

AGORA
LEARNING
PARTNERSHIP

Agora Learning Partnership

01923 589418

info@agoralearning.co.uk

26 March 2024

Dear Colleagues,

It has been a pleasure working with you again this term.

Over the past few months, the meetings of the Central Team have been hosted by different schools. It has been a pleasure visiting those schools and both the Central team and I really appreciate the warm welcome and hospitality we have received. I have also enjoyed other visits to schools, which have taken place for a variety of reasons; it is always a pleasure seeing you and the children and hearing all about the great provision that all of the Agora schools offer...which Ofsted has also recognised again this term.

In January 2024, Warren Dell Primary School was inspected. I am delighted to tell you that the school achieved an outstanding judgment; a judgment that recognises the fabulous work of Jenny Morley (Executive Headteacher), the staff, and the governors to ensure the children at the school receive the best possible educational experience. The children shone throughout the two days of the inspection too! There are many highlights in the report; for example, inspectors wrote, "Pupils thrive at this vibrant school, where 'every day matters'". A huge well done to Jenny and the Warren Dell team!

As we reach the end of a busy term, we say goodbye to a valued member of the Central Team – Jayshree Shah, our Chief Finance Officer. Jayshree has been part of the Team since 2020 and she has been instrumental in the Trust's development. She has worked hard, supporting schools to achieve the best possible provision using the finances available to them; never losing sight of the most important people within the Partnership – the children. We will miss Jayshree but wish her all the best as she moves on to enjoy a new chapter in her life. I know you will join me in wishing her all the best. Good luck and best wishes, Jayshree!

Wishing you a peaceful break; I look forward to seeing you when the summer term commences.

Kind regards

Rebecca Daulman
Chief Executive Officer

Welcome, welcome, welcome!

A warm welcome to Theresa Allotey, who joined the Central Team as the new Chief Finance Officer earlier this month. Theresa is really keen to visit all the Agora schools as soon as possible and looks forward to doing this after the upcoming break.



Year 5 HfL Mathematics Challenge

This term, The Orchard Primary School took part in a Year 5 HfL Mathematics Challenge heat.

There were over 250 schools, from all over the world, taking part in the heats...battling for a place in the final. The challenge has 4 rounds, all scored out of 60 and with a maximum score of 240; although one round focuses on estimation making it almost impossible to score full marks!

The children at The Orchard Primary School excelled themselves during the heat. The average score this year was 138 but the children at The Orchard scored an impressive 218...not only securing a place in the final but coming 1st in the heats overall. A huge well done and congratulations!



Chairs' Forum

Thank you to the Chairs of the Academy Governing Boards for attending the Trust's collaborative working group for Chairs – the Chairs' Forum – on 27th February. Chairs and Governors across the Partnership give their time freely to support the Agora schools, acting as the Committees to the Trust Board. They work really hard and are committed to the schools they serve. Thank you to all Chairs and Governors for all you do!

PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Staff Pledge

Before the COVID outbreak, work had begun on the development of an Agora Staff Pledge. The document created then has been reviewed and updated. The next stage will be to add information about how the Partnership is achieving the expectations laid out in the Pledge, as well as the Trust's next steps. Thereafter, the Pledge will be presented to staff and views sought about its content. More information coming soon!

Congratulations to Andy Penn from Meryfield Community Primary School, who has recently been appointed as an Agora Associate and will be joining the Agora Associate team. Andy will focus on teaching and learning, specifically the development of high level thinking skills and questioning. Well done, Andy!

Journeys Academy

We are looking forward to welcoming children to Journeys Academy, located in Potters Bar; a SEND free school that will offer places to children with autism and communication difficulties from September 2025.



Together for Staff and Children:

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the Agora events and activities this half term...and for your commitment to Partnership-wide collaboration.



Agora Associates

Interested in being an Agora Associate? Please see a related letter below (and the application form attached) or contact Rebecca Daulman, Chief Executive Officer (Rebecca.Daulman@agoralearning.co.uk)

Dear colleagues,

Agora Associates

In September 2021, the Agora Learning Partnership launched the Together Strategy. The Strategy details how everybody across the Partnership will work together over a three-year period to secure Trust-wide improvement. The core purpose of the strategy is to enhance, and not replace, the individual work of schools and assist in improving the life chances of the children and young people within and across the Partnership...ultimately helping them to flourish and achieve the very best outcomes in all aspects of school life and beyond.

One aspect of the Together Strategy focusses on the development of staff and there is recognition within the 'Together for Staff' strand that, to retain the Partnership's talented staff, it is essential to recognise and celebrate their achievements whilst giving them opportunities to share their skills, knowledge and expertise.

In the summer term 2022, a Partnership-wide 'talent spotting' system was launched which resulted in 'Agora Associates' being appointed from a number of schools within the Partnership; since then, there have been regular recruitment rounds.

Currently, thirteen talented members of staff have been appointed as Agora Associates and they deliver high quality school-to-school support and assist with the delivery of the Together Strategy. However, there is a determination to appoint more Agora Associates in order to build capacity within the group and broaden the range of skills, knowledge and expertise. As such, the Trust is seeking to appoint more individuals to the Agora Associate role.

Details of the Trust's recruitment process are detailed below.

What is an Agora Associate?

An Agora Associate is a member of staff, from any one of the staff groups within the Partnership, who has been recognised as being talented in one or more aspects of their work as the result of a formal application process.

The talents of an Agora Associate can be very specific (for example, a member of a school's administrative team who is exceptional in their use of Arbor, a teaching assistant who is remarkable in the support they offer children with a specific need or a teacher who is highly effective in the teaching of a specific curriculum area, such as phonics) or very broad (which would include those staff who are exceptional in all aspects of their role and responsibilities).

With the support and agreement from their Headteacher, an Agora Associate will give some of their time within their working hours to support colleagues in need of help, support or training linked to the Agora Associate's area of talent. The support will take a variety of forms; examples include a visit or visits to another school to support a member of staff (or group of staff), leading a Partnership-wide collaborative working group or delivering a training session on behalf of the Trust.

Staff will not receive payment for this work but will, instead, benefit from this remarkable opportunity for professional development.

Becoming an Agora Associate enables staff to offer support across the Partnership for a limited amount of time, whilst continuing to carry out their roles and responsibilities in school.

How are Agora Associates deployed?

Once appointed, the name and specific talents of each Agora Associate will be added to a matrix developed centrally. The Agora Associates will then be deployed to support other schools and colleagues when the need arises.

All deployments are agreed with the Agora Associate and their Headteacher/Executive Headteacher, ensuring there is sufficient capacity.

Thereafter, the Agora Associate will be deployed (within their working hours) for a set period of time; generally, no more than three days in total in any one academic year.

On completion of the work, the Agora Associate and the relevant school leaders will complete evaluations to determine the impact of the support.

How will the Partnership help the Agora Associates prepare for their new role?

All Agora Associates will be invited to attend induction sessions to help them prepare for the Agora Associate role. This will be followed by further training sessions and meetings over time.

How can a member of staff become an Agora Associate?

All staff who are interested in becoming an Agora Associate will need to complete the application form attached and submit it to HR@agoralearning.co.uk by **Friday 3rd May 2024**.

All applications will need to be supported by the respective Headteacher/Executive Headteacher (or in the event of a Headteacher/Executive Headteacher wishing to apply, the Chair of the Academy Governing Board).

When will applicants find out if they have been successful?

All applicants will be informed by the end of the first half of the summer term 2024, if they have been successful, with dates for their induction in the second half of the summer term 2024.

Unsuccessful applicants will receive feedback that they can consider should they wish to apply again in the future.

Is this the only opportunity to become an Agora Associate?

There will be more opportunities for staff to apply to be an Agora Associate in the next academic year and beyond, in light of the fact that staff will develop their skills, knowledge, expertise and experience over time. This means, staff who are interested will have the opportunity to apply when the time is right for them.

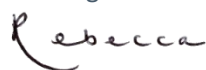
When does the Agora Associate role start?

All the Agora Associates appointed in the summer term 2024 will commence their roles in the autumn term 2024. However, it is unlikely that all Agora Associates will be deployed in the first term. Agora Associates will only be deployed when there is call for their particular talents.

I hope you have found the information above useful; however, if you have any further questions or would like to discuss the 'Agora Associates' scheme with, please contact HR@agoralearning.co.uk to arrange a suitable time for a discussion.

I look forward to receiving applications next term.

Kind regards



Rebecca Daulman
Chief Executive Officer

Agora Learning Partnership Values Awards

Each half term, Headteachers nominate children to receive a certificate and award for demonstrating one or more of the Agora values; this half term's winners are listed below. Well done to our 'Values Award' winners!

Alban Wood Primary School and Nursery

- **Ambition:**
 - Margaret: Initially, Margaret did not want to participate in the school's Rugby Festival but she played all five games and really enjoyed the experience.
 - Frankie: Despite being extremely anxious about the Bikeability Training Course, Frankie demonstrated resilience and passed Level 2.
- **Adventurous and Brave:** Leo phoned for an ambulance when a member of his family was very unwell.

Bromet Primary School

- **Ambition:** Lucy (Year 6) has been consistently ambitious in her learning.
- **Generosity:** Ibrahim (Year 2) used his own pocket money to buy items for the school's foodbank.

The Grange Academy

- **Optimism:** Kyrak (Year 3) always has such a positive outlook on life. She arrives to school eager and ready to learn each and everyday and does so with a smile on her face. She has a willingness to attempt all activities put to her, even when she finds them a challenge, and she perseveres until she has completed them.
- **Respect:** Mavrik (Year 3) is very respectful within the classroom. He is able to adapt quickly and effectively to changes, showing growth mindset within his attitude and his work. He is respectful to all the adults who have been in the class and this has not gone unnoticed. Mavrik has been polite, honest and humble throughout the last term, which are all brilliant qualities and characteristics to have.

Meryfield Community Primary School

- **Ambition:** Zara (Year 6) always wants to learn and repeatedly produces work of a high standard; she is an excellent role model to her peers in every way.
- **Generosity:** Justin (Year 4) always supports the people on his table and is willing to help in a kind way. He is an excellent role model to his peers.

The Orchard Primary School

- **Optimism:**
 - Abir (Year 4) demonstrated the value of optimism when representing Hertfordshire in the U9 tennis County Cup.
 - Karthik (Year 3) showed an optimistic attitude when he went 'above and beyond' with additional homework, including the creation of a great board game linked to his history learning.

Oxhey Wood Primary School

- **Generosity:** Maci (Year 6) has been giving up her lunch breaks to help the Nursery children during their break.
- **Respect:** Amber (Year 4) is respectful to others and a positive role model to her peers.

Warren Dell Primary School

- **Ambition:** Harini (Year 5) always strives to better herself.
- **Respect:** Andreea (Reception) is always polite to children and staff.

Waterside Academy

- **Ambition:** George (Year 6) successfully challenged himself and completed a level 3 bike-ability course.
- **Adventurous and Brave:** Joseph (Year 5) had never been swimming before but he has really developed his skills during the school's swimming crash course.

Wilbury Junior School

- **Optimism:**
 - Brooke (Year 6)
 - James (Year 3)

Magic Moments 2023-2024

Alban Wood Primary School and Nursery

Class Assemblies: At Alban Wood Primary School and Nursery, class assemblies provide the children with the opportunity to share their learning from all areas of the curriculum. This term, the assemblies have been well attended by parents and carers, who enjoyed seeing confident children who were able to speak, sing, dance and perform to an audience.

Bromet Primary School

At Bromet Primary School, the children have been fundraising; fundraising activities have included a:

- Popcorn sale, organised by Nightingale Class
- Sponsored walk by Sparrow class
- Dance-a-thon, organised by Kestrel Class
- 'Beat the goalie' event, organised by Falcon Class

Also, Year 5 created mathematics games for their buddies in Reception as part of the NSPCC Number Day.

Well done to all for your fundraising efforts!



The Grange Academy

There have been a number of magic moments at The Grange Academy this term, including:

- On the first day of term, one of the children skateboarding in the hall as part of a 'wow' day linked to the school's writing project
- A Shakespeare drama workshop, which was enjoyed by Years 5 and 6 at the end of January

Great fun has been had by all!



Meryfield Community Primary School

At Meryfield Community Primary School, the children in Year 2 visited the Borehamwood Library; the children loved their time at the library. Also, this term in Year 6, the children loved their World War 2 topic. As they were inspired by the topic, they were able to produce some high quality homework linked to Year 6's topic. Fantastic!



The Orchard Primary School

It has been amazing to watch the class assemblies at The Orchard Primary School this term! All of the assemblies were really well attended by the parents, who thoroughly enjoyed each and every one of them. The children were incredible...standing on stage and presenting their learning to a very big audience. The children were so well supported by their teachers and support staff, who put in so much effort to help make these events so special. Great work everyone!

Oxhey Wood Primary School

The children at Oxhey Wood Primary School thoroughly enjoyed World Book Day earlier this term. To celebrate this special day, each class decorated a door linked to a book they enjoyed. Great work everyone!

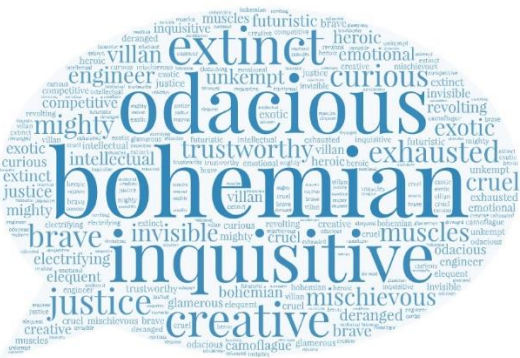


Warren Dell Primary School



At Warren Dell Primary School, everyone loved 'Mother Tongue' Day this term. From Pre-School to Year 6, parents and children shared their home language, traditions and food. How exciting!

Waterside Academy



The children at Waterside Academy had a lovely time on World Book Day when they took part in a 'catwalk of words'! The children came to school dressed as a word or a word to describe their favourite book character; all of the words were used to create a wordle!

Wilbury Junior School

At Wilbury Junior School, the children have been enjoying a broad range of 'shine' clubs. The clubs are designed to help the children 'shine'...which is part of the school motto...and to provide opportunities that support their personal development. The children have enjoyed clubs that focus on a broad range of interests and skills, including chess, coding, mini police officers, outdoor adventure, foot golf, debating, sewing, art, Lego, French cooking, religious cooking...and much more. The participation of children within these amazing clubs has increased significantly over time – they have been a huge success and are well loved by all who attend them!

Together Believe Achieve Shine



Dates for Diaries Summer 1 2024



Each summer, the Agora Learning Partnership's diary dates for the next academic year are sent to schools. This year, the dates are also being shared with all staff through the newsletter; please see the dates below:

Date	Time	Event	Person(s)/School Involved	Meeting Link
18/04/24	9.00-11.00	Classroom-based support staff training (2 x sessions)	Classroom-based support staff e.g. Teaching Assistants	Click here to join the meeting
22/04/24	n/a	Submission deadline – Year 6 mock test outcomes (Spring 2)	Year 6 Leads/teachers	n/a
02/05/24	9.30-2.30	Wellbeing Working Group (face-to-face: Fielder Centre)	Bex Howe, School representatives (Trust-wide)	F2F at the UH Venues Fielder Centre
08/05/24	09.15.11.45	Moderation training: Key Stage 1 (face-to-face: Meryfield Primary Community School)	Key Stage 1 Leads and/or teachers	F2F at Meryfield Primary School
09/05/24	09.15.11.45	Moderation training: Reception (face-to-face: Meryfield Primary Community School)	Early Years Leads and/or teachers	F2F at Meryfield Primary School
13/05/24	3.45-5.15	Music Collaborative Working Group	Music Leads	Click here to join the meeting
21/05/24	9.30-11.30	Trust Senior Leaders Collaborative Working Group	Central Team/Trust Senior Leaders (Headteachers)	F2F at Wilbury Junior School
21/05/24	9.15-11.45	Moderation training: Key Stage 2 (face-to-face: Wilbury Junior School)	Key Stage 2 Leads and/or teachers	Click here to join the meeting
21/05/24	1.00-3.00	Early Years Collaborative Working Group	Bex Howe, Early Years Leads and/or teachers	Invite in diary invite