

AGORA
LEARNING
PARTNERSHIP

Agora Learning Partnership

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21 February 2022

Dear colleagues,

I hope you have enjoyed a well-earned rest during the half term break.

Last half term was certainly an interesting one within the Partnership, with five of our schools receiving an Ofsted inspection within a four-week period. I wanted to say a huge thank you to all the staff at Bromet Primary School, The Grange Academy, Oxhey Wood Primary School, Warren Dell Primary School and Wilbury Junior School for all their hard work, focus and positivity during the inspection process. It was great to see such amazing teamwork in each one of the schools. At this point, I am unable to share the outcomes of all the inspections as three of these have still not been made public; however, I can say a huge congratulations and well done to everybody at Bromet and Oxhey Wood for the incredible outcomes achieved – both schools maintained their ‘good’ grading. Fantastic news and very well-deserved!

Although the inspections have kept us busy, there has also been a huge amount of recruitment work taking place over the past weeks. This is the result of the resignation of our Company Secretary, Jackie Goodhall, who is retiring at Easter. Jackie has dedicated much of her career to helping schools in Hertfordshire. She worked for Herts for Learning/HCC for 20 years before becoming a member of the Partnership’s Executive Team; she has been part of the Trust since its inception in 2016. Jackie has been a fundamental member of the Partnership’s development. Since the Trust began, Jackie has worked tirelessly to ensure Trustees, the central team and school leaders have received the support they need. She is most definitely the person we all turn to when we have a question or a query about the Trust and somebody we all rely on because her advice, guidance and support are second to none. Jackie is a hardworking, committed and passionate person who always does what it best for the children within the Trust; she is going to be greatly missed by everybody who works closely with her. As such, we knew recruiting somebody to Jackie’s role would be entirely impossible and we therefore took the decision to review the structure of the central team and appoint to a new role. As you will have seen from previous correspondence, we have been advertising recently and more information about this can be found below.

I hope these updates are helpful and I look forward to sharing more, related information soon.

Wishing you all a super start to the half term.

Kind regards

Rebecca Daulman
Chief Executive Officer

The children at Bromet Primary School recently enjoyed planting trees with the Mayor and local Councillors.



New Central Team Appointment

We are delighted to have appointed a Personal Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer who will be joining the central team officially in the next few weeks. Our new PA brings a broad range of skills, knowledge and expertise that will be beneficial in her new role, including in relation to publicity and marketing. We look forward to introducing her to you all properly very soon.

Opportunity to give feedback...

If you have recently attended any Partnership training, you should have received a link to an electronic evaluation form. It would be really helpful if all staff could complete the evaluations as this will help with the planning of future training and events. Many thanks in anticipation of your support with this matter!

The Partnership recently advertised for a Chief Operations Officer; a position within the Trust's Executive Team. The role focusses on operational aspects of the Trust's work, including in relation to estates, health and safety and human resources. It is felt that the person appointed to this role will be able to assist schools in a range of areas and help school leaders to spend as much time as possible focussed on the education of our children.

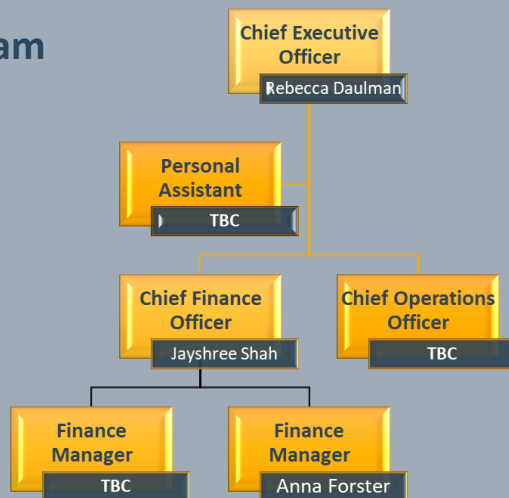
Shortlisting for this position is currently underway with interviews taking place shortly. Details of the successful applicant will be shared in due course.

PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Cyber Security Audit

Last term, a thorough audit of cyber security took place across the Partnership. The audit has highlighted strengths and Trust-wide areas of development, which will be actioned over the coming weeks and months. Thank you to everybody in the central team and across the Partnership schools who assisted with the audit. Your help and support are very much appreciated!

Central Team 2022



Oxhey Wood Primary School
(January 2022)



Bromet Primary School
(January 2022)



TOGETHER STRATEGY

The Together Strategy details the Partnership's key drivers for Trust-wide improvement over the next three years. The Strategy is designed to complement the individual work of the Trust schools, supporting staff and children through positive collaboration, Partnership-wide. The Strategy was launched in September 2021. The information below details some of the Partnership's 'together' successes from the past few weeks, as well as some information about upcoming events.

#workingtogether

TOGETHER for staff

It was amazing to see so many staff across the Partnership in attendance at the Trust-wide training day that took place in January. Staff benefitted from attending the following training:

- Pupil Book Study (Alex Bedford)
- Staff Well-Being (Jan Crook)
- Health and Safety (James Ottery)
- Promoting Equality and Diversity in the Classroom (Andrew Moffat)

In addition to the training detailed above, the Partnership's Headteachers also had the opportunity to attend coaching training with Katherine Powell (<https://leadwithoutlimits.co.uk/>). The training will be followed up with some coaching sessions for each of our Headteachers.

#learningtogether

TOGETHER for schools

Thank you to everybody who took part in the Peer Reviews of our schools in January. Feedback from participants has been very positive and the impact of this work has been recognised by Ofsted too.

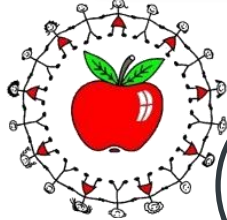
Due to the number of Ofsted inspections that took place across the Partnership last half term, it was necessary to postpone some of the activities planned as part of the Together Strategy. However, all these activities have been reorganised in the coming weeks and months. Look out for details coming soon!

Coming soon...

Together for Children	Together for Staff	Together for Schools	Together for All
Spring 2022: Agora Learning Partnership 'values' competition	Spring 2022: Training – classroom-based support staff	Spring 2022: Agora Associates application process	Spring 2022: Governance working group meetings



On Tuesday 11th January, a group of Year 6 children from The Orchard Primary School went to Rickmansworth School to compete in the first inter-school sporting event of 2022 – indoor athletics. All teams took part in six track events (three straight races and three involving obstacles) and six field events, including javelin, standing triple jump and speed bounce. All the children demonstrated amazing sportsmanship and fair play, as well as showing how ‘physically fit for life’ they are. The girls came third overall and the boys finished in first place. The boys will now go forward to the overall finals in the coming weeks. Well done to all!



At Bromet Primary School, Nightingale Class recently had great fun planting trees with the Mayor and local Councillors. It was an opportunity for children to get involved with some tree planting and learn about the numerous benefits, linking to themes such as climate change.

The children at Warren Dell Primary School had a really exciting half term; they enjoyed a wide range of events and activities. For example, the children in Year 4 enjoyed a Viking Day to support their ‘humanities’ learning, whilst Year 2 loved a pirate-themed day. Additionally, as part of the Trust offer to children through the Children's Pledge, Year 6 visited St. Mary's University and came back to school enthused with thoughts of what they would like to study. Amazing!



SCHOOL NEWS

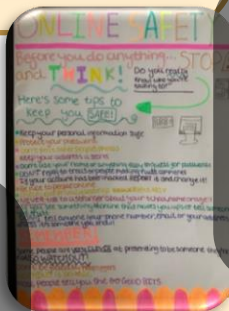


At Oxhey Wood Primary School:

- The Year 6 children visited the Lincolnsfield Centre in Bushey as part of their World War 11 project; the children were able to apply their learning to realistic scenarios at the Centre;
- It has been great to see that some children have read every book on their reading passport and have been awarded a token to use in the school's new book vending machine
- The Junior Leadership Team have been busy judging a virtual speech cup and choosing an art design for the school's dining room.



It has been a busy and active half term for everyone at Wilbury. Across the school, children have enjoyed an English unit based on the book *The Spider and the Fly*. The children have also been working to increase their emotional vocabulary. Each week, the ‘word of the week’ has been chosen from the school's emotional vocabulary wheel and groups of children have been making short videos to explain the word; these have been shared with the whole school. Additionally, the children have had the opportunity to engage in a range of in-school competitions, such as a portrait competition and a positive thinking poem and poster competition. Recently, the staff and children also had an opportunity to take part in the rope challenge!



The children at Meryfield Community Primary enjoyed Safer Internet Day again this year. The theme was 'All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online'. All classes from the Early Years to Year 6 looked at different aspects of online safety with a focus on gaming and our online behaviour and identity. Children explored this area through a variety of activities, including role play, games and discussions. This was very rewarding in many ways, as well as being fun!



On Friday 21st January 2022, Alban Wood Primary School and Nursery's local PCSO presented a special award to a member of Year 6; the winner of the award had designed a logo for a Mini Police project. Huge congratulations!



A particular highlight included our 'Together at Waterside' learning initiative. For two days, we gave all classes permission to move slightly away from their usual curriculum and teach the children about someone 'relevant who was/is of good moral standing' and then compare that person's act(s) of 'moral goodness' to our Golden Rules. We had some great people studied by our classes, including Greta Thunberg, David Attenborough, Sir Captain Tom Moore and England football player Marcus Rashford who proved to be the most popular choice. All classes then fed back to the rest of the school, linking these acts of moral goodness to our Golden Rules.



The highlight for children and staff at The Grange Academy this half term was their annual writing competition. The competition included fifteen schools, all studying *The Barnabus Project*; a heartfelt, timely story celebrating diversity, bravery and solidarity. It certainly motivated the children. As part of the project, every class teacher nominated an endeavour and progress award; the endeavour award was for those children who showed great enthusiasm and ‘gave their all’ to the project and the progress award was given to children who made the most progress with a particular aspect of their writing. Additionally, the class teacher picked two pieces of writing for the ‘Best Writer Competition.’ Ms Hopwood had the pleasure of picking the writing that she most enjoyed reading; a tough task as the standard of writing was so high. Lucky winners received trophies, medals and certificates. The children also await the big reveal of the inter-school competition winners to be held later this month!

