

# RISING STARS



Winter 2023 Edition



One of the features of Bright Futures that I most love is our diversity. In any of our schools you will find staff, students, parents and carers from all over the world and from many different backgrounds and lifestyles. Nearly 100 different home languages are spoken across the Trust. We have children and young people of all abilities some of whom require considerable adaptations in order to be fully included. What we have in common, however, is our central vision – the best for everyone, the best from everyone. Regardless of our starting points we want every child, young person, every colleague, family and community to enjoy success – to become more than they could ever have dreamed in terms of their learning and in their development as generous, creative, compassionate, honest and respectful citizens.

In this edition of Rising Stars there are so many examples of work in our schools that demonstrate the very best opportunities and celebrate the diverse successes of our children and young people. I am so encouraged to see the range of our collective work in the arts, in careers, in sport, in anti-racism, sustainability and in service to others. Our young people have such brilliant opportunities to give expression to their talents and, indeed, to discover new horizons. I am grateful to our committed and talented colleagues who are forever finding new ways for our children to surprise themselves by meeting new challenges. I hope you enjoy discovering more about the inspiring work of our schools.

Wishing you all a happy Christmas and a peaceful and fulfilling New Year.



Dr John Wm Stephens CBE

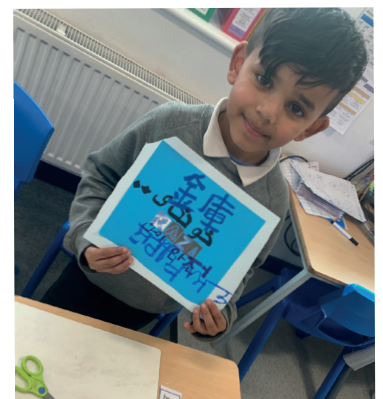
Chief Executive Officer,  
Bright Futures Educational Trust

## Promotion of Equality & Social Justice Award win for Stanley Grove

Stanley Grove Primary Academy were announced winners of the 'Promotion of Equality & Social Justice Award' at the Manchester Culture Awards 2023 which recognise those who help to make Manchester a vibrant, culturally rich city. A multistage project, 'Happy, Safe and Free' involved over 10,000 young people creating paper artwork to express the meaning of the words to them. The artworks were then shredded to symbolise loss. Refugees also made paper boats that sailed on a shredded paper 'sea'. Finally, the shredded artworks were turned into papier mâché bowls that were hand painted by refugees. The bowls were later exhibited before being sold.

'Happy, Safe and Free' was a 'Building the Bridge' and 'Drawing Us Together' project funded by Stanley Grove and MADE. MADE is a collaboration between culture and education organisations from across Manchester, including art galleries, museums, theatres, schools, colleges and many more. They run participation projects and create learning resources to join the dots between education and culture.

Mrs Footman, Principal, said: "We are so thrilled with this award. I am so proud to have our incredible work recognised at this competitive, citywide ceremony. As we come to the end of an era for this project, I would like to offer special thanks and congratulations to the creative team: Emma M, Judy, Keith and Emma S. Thanks to all those who have volunteered over the years, without whom this project would not have been possible!"





## Cedar Mount influences BBC Bitesize overhaul

When students are revising or completing homework, BBC Bitesize is a popular, go-to resource. Sam, a BBC employee, is working on improving the site and wanted feedback from schools on what they felt was missing. Who better to talk to for honest feedback than students at Cedar Mount?



During a 'think tank' session held at school with a BBC team, the overwhelming response from students was that there was a lack of interactive content or help for Year 9 students when choosing their options. This Year group felt overlooked by the site, despite needing support when making important decisions that help to determine their future career paths.

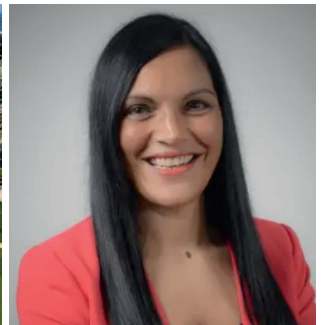
Following the feedback from CMA, the site will now include a host of interactive activities for students studying for their GCSEs but, more importantly, there will be a new section targeted at Year 9 where they can attend a virtual options evening to get help and support when it comes to making options choices.

**BBC**  
**BITESIZE**

## Girls' football is all go at Acre Hall

Girls at Acre Hall are thrilled to be involved in a new girls' primary school football league (in Flixton/Urmston). The team made their debut in the newly formed girls league this term. So far, the girls have played two games and have been encouraged by excellent home and away support from parents and carers.

Bright Futures has its own Girls' Football Super Hub, collaborating with the FA and Youth Sport Trust, and Director of Education and Partnerships, Lisa Fathers, is proudly part of the first-ever Great Manchester Women's Football Board (GMWFB). 75% of schools across England now offer girls equal access to football in PE and Acre Hall are delighted to be part of this movement, supported by the opening of their new outdoor multi-use games pitch.



## Rushbrook gets the vote

Rushbrook Parliament have had a busy term. Children presented to Trust leaders and talked about a number of projects making a positive impact to the environment which include setting up classroom food waste caddies which are collected daily and added to the Forest School compost and recycling old electrical items from home. The group also spoke about how they have learnt to sew and brought in old clothes to repair rather than throwing them away. With help from a Manchester Environmental Education Centre volunteer the sewing sessions became very focused and creative, and some lovely items were produced.

The group recently enjoyed a trip to the Houses of Parliament where they learnt about democracy and had the chance to see the House of Lords and the House of Commons. Children were especially interested in the history of Parliament and the role of the Royal family.

Rushbrook Parliament's next plan is to create a bio-diverse garden and they presented this idea to Afzal Khan, MP for Manchester Gorton, at a Mini COP28 event. Pupils explained what biodiversity meant and what they would like in their garden to make it bio-diverse and help improve the local ecosystem.







## AGGS achieves CyberFirst Silver

Altrincham Grammar School for Girls has been accredited by The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) (part of the Government Communications Headquarters, the UK's national security and intelligence agency) as a CyberFirst School and awarded Silver which is defined as: 'Delivering good standards in cyber security education'.

As the first school in Greater Manchester to be awarded Silver, this is momentous in recognising the school's Cyber Security offer. AGGS officially received accreditation from The Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP (then Secretary of State for Defence) at BAE Systems in Samlesbury.

The NCSC has strict criteria for recognising schools for accreditation, and the assessment process was rigorous. Based on the school's forward-thinking Computing curriculum at Key Stage 3, high achieving cohorts at both GCSE and A Level, and commitment to ongoing professional development, keeping abreast of developments in the information security landscape meant AGGS achieved Silver. The award also acknowledges the excellent cross-curricular use of Computing and STEM at the school.

As a result of this accreditation, AGGS gains an industry partner who will help to further drive the school's offer and prepare students for the evolving digital landscape which awaits them.



## Barton Clough flies high at the start of its Artsmark Award journey

Children from Year 4, Year 6 and Oak classes at Barton Clough Primary School took part in '100 Waving Kites', a creative learning project delivered by Factory International. A team of artists visited the school to deliver the session, allowing pupils to make kites and decorate them with self-portraits. The Barton Clough kites, along with those from other schools, were set up as the welcoming exhibition at Aviva Studios in Manchester, meaning that everyone who goes into the gallery is warmly welcomed by waving kites.

The fun didn't stop there, children had the opportunity to travel by bus from Stretford to Manchester to see their exhibition in person. For some of our children this was their first time on a bus, and they loved the visit!

In further exciting news, this year the school has registered to start its journey for an Artsmark Award, and this project was the first step in promoting a love of the arts within Barton Clough, showing children the importance of the arts as valid career paths.



## Stanley Grove's Rights Respecting Global Citizens

Stanley Grove Primary Academy held a fundraising day to raise vital funds for the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. As a Rights Respecting UNICEF School, the school community felt the urgent need to help. There was an own clothes day, four cake sales, balloon art, as well as a pre-loved clothes sale in the playground after school. The Manchester rain did not dampen spirits, and the school community really came together in force raising a phenomenal £2,386!

As rights respecting global citizens, caring pupils always want to do more to help others and continue to hold further events in school to raise funds for this important cause. All money raised goes directly to UNICEF, and below is a link to some of the things this money can be used for to help children in conflict and disaster: <https://www.unicef.org.uk/donate/childrens-emergency-fund>





## The Orchards adventure to Barton Clough Forest School

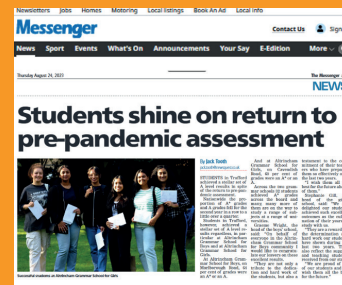
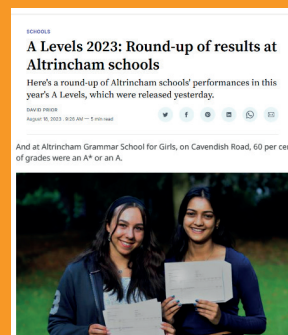
In a wonderful example of collaboration between two Bright Futures schools, children from The Orchards were delighted to have the opportunity to attend Forest School for the first time across the road at Barton Clough. The group from Brambles and Riverside 1 fantastically transitioned out of school, across the road and into Barton Clough's Forest School.

Children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the outdoor environment, where they were splashing in deep puddles, walking in and out of trees and bumpy pathways, climbing on wooden planks, swinging on big tyres and tree branches, and a particular favourite was sharing the hammock. They also experienced a campfire, where they watched the fire from a safe distance and listened to adults' instructions of being safe. The Orchards look forward to many more visits!



## In the media

Congratulations to all students on their GCSE and A Level achievements this year. The talent and dedication of AGGS students was celebrated by the local press.

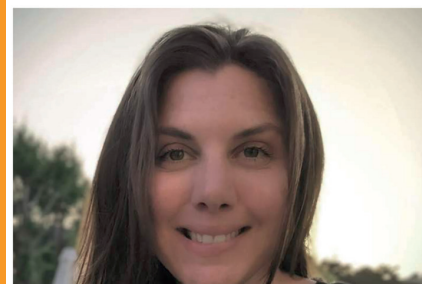


Following Lime Tree Primary Academy's Early Years Foundation Stage TES Award win, Mrs Lloyd was featured in September's Early Years Educator magazine.

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU: 'HAPPY CHILDREN EQUAL WONDERFUL LEARNERS'

Ely Roberts  
Friday, September 8, 2023

Danielle Lloyd, lead assistant head and inclusion lead at Lime Tree Primary Academy shares her thoughts on the importance of prioritising children's wellbeing in early years to allow them to flourish and be ready to learn. @DratcliffeLloyd



## Celebrating five years of DofE at South Shore

South Shore Academy is embarking on its fifth year of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. It is a fully embedded sustainable award which is recognised and celebrated throughout the school and there have been so many highlights in the past year.

To have Royalty visit South Shore was a huge honour. Prince Edward complimented the school on such a strong Duke of Edinburgh project. He loved the way that South Shore let nothing stand in the way of students being able to access the award. His visit aimed to bring to the forefront the importance of the 'Volunteering' section of the award, which South Shore focussed on this year.

Whilst a large majority of students volunteer within the school community in extra-curricular clubs, during lunchtime and after school, South Shore aimed to increase the number of volunteer placements within the wider community. With many primary schools in the area, students have found that by volunteering in school clubs this creates positive links with primaries and gives their pupils positive role models to look up to. There are over 30 students running and supporting primary staff with school clubs: from athletics and sewing to media and digital arts. Students love their newfound responsibilities, and the primary school staff really welcome the support.

For the young people that take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, the benefits of achieving are endless. It's about having fun, how pushing yourself to do new things will help you to grow in confidence, improving resilience and developing useful life skills.







## Even more Skills for Life accomplished at Melland High School

Melland Key Stage 3 and 4 students had a busy day participating in the 'What's My Job?' employer encounter event run by the North Manchester Business Network. Employers from City Events and Productions, Abuka, D4 Care, CRUK Construction, Manchester City Council, Crystal Hive, YES Manchester CIC, Equans, Manchester NHS Foundation Trust and SharpFutures gave up their morning to be quizzed at Melland. Students asked the volunteers a series of questions about their jobs to determine their careers and work sectors.

Students gained insight into a variety of work sectors and gained valuable knowledge about different careers and the pathways into employment. Students demonstrated excellent Skills for Life and utilised their communication skills by asking lots of questions related to employability. They also showed excellent problem-solving skills by guessing what the jobs were from the props they were shown and the answers they received. Students successfully guessed what most of the jobs were even though some were quite difficult!

Careers activities such as this help Melland maintain its 100% score in achieving Gatsby Benchmark 5 'Encounters with Employers and Employees'.



## The elves make a chaotic return!

Quite unbelievably, the Bright Futures Elf was invited back to class this December and again brought lots of fun and laughter across the Trust, and beyond. Thank you so much to everyone who helped look after the Elf and get us all into the festive spirit!

#BrightFuturesElfEscapades  
#BrightFuturesFestiveFun

## Lime Tree's charitable efforts reach far and wide

At Lime Tree Primary Academy they've been having fun catching up with some familiar faces and causes while making a difference in the school, its community, and nationally.

Enforcing their love of books, Fred the Red visited Lime Tree's Book Club. Fred, who enjoys reading and storytelling, brought each child participating in the club a book and a match day program, he then stayed to listen to the children read a story... and, of course, participated in a photoshoot!

In support of Children in Need the school joined forces with 'iDrive Manchester', a local driving school, to 'Sponsor a Spot'. Everyone had a spot-tacular time, meeting Pudsey and signing the spots, ready for the cars to be showcased across South Manchester while raising awareness for the children's charity.

Led by Lime Tree's Eco-Ambassadors and Friends of Lime Tree (FoLT), the school have taken to the local area with their litter pickers to 'Clean-up for Christmas'. Children, staff, parents and carers, and FoLT were all on hand to spruce up the community.

For the second year running, Lime Tree proudly joined in with the Human Appeal 'Wrap Up' campaign. Headed up by the school's Wellbeing Ambassadors and Mrs Rea, they were able to donate over 50 coats to this fabulous cause in an effort to better the 5,500 coats that were donated nationwide during last year's campaign.





## AGGS Mock Trial Champions

Altrincham Grammar School for Girls' Year 12 Mock Trial won the Paul Dockery School Mock Trial Competition at Manchester Crown Court. The team competed against 11 other schools including Altrincham Grammar School for Boys, Bury Grammar School, and Withington Girls' School. AGGS' barristers (Fara, Anna, Ayanfe and Disha) were all commended for their fantastic advocacy and professionalism and Fara won the prize for the best advocate in the competition. Witnesses (Phoebe, Daniella, Sarah and Ella) all put in star performances.

Sanjhbati was a superb clerk/usher even going as far as to memorise all her parts. The jury members were all very organised and impartial until the end. The team worked really hard and were truly excellent. They won every single one of their trials including a very tense final against Withington. It was a great day full of excitement!



## Marton takes on the challenge

Following its Challenge Partners annual review in November, Marton Primary Academy and Nursery is delighted to continue to be recognised as a 'Leading' school in areas including 'Leadership', 'Quality of provision and outcomes' and 'Quality of provision and outcomes for disadvantaged pupils and pupils with additional needs'. Head of School, Mrs Coyle, enthused: "It is a real testament to the way colleagues all strive to do the very best for our children."

Challenge Partners is a practitioner-led education charity accelerating school improvement, leadership development and pupil progress. They share excellent practice across many schools and trusts through rigorous peer reviews, tailored school improvement programmes, and national and local collaboration.



## Author launches Elmridge's new-look library

Top-rated children's author and storyteller, Fay Evans, visited Elmridge Primary School to officially open the school's new-look library. Fay read her new book 'Dave the Whale' in the library to the School Council and then presented a fun and interactive whole-school assembly, in the hall, featuring a reading of her best-selling rhyming picture book 'Fred the Fire-Sneezing Dragon'. Fay also shared the inspiring story of how she became a children's author.

Head of School, Mrs Bolton, said: "It was brilliant to have Fay with us, we all had a great morning. We are so grateful to the PTA, our parent/carer helpers and the Trust for our new-look library which is having such a positive impact on pupils. Children and colleagues alike couldn't wait to visit and see the transformation for themselves. I think our newly-appointed school librarians are going to be very busy!"



## YOUTH BOARD Christmas card collaboration

We are hugely grateful to members of Bright Futures Youth Board who collaborated to design this year's Trust Christmas card which incorporates all our school logos.

Inaaya, Liana, Kais, Romario, Alice, Elisabeth, Sinmi, Abdulhadi, Zelaf, Lucas, Hollie, Cody, Anna, Hadiya, Benji, Tyler, Poppy, Darcy-Jayne, Amina, Muhammad, Tyler, Jake, Morgan and Charlotte provided their brief to the Trust Marketing team and were delighted with the final design which has been sent with festive wishes to Trust partners and stakeholders.

Thank you to Bright Futures Youth Board!







## Cedar Mount shortlisted for 'Anti-racist School of the Year'

Cedar Mount Academy were thrilled to be recognised at the inaugural Future Ed Awards which are committed to celebrating the best in education for Black African and Caribbean heritage communities in the UK. Although not the eventual winner, the school were shortlisted for 'Anti-racist School of the Year' which is credit to all staff and students who are truly committed to ensuring a real culture of belonging for all.



For some time now, Cedar Mount has been making big changes in response to the needs and rights of students through curriculum development, staff training, student activities and student and parent voice.

At Cedar Mount, the Race, Diversity and Inclusion Board is driven by colleagues Miss Morris and Mr Wilson. The school is dedicated in its offer of a decolonised curriculum. The Board have looked at a number of areas including societal issues, uniformity within school and language barriers. This research led to a range of initiatives and work to make a positive difference including the development of staff and student working groups, work to improve representation in the curriculum following curriculum audits and policy changes.

Most notable is the partnership working at Cedar Mount and the way that new learning has positively impacted school policies. For example, Cedar Mount signed up to The Halo Code which explicitly protects students and staff who come to school with natural hair and protective hairstyles associated with their racial, ethnic and cultural identities. By adopting the Halo Code, Cedar Mount is proactively taking a stand to ensure that no member of the community faces barriers or judgment because of their Black/Afro hair.

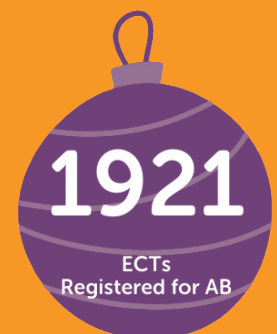
Cedar Mount also collaborates with the community interest company 'Kids of Colour' to facilitate sessions which have had an overwhelming positive response. Staff undergo regular CPD dedicated to anti-racism and access various Race and Diversity courses through Bright Futures Training.

You can find out more here: <https://cedarmount.bright-futures.co.uk/anti-racism/>



## Professional Development Institute

It's been a busy start to the academic year within the Professional Development Institute, check out our baubles below with just some of the work we have been undertaking. We have welcomed new colleagues to the team taking us to 30 plus workforce. With the holidays on the approach, we'd like to wish all colleagues a happy Christmas and a wonderful new year.





## AGGS Media Team and Trust Marketing get round the table

The Media team from AGGS met with the Marketing team from Bright Futures to discuss all things communications related. Both teams spoke about their roles and shared tips and best practice through a Q&A session. Students were also interested to learn about the Marketing team's career paths and the variety of work they are involved in across the Trust with our schools and the Professional Development Institute.



## Elmridge's chess masters in the making

Four of Elmridge Primary School's chess club members have been making such excellent progress that they have been invited to join the Cheshire North Wales U11 Squad Training. Huge congratulations to Hayden, Harvey, Isaac and Kayan!



## 'Eco Reds' trip for The Orchards

Four students from The Orchards visited Old Trafford to attend the 'Eco Reds' event where they learnt about how to help protect the planet and encourage everyone to be more eco-friendly. It was a great day which included trying on David Beckham's and Wayne Rooney's football boots, football shirts worn by Peter Schmeichel and even world-cup winner Lionel Messi. The group also tried on some bags made from old football shirts! Children returned to school full of ideas on how they can help the school and the local community to be more eco-friendly. The aim now is to support children across The Orchards to recycle paper in the classrooms.



**We would like to wish everyone  
a wonderful and restful break.**