

A community of schools in which our children come first

ISSUE 25 SPRING 2026

Our Academies

PRIMARY ACADEMIES

East Ward Primary School



Higher Lane Primary School



Peel Brow Primary School



Sunny Bank Primary School



Parrenthorn High School



A message from the Interim Co Chief Executives

Dear Staff, Parents, Carers and Pupils,

As we reach the end of the Spring Term, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been a busy and productive period across the Trust.

It has been both a privilege and an honour for us to serve as Interim CEOs of this amazing Trust. During this time, the support we have received from our central team and our Headteachers has been invaluable in helping to steer the Trust through the term. Their collaboration, professionalism and dedication continue to ensure that our schools provide the very best opportunities for all pupils.

With Parrenthorn High School joining the Trust, we have worked hard collectively to develop strong cross-phase links between our schools.

Throughout the term, colleagues have shared best practice in a number of key areas including transition, SEND and safeguarding—areas which are crucial to the life and success of every school and the wider Trust.

A particular strength this term has been the time leaders have spent in each other's schools, working together to support high-quality teaching and learning. These visits have enabled staff to learn from one another, share expertise and further strengthen the collaborative culture that underpins our Trust.

We would also like to extend our congratulations to the leaders and staff at East Ward Primary School and Higher Lane Primary School following their successful Ofsted inspections. The reports highlight many significant strengths and are a testament to the very strong practice and commitment of staff in both schools.

As we approach the Summer Term, we would like to wish all of our schools the very best of luck with the upcoming SATs assessments and GCSE examinations. We know how much work has gone into preparing pupils, and we wish them every success.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue strengthening the links between all of our schools. This will include a cross-phase transition event taking place at Parrenthorn High School in June, bringing pupils and staff together as we continue to build strong partnerships across the Trust... watch this space!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Kathryn Mort & Chris Bell
Interim Co CEOs



Message from Chair of the Board



It has been an excellent term for Vision MAT. Two of our primary schools, Higher Lane and East Ward were inspected by OFSTED and the outcomes were extremely positive. I congratulate all our staff from these schools for the outstanding contributions that they have made in providing a first class education to our pupils.

Earlier this year, I had the pleasure of attending the meetings of all five of our local governing bodies. These meetings are a valuable means of ensuring a two way communication between trustees and governors. Through these meetings, governors are kept up to date on strategic and financial matters and can raise local issues to be taken back to the trust board.

At the beginning of the year, Tina Critchley joined the board of Vision MAT. Tina was previously Chair of Governors at Parrenthorn High School and she brings with her a wealth of governance experience, particularly in the area of secondary education.

Once again I finish on a very positive note. Capital funding has been made available for a major project at Peel Brow Primary School. Pupil numbers for next September are on target and all our staff are in a positive frame of mind.

On behalf of the Trust Board, I wish you all a very relaxing break.

Laurence A Goldberg, Chair of Trustees

Swimming at Sunny Bank Primary School and Across the Trust

Swimming is a life skill, a safety skill, and a source of joy for children. Across our Trust, swimming lessons play a crucial role in helping primary-aged pupils develop both water confidence and swimming proficiency - two abilities that grow hand in hand.

For many children, water confidence is the first big step. Feeling secure, supported, and comfortable in the water allows them to explore movement, practise new skills, and enjoy the experience.

This growing confidence directly fuels swimming proficiency: each new skill reinforces their sense of achievement, creating a positive cycle where confidence and competence build together.

With swimming and water safety forming part of the national curriculum in England, our commitment to high-quality lessons ensures pupils are well prepared to meet expectations such as swimming 25 metres and understanding essential safety principles. More importantly, it equips them with lifelong skills that support their wellbeing and safety beyond the school environment.

By nurturing both confidence and capability, we're giving every child the opportunity to enjoy the water safely and enthusiastically, now and in the future.



Parrenthorn High School Year 7 Colour Run



To celebrate the Hindu Festival of Light- Holi- our year 7 pupils took part in a colour run on Tuesday afternoon.

Holi is a celebration of love, the start of Spring and the triumph of good over evil. Our pupils enjoyed the afternoon of pure joy and celebration as they ran through powder paint and just had fun! It was an absolute pleasure to see!

Recognising Our Commitment to Staff Mental Health *at Vision*

We are extremely proud that Vision Multi Academy Trust has been recognised for its commitment to supporting staff mental health and wellbeing. Looking after our staff is a priority across the Trust, and this recognition highlights the positive culture we continue to build in all our schools.

Central to our approach are dedicated Staff Mental Health First Aiders in every school. Each is equipped with their own budget to deliver initiatives and purchase resources tailored to their staff teams.

This flexible, school-led support ensures staff feel valued, listened to and supported, and we are grateful to all involved for making staff wellbeing a meaningful priority across the Trust.



Bringing Learning to Life at Higher Lane Primary School

This term, Higher Lane Primary School, successfully introduced *Teach Active*, a programme designed to embed physical activity into its English and Maths curriculum and enhance teaching and learning provision in the process.



In January, a group of staff attended specialist Teach Active training, before delivering whole-school CPD to ensure a consistent and confident approach across all year groups. Since then, the impact has been significant. Teach Active strategies are now being used in a variety of ways: within whole-class teaching, small group work and targeted interventions. Sessions take place across a range of environments, including classrooms, the school hall and outdoor spaces, allowing learning to be dynamic, engaging and accessible.

Teach Active has had a very positive impact on pupils who require additional sensory input or movement breaks. By embedding movement directly into English and Maths lessons, staff are able to support these pupils more effectively without removing them from their learning. This inclusive approach ensures that all children can remain engaged, focused and successful within the classroom.

The success of Teach Active at Higher Lane has also led to exciting opportunities beyond our school when they were invited to support the creation of an educational research and training video for Teach Active. In March, a film crew visited the school to capture a wide range of lessons, from EYFS through to Key Stage 2. They also conducted interviews with pupils, staff and senior leaders to showcase the impact of active learning in practice.

This film will be used as part of Teach Active's training for newly enrolled schools, as well as to promote the benefits of active learning across Greater Manchester. Teach Active is currently working in partnership with Bury Local Authority and other organisations to expand active learning approaches across the region, and Higher Lane Primary School is proud to play a role in supporting this important work.

Staff at Higher Lane are excited to continue developing its use of Teach Active and to share its journey with others, striving to make learning active, inclusive and inspiring for all pupils.

Growing a Greener Future at Sunny Bank

This term, Sunny Bank Primary has proudly partnered with City of Trees to enhance our school environment and create greener, healthier spaces for our pupils. Together, we have planted 100 new trees across our grounds; an achievement made even more special by the enthusiasm of our children, from EYFS right through to Year 6, who rolled up their sleeves and got their hands dirty to help and, by involving children directly in the planting process, we've given them a sense of ownership and pride in their environment.

Planting trees brings a host of long-lasting benefits to our schools. The visual impact alone is transformative: as these young trees grow, they will shape vibrant, welcoming outdoor spaces that pupils can enjoy throughout the year. Beyond their beauty, trees play a vital role in creating rich habitats for birds, insects, and other wildlife, helping our school grounds become thriving ecosystems. The benefits extend to our pupils' wellbeing too. Spending time in natural spaces has been shown to support calmness, focus, and emotional resilience.

There are practical advantages as well. Trees help improve drainage, reducing surface water and supporting healthier soil. As they mature, they will contribute to more sustainable, climate resilient school grounds. This project has been a wonderful example of environmental learning in action. Our pupils haven't just planted trees—they've planted the beginnings of a greener future for our Trust community.



Parrenthorn World Book Day Success

World Book Day 2026 was a fantastic celebration of reading across the school! To launch our new Pathway for Reading, we hid a selection of must-read books around the school, sparking excitement as pupils eagerly searched for them. Lucky finders were rewarded with the chance to choose a 'Lit in Colour' book as their prize.

Throughout the day, pupils designed covers for books they love and shared thoughtful conversations about their favourite stories. We finished the celebration with a calm Drop Everything and Read session, where teachers read aloud to their classes. Texts ranged from subject-related stories and engaging non-fiction to beloved classics such as *The Wind in the Willows* and *Sherlock Holmes*—a perfect way to end a day dedicated to the joy of reading.

