to rebrand the Alliance for Learning to what it essentially represents which is all forms of Bright Futures Training. This name is now aligned to the Bright Futures brand and all our other hubs and networks which have been further enhanced more recently by the hugely positive profile of the Bright Futures Teaching School Hubs.

We continue to share passion, knowledge, skills, and expertise to ensure the very best teacher and staff development opportunities for all which in turn facilitate high quality educational experiences for all children and young people.

## Strengthening our Team!

We're really excited to welcome Emma Taylor and Jo Peters to the Professional Development Institute in September to contribute to the amazing work of our Teaching Schools Hubs and Early Years Hub!

## Exciting changes!

It's all change at NW1 Maths Hub as we celebrate the promotions of Imogen & Alison to Maths Hub Co-Leads and Jayne as the Senior Leadership Link.

**We're excited to welcome Emma and Jo to the Professional Development Institute!**



**Emma Taylor**  
ECF Lead Facilitator



**Jo Peters**  
Assistant Head of Early Years Hub

**Our New Maths Hub Leadership Team!**



**Imogen Furlong**  
Maths Hub Co-Lead



**Jayne Carmichael**  
Senior Leadership Link



**Alison Heathcock**  
Maths Hub Co-Lead

## Social Media

Don't forget that across the Professional Development Institute we have our individual social media networks and we encourage you to follow them to keep up to date with the latest news, training opportunities and announcements.

@TSHubsBF | @Training\_BF | @BF\_SCITT | @NW1MathsHub | @BF\_EYHub

# HAVE A FANTASTIC SUMMER!

We wish everyone a restful Summer break and  
Good Luck to our Class of 2023 students.