

RISING STARS



Bright Futures Newsletter
Spring 2024 Edition



As the hours of daylight get longer and the blossom appears on the trees our minds inevitably turn to a sense of 're-birth' and revival. There's a tree in my garden that is so bare in the winter months it looks as if it will never bloom again. It stands as a seemingly lifeless, stark skeletal image against the grey, wintery skies. And yet I know that within a few weeks of spring it will abound with new foliage and a blaze of blossom that eventually creates an invitingly soft carpet of contrasting colours covering the rejuvenated lawn.

Reading through this edition of 'Rising Stars' reminds me of the wonderful diversity of our Trust. Through the sustained efforts of our colleagues, students across Bright Futures enjoy so many opportunities to exercise their agency, to share their views, to engage in stimulating and challenging activities and to find expression through the arts, through sport, in scientific discovery and in quiet contemplation. It's so important that the range of opportunities we offer is reflective of the rich diversity of the individuals and communities that we serve. In this way we can be both inclusive and invitational in the opportunities we create. This spring edition appropriately reflects the energy and potential of the season; I am so proud of the varied achievements celebrated here. I hope you too love sharing in the passion that leads to the many brilliant successes of our students.



Dr John Wm Stephens CBE

Chief Executive Officer,
Bright Futures Educational Trust

Melland students' positive impact for Manchester's UNICEF Child Friendly City Status Bid

Melland High School Sixth Formers had the exciting opportunity to be part of history in the making. Manchester is a candidate to be a UNICEF Child Friendly City. Students were invited to present at a 'Full Council Meeting', chaired by the Lord Mayor of Manchester and attended by all 96 elected members, to discuss the important issues taking place across the city. Melland's presentation focused on the priority badge 'Equal & Included' to ensure that all children and young people, regardless of their background, culture and ability, feel welcome in the city, are protected from discrimination and have the same opportunities to grow, learn, explore and have fun.



The whole school stepped up to the challenge to create a video for the presentation that ensured as many voices and opinions were heard. A group of 12 Sixth Formers attended the meeting and experienced what it is like to visit the Town Hall and the Council Chambers with four students presenting to the council members. Students demonstrated excellent self-belief and communication and confidently addressed the room. Students also gained an insight into what it is like to work in the public sector and Manchester City Council. Melland are incredibly proud of students' exemplary behaviour, and they received many kind, supportive and positive comments about the school's contribution.

A huge thanks to Caroline Roberts, Careers Co-ordinator, for planning the project, to Paul Morgan for creating the video in such a short time, to Debbie Mellows for coordinating the students and organising the visit and a special thanks to Jo Aungier and David Naraynsingh from Manchester City Council for inviting Melland to take part in this prestigious event.



Safety week at Barton Clough

The last week of Spring 1 was Barton Clough's first-ever Safety Week. The school had a fantastic few days focused on various aspects of safety awareness. From road safety and dog safety to e-safety and railway safety, pupils had opportunities to develop a great understanding of how to ensure they keep themselves, and others, safe out in the community. The school welcomed some great speakers from the Dogs Trust, as well as the Police, to really bring the topics to life. In addition, Year 6 had a great experience visiting a Crucial Crew Workshop. Crucial Crew is a multi-agency project delivered by Child Safety Media that provides an interactive method of teaching children to become more aware of their personal safety, learn how to react to situations, and practice safety skills within a controlled environment.



Jak takes ice hockey by storm

Jak has played Ice Hockey since he was 6 years old and has developed through the Manchester Storm Academy. He regularly trains with some of the Manchester Storm first team players, gaining lots of valuable experience and advice.

Now in Year 6 at Acre Hall, Jak plays for the Under 12's and travels all over the country for his league games. His team have only lost two games this season and currently sit third in the Northwest League and are pushing for a place at the Nationals.

Jak is also the main mascot for the Manchester Storm team.



Rushbrook's young voices' starring role

In February, the Rushbrook Primary Academy Choir made their way to the AO Arena in Manchester to participate in the biggest children's choir, Young Voices. Following months of rehearsals pupils were so excited for the event.

The day started with more rehearsals; this was the first time the children had heard their voices as part of an 8,846-strong choir. They all sounded amazing! It was a great opportunity to see behind the scenes of such a huge event. In the evening, the children loved trying to spot their parents/carers across the arena and energetically waving their torches and banners around.

The concert started and any nerves soon disappeared, the children all sang beautifully and enjoyed seeing Urban Strides and MC Grammar perform. A highlight for all was the Matilda Medley, there is nothing quite like hearing so many children sing 'Sometimes you have to be a little bit naughty!'. A day they will never forget!

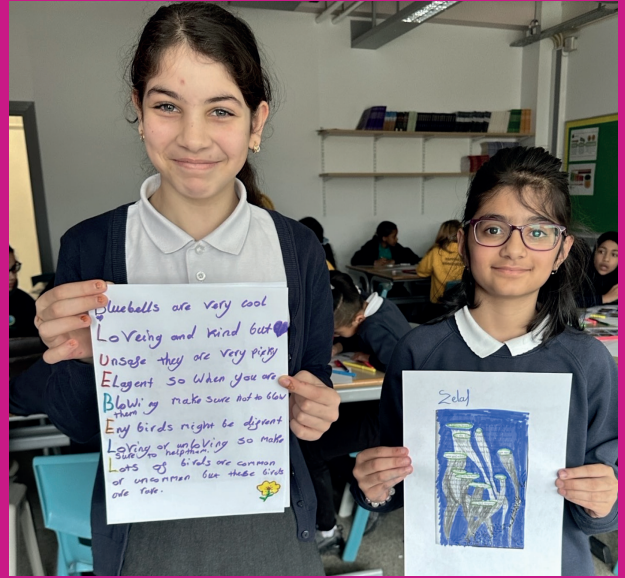




Rushbrook and Cedar English collaboration

A group of Year 5 students from Rushbrook Primary Academy visited Cedar Mount Academy's English department to take part in a creative writing workshop with Miss Reid. The main objective of the workshop was to unleash their creativity by rediscovering lost words and learning about the origins of natural vocabulary. Pupils revisited words such as conker, magpie, and dandelion. During the session, the pupils were given a passage from 'The Lost Words' by Robert McFarlane, where they learned about the traditions, superstitions, and importance of the natural world in an era where technology dominates.

Putting their newfound knowledge to use, pupils used the text to create a piece of 'blackout poetry'. They used a marker pen to underline words and interesting phrases and shaded out the rest of the words on the page. From these words and sentences, they experimented with rhyme and line structure to produce acrostic poetry. The work was artistic, unique, and fun! Year 5 took turns to read out their work to the rest of the class and later customized their pieces with colour and pictures to create stunning pieces of artwork to take home with them.



Art Gallery opens at Stanley Grove

At the start of the year, a previously bleak-looking school corridor at Stanley Grove Primary Academy was completely transformed into a fantastic Art Gallery! What were previously blank walls, are now walls showcasing children's artwork from Early Years to Year 6. Now children and staff from across the Year groups, can see and read about what each other have been creating and learning about in their classrooms.

It is an amazing addition to the school and highlights just how talented the super creative pupils are!



Artsmark Gold for Lime Tree

Lime Tree Primary Academy is delighted to announce that it has been awarded the Gold Artsmark. The school is proud to have achieved this prestigious award which demonstrates an ongoing commitment to providing a varied and engaging range of learning opportunities within the arts for children who attend Lime Tree. Below is feedback received from the Arts Council England:

"There is a firm commitment to promoting Visual Art at Lime Tree Primary Academy, and to increasing children in KS2's cultural capital through working alongside a professional local artist. On your first Artsmark journey under the new framework, you have carefully reviewed and adapted your Art curriculum so that it is clearly sequenced to ensure progression in knowledge and skills, with the effect that teachers are clear about children's prior learning, as well as their next steps. Children have enjoyed opportunities to showcase their artwork to senior leaders and peers in class galleries, inspiring teachers to work collaboratively."





The Orchards celebrates Children's Mental Health Week

Pupils and staff at The Orchards had a brilliant time during Children's Mental Health Week (5 – 11 February). The theme for the week was 'My Voice Matters' and The Orchards focused all week on the children getting their opinions over to staff. The children enjoyed an ice cream making workshop, a bouncy castle and a classical guitar concert, amongst other things. Parents shared photos of themselves and their children playing at home and these photos were shared, discussed and celebrated in classes. Two parent workshops were held with Ric Smith from the Bright Futures Educational Psychology and Specialist Outreach (EPSO) team to support and model appropriate play between parents and their children, as pictured.



Marton Primary Academy and Nursery delighted with IQM Inclusive School Award with Flagship status

“Marton Primary Academy and Nursery has a truly inclusive ethos and culture that permeates every aspect of the school's life.”

In February, Marton Primary Academy and Nursery achieved the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) Inclusive School Award with Flagship status.

Following their visit, the IQM Assessor said: “It was a pleasure and a privilege to visit Marton for the day and to witness the exceptionally inclusive ethos, culture and practice”.

“In the words of one Year 6 pupil, ‘everyone is included, there are no excluded people’. Staff describe the academy as, ‘like a family’ with a strong sense of, ‘how can we make this happen for the children?’. Parents and carers echo this and are strongly supportive of the work that the academy does for their children.”

Only around 100 UK schools have achieved IQM Flagship School status. This award recognises schools who have held IQM Centre of Excellence status for at least three years; and played a strong leadership role in developing inclusion best practice across a network of schools. The overarching aim of Flagship status is that the school can now further its work in inclusion through internal research activities.

Marton has recently begun its journey as a ‘Rights Respecting School’ which supports and underpins the academy's ethos. To read the full report visit <https://iqmaward.com/news/marton-primary-academy-and-nursery-achieves-flagship>





AGGS MFL competition success

"In January, five of our Year 13 Spanish and German linguists went to the North Schools' Modern Languages Debating Competition at Cheadle Hulme School. Both teams had prepared vigorously for their debate titles and performed brilliantly, debating topics such as 'Art is more valuable than science', 'Everyone should engage with politics' and 'Life was better without mobile phones' in German and Spanish. The Spanish team won their debate against Manchester High but were narrowly defeated by Bolton Girls in the second round.

"Our German team competed against Withington and Manchester Grammar in the initial rounds, achieving outstanding performances which merited a place in the final when they then met MGS again and won first place! They are now officially the Northwest champions! Special mention to our Spanish linguists, Eve, Thea and Faye, and our German linguists, Eleanor and Yvonne. The teams said it was a really good way to practice their languages in a different way and that it was a really enjoyable experience! Also, a huge thanks to our MFL department, especially the language assistants, for helping the teams prepare and accompanying them on the trip."

Written by Riya - AGGS Media Team



Melland plan Summer 'Takeover'

Three students from Melland's Citywide Factory Project collaboration joined other Manchester schools to discuss future projects as part of the collective.

Sho and Jack from the formal curriculum pathway and Asfa from the semi-formal curriculum pathway represented the school and displayed lots of design skills and creativity, they made Melland so proud.

Students started with a tour of the amazing Aviva Studio with VIP access to all areas which was very exciting. They saw the theatre, warehouse and social space along with the changing rooms, tech areas and green rooms. Students then collaborated with other participating schools by sharing creative ideas through a series of workshops. The objective was to develop ideas to take over Aviva Studios for a full day. The teamwork was excellent and further developed students' confidence and self-belief.



Overall, the experience was invaluable, Jack said: "I am very proud of the work that we did, and my ideas sparked more ideas with the other students." Asfa gained so much from interacting with students from other schools and enjoyed socialising and finding out their names and sharing her name with others. She said, "I want to work at Aviva when I leave Melland because it is so cool."

Melland would like to thank Factory International Schools for this fantastic opportunity and all schools for being so welcoming and friendly. Students look forward to further online sessions to further develop the 'Takeover' later this academic year.

Elmridge goes greener with Trees2School

Councillor Dylan Butt visited Elmridge Primary School to contribute to the 'Trees2School' campaign initiated by Health-Enterprise. With a mission to enhance the school environment, Councillor Butt joined hands with school councillors, along with the head boy and girl, to plant two vibrant sapling trees. This initiative not only beautifies the school surroundings but also fosters habitats for local wildlife and purifies the air we breathe. Being actively involved in this campaign has been a rewarding experience for Elmridge, igniting a sense of pride and responsibility towards nurturing green spaces.



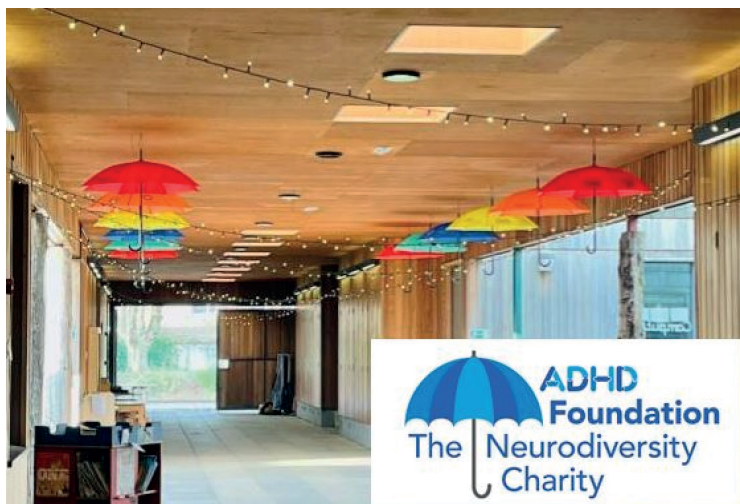


Lime Tree and AGGS join the Neurodiversity Umbrella Project

Lime Tree has joined the Neurodiversity Umbrella Project, which is an uplifting visual representation of all the different minds we have. The school proudly set up a rainbow-tastic display in 'The Avenue' to represent the one in five of us who have a neurodevelopmental condition, such as ADHD, Autism, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia or Tourette's syndrome. These conditions fall under the umbrella term of neurodiversity.

Lime Tree is helping to change the perception of neurodiverse/neurodivergent people and celebrating all the many strengths that come from thinking differently. Not only do they look amazing, but the umbrellas have also encouraged lots of conversation about neurodiversity and the school's 'No Outsiders' ethos, as well as being the focus of a very informative whole-school assembly led by Lime Tree's own SENCo, Mrs Lloyd, with lots of discussion about differences. Staff at Lime Tree received some fantastic feedback from children and adults alike who attended the assembly.

At Altrincham Grammar School for Girls, 25 brightly coloured umbrellas have been installed in the dining room also supporting the Neurodiversity Umbrella Project as sponsored by staff and families, and part-funded by the PTA. For Neurodiversity Celebration Week (18 – 24 March), Wellbeing Ambassadors led assemblies, form tutors dedicated time to celebrate Neurodiversity and workshops were led by the Year 9 School Council. Year 12 and 13 School Council Leaders also offered support.



In the media

Jackie Crouch, Assistant Head at Barton Clough, was featured in Schools Week talking about how the Money Matters programme, funded by Kellogg's and in partnership with Greater Manchester Poverty Action, is helping families at Barton Clough.

When it comes to childrens' success, Money Matters

As a new report is launched in parliament on the effects of a Manchester pilot, Jackie Crouch reflects on how it has helped her school

Deputy CEO, Lisa Fathers, was featured on Forum Strategy's website and social media reflecting on the 'Being the CEO' Programme.

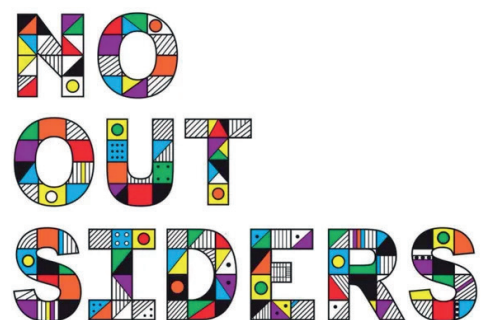
Forum Strategy @ForumStrategyUK · Mar 7

"I find the framework for leadership, based on the pillars outlined in the #BeingTheCEO book, an extremely useful way to think about trust leadership"

@LisaFathersBF reflects on taking part in the #BeingTheCEO programme.

Read the full article, here: forumstrategy.org/lisa-fathers-r...

forumstrategy.org





Bright Futures Youth Board update

As part of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion work, Bright Futures Youth Board were tasked to come up a Youth Board Charter, a set of commitments that all students at Bright Futures should demonstrate. Students have come up with the following set of commitments:

- Be self aware** (Icon: person with sunburst)
- Demonstrate school and trust values through all behaviour and actions** (Icon: target)
- Recognise that all children and young people are unique** (Icon: three people)
- Promote a culture of belonging so that all children and young people feel comfortable and celebrated** (Icon: house with heart)
- Have honest conversations with staff when we feel that other pupils are not living the values and respecting our commitment to EDI** (Icon: speech bubbles)
- Celebrate multiculturalism in a variety of ways** (Icon: globe)
- Respect by listening to the views of others and knowing they are just as important as our own** (Icon: ear and speech bubble)
- Ensure that school council/student leaders within each school represents the diversity within the student body** (Icon: hands holding a circle)
- Actively seek out opportunities to make people feel included** (Icon: hands holding a heart)

Science Squad launched at Elmridge



Elmridge Primary School has launched a new 'KS2 Science Squad' who worked with Science Lead, Miss Aspinwall, to plan for British Science Week (8 – 17 March). The Squad also took part in a STEM competition run by Smallpeice Trust.

The Smallpeice Trust is an educational charity. The educational charity inspires young people to pursue careers in science and engineering through events and workshops. For over 50 years, they have been giving young people everything they need to fuel their passion for engineering. It all started with their founder, Dr Cosby Smallpeice, a brilliant engineer who invented the Smallpeice Lathe.

Elmridge pupils were tasked with creating a model rocket. Children learnt all about forces required to launch a rocket, created a model rocket and then had a fantastic session on how to create sustainable aircrafts for the future.

South Shore Academy students perform Barbie Musical at Schools Alive 2024

The energy the students brought to the stage was electric as the students performed at Schools Alive 2024. The stage was set with vibrant pink lighting that matched the theme inspired by the hit movie 'Barbie'. Miss Duckworth would like to give a special mention to Mrs Heckford and Miss Massey for their amazing support during rehearsals and backstage. A special mention also goes out to the Year 11 BTEC dance group, whose dedication and hard work brought them to this momentous occasion.

As the curtains came up, the audience saw a fun and empowering dance medley. Cheers and applause filled the theatre as each dancer moved with grace and precision, embodying the spirit of the performance.

The sense of pride and accomplishment was in the air, both the performers and the audience shared a moment of celebration and joy.





Professional Development Institute



A brilliant start to 2024!

First of all, we are pleased to announce that our two Bright Futures Teaching School Hubs have been re-designated to receive Teaching School Hub funding for a further four years.

We will use this funding to continue to impact positively on the recruitment, retention and training of all teachers in schools in our designated areas : Trafford, Salford, Manchester & Stockport and of course schools in all our partner MATs too.

The second bit of good news is that further to our highly successful Attendance Conference this month, we are delighted to announce a Behaviour Conference at the same venue, with similar facilitators in a similar format, in partnership with Chiltern Learning Trust again.

Finally, as you know I moved into the Deputy CEO role in January and following on from that I'm absolutely delighted to share that Jayne Carmichael has successfully been appointed to the role of Director of Bright Futures Professional Development Institute. Jayne will have strategic oversight of both Teaching School Hubs, our SCITT, Bright Futures Training, our Early Years Hub, NW1 Maths Hub and our SEND outreach service. Jayne will be very ably supported by the PDI leadership team including SCITT Director/Deputy Director of Teaching School Hubs, our two Assistant Directors as well our wider Leadership & Management and Operational Teams.

I know you will join me in wishing Jayne many congratulations, Jayne has had an impressive career in the primary and early years sector and previously led a Teaching School and ITT provision in another MAT, Jayne has been instrumental in the success of our two Teaching School Hubs at Bright Futures, and I know that our work supporting so many schools will continue to grow and flourish.

Bright Futures
TEACHING SCHOOL HUBS

We're delighted to be re-designated for delivery in our hub areas of Manchester & Stockport, Trafford & Salford until 2028!

Tickets are now available for our **Behaviour Conference**
Tuesday 2 July
9.00am - 3.30pm
AJ Bell Stadium, Manchester M30 7LJ
£95 per person, group discounts available

WE WISH ALL OF OUR COLLEAGUES & COMMUNITIES A RESTFUL BREAK.

