



A community of schools in which our children come first

ISSUE 24 AUTUMN 2025

A message from the Chief Executive

CEO Retirement Report

As I prepare to retire this Christmas, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been an extraordinary journey with Vision Multi Academy Trust. Since its inception in 2017, I have had the privilege of serving as CEO, working alongside dedicated colleagues to shape and grow a Trust that puts children at the heart of everything we do.



We began with three founding primary schools, Higher Lane, Sunny Bank, and East Ward and I'm proud to say that our family has since expanded to include Peel Brow Primary and, more recently, Parrenthorn High School. This growth has not only broadened our reach but deepened our impact across both the primary and secondary phases. It has been a genuine

pleasure to get to know the children and staff in each of our schools, and to work together to make them better places to learn, grow, and thrive.

One of our most significant developments has been the addition of Vision House, which has become an asset to the Trust. It serves as a high-quality training venue, while also generating additional income to support our schools. We have also strengthened our commitment to inclusion through the establishment of dedicated SEN provision, ensuring that some of our most vulnerable children receive the tailored support they need and deserve.

Throughout my time as CEO, my priority has always been clear: to put children first and to build a strong, collaborative team of staff who share that vision. I am immensely proud of what we have achieved together. The culture of professionalism, care, and ambition that runs through our Trust is a testament to the collective efforts of our pupils, parents, staff, governors, and trustees.

While it is undoubtedly sad to be stepping away, I know this is the right time for me to focus on my family and enjoy more of the things I love, like long walks and time outdoors. I will miss everyone deeply, especially the professional friendships that have meant so much to me over the years.

As Vision Multi Academy Trust continues its journey of improvement, I leave with full confidence in the strength of our leadership and the passion of our teams. I wish you all continued success and thank you sincerely for your support, your belief in our shared vision, and for making this role the most rewarding of my career.

Carol McLachlan
Chief Executive Officer

East Ward Primary School



Higher Lane Primary School



Peel Brow Primary School



Sunny Bank Primary School



Parrenthorn High School



Welcoming our Interim CEOs

Following the announcement of Carol McLachlan's resignation as substantive CEO, effective this Christmas, we are pleased to share that the Trust Board has appointed Kathryn Mort, Executive Headteacher at Peel Brow and East Ward Primary School, and Chris Bell Executive Headteacher of Parrenthorn High School to a joint interim CEO role.

Kathryn Mort and Chris Bell are both highly respected leaders within our Trust, bringing a wealth of experience, deep strategic insight, and a strong commitment to our shared values. Their collaborative leadership will ensure continuity, consistency, and a balanced approach as we move through this transitional period.

Working together, they will provide clear direction and support across our schools, maintaining momentum in our improvement journey and continuing to put children and staff at the heart of everything we do.

We look forward to the next chapter with confidence and gratitude for their leadership.

Message from Chair of the Board



As this term comes to an end, we are saying goodbye to our CEO, Carol McLachlan. Carol is retiring after leading Vision MAT since its inception in June 2017. What started off as a MAT with three primary schools has grown to one of four primary schools, and a secondary school and number of Resource Provisions.

Carol has led the Trust in a most professional manner, always upholding the principles of public service. She ensured that the interests and wellbeing of our children and staff were, at all times, at centre of any thoughts, discussions and actions.

We wish Carol a long, happy and healthy retirement with time to spend with family and friends and more time to enjoy the great outdoors.

Kathryn Mort, Executive Headteacher at Peel Brow and East Ward Primary Schools, and Chris Bell, Executive Headteacher of Parrenthorn High School, will take on the role of joint interim CEO. Both bringing a wealth of experience, strategic insight and commitment to our shared values. Their collaborative leadership will ensure continuity, consistency and a balanced approach as we move through this transitional period.

As 2025 comes to an end there is a positive feeling in the Trust. The Board has been strengthened and the future looks promising.

I am sure that 2026 will be a good year for all our schools.

On behalf of the Trust Board, I wish you all a very happy holiday season and a healthy and safe New Year.

Laurence A Goldberg, Chair of Trustees

Parrenthorn Joining our Trust

Joining Vision Multi Academy Trust has been work in progress for a number of months and we are delighted to have joined on 1st September 2026.

The move provides a wealth of opportunities for **collaboration, improved transition, shared resources, and professional growth** for both staff and pupils, as well as providing a strong basis to improve outcomes for all. Work has already started cross phase with the Transition Hub and this will support the mastery of key concepts and knowledge between key stage 2 and key stage 3.

It was great to see Carol McLachlan attend our Open Evening in September, as well as so many pupils in year 5 and 6 from Higher Lane and Sunnybank.

I am pleased to report that we had more visitors during Open Evening and Open Morning than ever before.

The executive team, central team, trust board and all schools have made us feel very welcome.

All of us at Parrenthorn High School very much appreciate this and look forward to working together.

Chris Bell, Executive Headteacher, Parrenthorn



Transition Hub Success

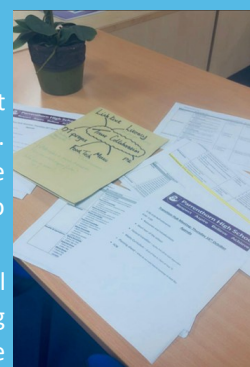
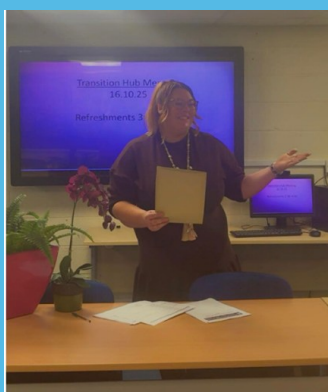
What a brilliant evening we had at Parrenthorn School for our very first Transition Hub meeting. It was fantastic to welcome the Year 6 team, share ideas and feel part of our growing Trust community.

After a tour of the school, we met new colleagues and finished the meeting feeling inspired about ways we can make the move to secondary even smoother for our pupils.

The sense of connection and collaboration was incredible- with a real celebration of teamwork and shared purpose. We are already buzzing with ideas for an upcoming project where we will celebrate the importance of transition and the amazing journey our children take as they move on to the next stage.

Exciting times ahead!

Good luck to East Ward who take on Higher Lane in their cup game at Parrenthorn in the next few weeks!



Why Pupil Leadership Matters *in our Schools*

Recently, Sunny Bank Primary Head Pupils wrote to Bury South MP - Christian Wakeford - who visited Sunny Bank Primary - and to the new Mayor of Bury, to organise a tour of the Council Chambers and a discussion about leadership in our communities for primary-based pupils in January 2026.

Before this event, however, all schools were invited to attend a School Parliament/Council meeting on November 27th, which was a fantastic opportunity for our pupil representatives to come together, share ideas, celebrate achievements and plan for the future across our Trust.

At Vision, we believe giving pupils leadership opportunities helps them grow into confident and responsible individuals who ready to positively interact with the world around them.

Roles such as School Parliament/Council representatives, Eco-leaders, Tech Champions, Curriculum Champions, Head Pupil or



Prefect positions allow children to develop important life skills, such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving.

These experiences also give pupils a voice in shaping their school community, ultimately fostering a sense of pride and belonging. By encouraging leadership from an early age, we prepare our learners to become active, thoughtful citizens who can make a positive difference to society - now and in the future.



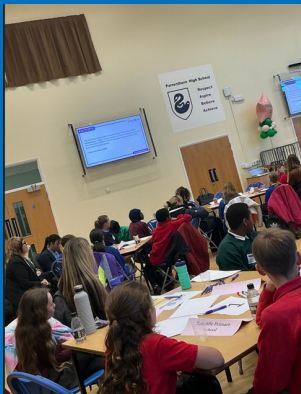
Uniting Schools Together Against Hate

"No one is born hating another person because of the colour of skin, or background, or religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."

– Nelson Mandela (1994)

On Tuesday 25th November we celebrated difference, not simply as something to tolerate, but as something that enriches us, challenges us, and ultimately binds us together.

It was a privilege to welcome 26 schools and colleges to Parrenthorn High School. The day remind us that our differences are not barriers, but the opposite- they thread and strengthen the fabric of our shared community and what makes Bury so wonderful and diverse!



Thanks to all headteachers, the Bury Youth Cabinet, College Principles and trust Chief Executive Officers for allowing me time with your amazing pupils and staff.

Together, across our diverse beliefs and backgrounds, we choose unity over division. Having a broad range of young people, at various ages, working together, some may see is a risk in terms of conversation but we made the most of this wonderful opportunity. It was a real chance to create positive dialogue about inter faith working and understanding.

Yes, the charter, co-constructed goes a long way in doing that but so did our discussion, our interaction and our friendship that was formed.

A **charter against hate** has now been decided, collectively, based on respect and inclusivity and all 8 points will be included in a well-designed graphic and sent to all schools to present in assemblies to all pupils and staff. We hope to send this out by the end of this week.

We also discussed British Values, particularly *Tolerance*. Does this go far enough in eradicating hate?!

Watch this space...