



Collaboration & Community News

GOVERNOR BULLETIN

July 2025

In this issue:

1. All About Your Chair
2. GHAT Leadership Conference
3. Marsden commemorates VE Day
4. Bowling Green's collaborations
5. Primary & Secondary connection
6. Raynville pupils visit Ireland
7. The MFG's Respect programme strengthens Primary partnership
8. Celebrating French culture at Carlinghow

STAYING IN TOUCH

A joint bulletin from the CEO & Director of Governance

As we approach the end of another academic year, we are proud to celebrate the collaboration that defines our Trust. This term has seen schools working closely together, pupils connecting across phases, and meaningful partnerships flourish both within our local communities and beyond. From leadership events to joint student initiatives, our shared commitment to working as one Trust has never been stronger. Thank you, as ever, to all our governors for the time, commitment and expertise you bring to our work. Your support plays a vital role in helping us to deliver the best for our children and young people.

This bulletin is designed to celebrate and connect LGBs, trustees and members within the area of community news. As ever, do contact the Trust offices and/or Andrew as Director of Governance if any further clarity is required.

★ Communication within this bulletin should support the regular in-between reportable time frames between board members and leaders, again within a workload friendly backdrop.

★ Principals and Heads of School have recently been reminded of the importance of keeping their board updated on significant changes, emergency activation or near misses in 'real timeframes.' We are working on guidance and best practice sharing to further articulate the importance.

1. ALL ABOUT YOUR CHAIR

Chair of the Trust Board Carlton Midgley talks about his role and responsibilities

I see my main roles as providing leadership to the Trust Board and working closely with the CEO to ensure a shared vision and purpose for the Trust. I try to ensure that the Board works strategically as a team, while providing support and challenge to the senior leaders. I also work closely with the Director of Governance to ensure that all levels of governance are effective. In order to help fulfil these roles, I speak with the CEO regularly, I attend LGB meetings and I participate in a range of supportive networks (e.g., CST and NGA) and their seminars, webinars and remote events. It is important to keep up with national education policy changes and the position of our Trust schools, particularly as I have to represent the Board in meetings with the DfE and Ofsted inspectors.



On average, I devote around one day per week in term time to Trust meetings and events, preparation and my own professional development.

A little bit about me...

Although I now live in Harrogate, I was born in Holmfirth ('Last of the Summer Wine' country) and I have lived there most of my life. After secondary school, I studied Mathematics at London University then education at Leeds University, where I later did my masters degree. My secondary school teaching career began in 1967 and I followed a well-trodden route – head of department, deputy head then headteacher. Since then, I have had a range of posts within education, including senior adviser, zone director, school improvement partner and Ofsted Inspector.

In a voluntary capacity, I have acted as chair of governors at four primary schools and one secondary school, and served as a trustee at a community charity. My main interests outside of my family are in sport and music. I have been a season ticket holder at Huddersfield Town AFC for many years, I am a member of Yorkshire County Cricket Club, I am a subscriber to the Huddersfield Choral Society and I am a Friend of the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden.

2. Great Heights Academy Trust 2025 Leadership Conference



This year's Trust Leadership Conference took place over two inspiring days at Waterton Park Hotel, bringing together our school and designation leaders to reflect, connect, and plan for the year ahead. We were delighted to welcome our Chair of Trustees, Carlton Midgley, and Vice Chair, James Power, who joined us for the event, providing an opportunity for firsthand insight into the work and progress happening across the Trust. Our CEO Amanda Bennett opened the conference by reaffirming our "one trust" philosophy, which underpins everything we do - promoting a united approach across our central teams, schools, and designations, where all members are both givers and receivers of support. This ethos of mutual respect, shared purpose, and collaborative leadership lies at the heart of our motto: achieving excellence together.

Across the two days, leaders explored a range of strategic priorities, around Trust-led school improvement, Ofsted's evolving inspection framework, and the national education landscape. We also heard from school leaders including Di Mahon (Niels Academy), Steve Dixon (Colne Valley High School), and Alex Fuller (The Mirfield Free Grammar), who shared powerful case studies on school improvement, community engagement, inclusive practice, and the importance of building strong relationships with families. Our operations team and designation teams – including AA Teamworks SCITT, the English Hub, the Research School and Partner Provision – also shared their achievements and plans, highlighting the impact of collaboration, professional development, and evidence-informed practice on our wider education system.

3. COMMEMORATING VE DAY WITH THE COMMUNITY



**MARSDEN
JUNIOR SCHOOL**

Marsden Junior School children join the weekly luncheon club

As part of our VE Day commemorations, we joined members of the weekly luncheon club at the Parochial Hall. We sang some wartime songs and chatted about wartime experiences. We took some books about WW2 from our library with us to share, and we coloured some Union Jack flags together. A huge thank you to the luncheon club volunteers for inviting us and for providing juice and biscuits.

The children were true role models for MJS - they interacted so well with the community members. We had comments from several people telling us how wonderful the children were.



More celebrations - at the Manchester Derby!

What an amazing experience for some of our children to attend the Women's Super League Manchester Derby at Manchester United Football Club!

It was an exciting game with some international players and a 2-2 draw in the end.



**BOWLING
GREEN
ACADEMY**

4. AT THE FOREFRONT OF CALDERDALE COLLABORATION

Making friends through Calderdale Schools Linking Programme

Our Year 5 children have loved being a part of the Calderdale Schools Linking Programme this year, pairing up with a class across Calderdale for shared activities and new friendships. The initiative connects schools in Calderdale, aiming to promote understanding, reduce prejudice, and build community through structured activities. It focuses on exploring identity, celebrating diversity, and fostering equality among students.



These four superstars represented Bowling Green at Halifax Town Hall to present how valuable they have found the scheme. They made us all very proud!

Finalists in the Safe Travel Cup

Bowling Green Academy is a finalist in the Safe Travel Cup, a competition run by Calderdale Council to engage young people in healthy lifestyles and sustainable travel in their community. The children have created a video as just one part of their 'Traffic Terminator' project.



Great Heights Football Event

Our three Calderdale Great Heights Primary schools came together for some amazing football! A great time was had by children from Bowling Green, Greetland and West Vale academies.

5. COLLABORATION AND CONNECTION BETWEEN STAGES

Colne Valley Students inspire the next generation at Nields Academy

As part of our continued drive to build meaningful links between Great Heights schools, two Year 11 students from Colne Valley High School - Alfie and Cameron - recently visited Nields Academy to share powerful and personal messages with the children. Their visit had a lasting impact on both staff and pupils, who were visibly moved and inspired by what they heard.

Alfie, who has just completed his time at Colne Valley, was open about having faced challenges at school. Known more for mischief than music, his life took a positive turn when he was introduced to Shaun Weatherhead of Fierce and Fearless, a mentoring programme working with students at the school. Through Shaun's encouragement, Alfie - a self-taught pianist who had kept his talent hidden - began to share his music, even playing for residents at a local care home. With his confidence now growing and his behaviour improving, Alfie visited Nields to perform for the children and show that it's never too late to change course and embrace what makes you unique.

Cameron, who also faced behaviour challenges during his time at school, recently opened up about being a young carer. Since receiving support through mentoring with Shaun, Cameron has found healthier ways to manage his emotions. He spoke to the children about the importance of looking after their mental health and not being afraid to speak out. Wearing his "Boys Get Sad Too" t-shirt, Cameron helped shine a light on male mental health, showing pupils that no one is alone and that speaking up is a strength, not a weakness.

Staff and pupils at Nields were deeply touched. One pupil shared, "Thank you for the assembly, you now make me believe in myself," while another commented, "It was good having someone younger to talk about it." These peer-led moments of connection show the powerful impact of lived experience and the importance of our young people being heard and supported across the Trust. Importantly, involving older students in this way also supports our transition work between schools. Nields is a feeder school to Colne Valley High School, and visits like these help younger pupils to build familiarity and positive associations with their future school community.



6. Raynville Academy pupils visit partner school in Ireland

Raynville Academy took a group of their Year 6 pupils to visit their Partnership school in Macroom, Co.Cork, Ireland. This was the first time that many of the pupils had flown before. They enjoyed sampling school life in Ireland and staying in the 4 star Castle Hotel!



7. Year 8 Respect Programme strengthens Primary partnership



As part of the ongoing Respect programme at The Mirfield Free Grammar, a group of Year 8 students has been visiting local primary schools to build positive relationships and support transition. These visits not only help younger pupils gain an insight into life at secondary school, but also provide valuable leadership opportunities for our students.

Most recently, the group visited Battysford Primary School, where they delivered a thoughtful and engaging presentation to the Year 5 cohort. Showcasing impressive oracy skills, our students spoke with confidence about their experiences at The MFG and answered questions with maturity and kindness. The same group has also visited Crowlees and Crossley Fields, where they continued to demonstrate the core values of morality, generosity and respect that underpin the programme. These visits are a powerful example of student voice and peer-to-peer connection in action.



8. Celebrating Bastille Day at Carlinghow Academy



In celebration of the French national holiday Bastille Day, the children played a traditional game of boules and enjoyed singing and playing 'Je te tiens, tu me tiens', a game in which they had to make each other laugh first!

