

SYNERGISE



Welcome

NEILL OLDHAM, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Welcome to the latest Synergy Education Trust update!

This edition celebrates our shared vision and values: inclusivity, empowerment, innovation, honesty, respect, and collaboration, which underpin everything we do. We're proud to launch the Trust Ambassador Programme, recognising staff who go above and beyond to share best practice and drive improvement across our schools.

A very warm welcome to Educational Diversity, who join the Synergy family this term. We're excited to work together and strengthen our collective impact.

As we close the autumn term, I want to extend heartfelt thanks to all staff, governors, and trustees for your hard work, commitment, and dedication. Your efforts ensure that our pupils thrive and our Trust continues to grow stronger.

Looking ahead, our strategic priorities focus on excellence in inclusive education, empowering and supporting our workforce, strengthening governance, sustainable growth, and continuous school improvement. Together, we'll continue to innovate, champion wellbeing and deliver exceptional outcomes for our pupils and communities.

Finally, congratulations to all colleagues featured for their outstanding achievements. You exemplify the power of teamwork and the spirit of Synergy.

"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success." Henry Ford

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable Christmas break with your loved ones.

Neill



Message from the Chair of Trustees

To all across Synergy Education Trust:

As we near the end of the autumn term, I wanted to take a moment to say a heartfelt thank you to all our amazing staff.

Your dedication, teamwork, and unwavering commitment to putting children and young people at the centre of everything you do is truly inspiring and makes a real difference every single day.

It was wonderful to see everyone come together at our first all-school event in October. The event really highlighted the incredible number of staff across our schools and the value of sharing best practice and how we can all learn from each other

On 1st December, we were pleased to welcome Educational Diversity into the Synergy Family of Schools. Already, we're seeing the benefits of cross-school collaboration, sharing best practice and supporting one another. This partnership is an exciting step forward for our Trust and strengthens what we can achieve together.

While Synergy Education Trust continues to navigate challenges, our shared positivity and determination keep us focused on creating safe, supportive, and inclusive environments. Our purpose remains clear: to improve life chances and outcomes for all children and young people. This vision drives every decision we make.

As we look ahead to the New Year with optimism and ambition, I want to wish each of you a joyful, restful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Thank you for your continued commitment and for everything you do to make Synergy Education Trust a place where every child can thrive.

Susan

Susan Strother
Chair of Trustees
Synergy Education Trust



Welcome to Educational Diversity

We're delighted to welcome Educational Diversity to the Synergy family!

Educational Diversity provides vital support for young people aged 6 to 16 who are unable to access mainstream education due to social, emotional, behavioural, or medical needs. Operating across two sites in Blackpool, they deliver both Pupil Referral Unit services and Home & Hospital Education, working in partnership with schools across the area to support our most vulnerable learners.

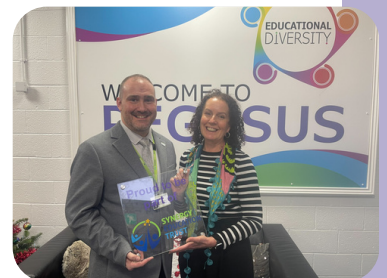
Renowned for their excellence in inclusive practice and staffed by a highly experienced team, Educational Diversity brings a wealth of expertise. We're excited about the opportunities to collaborate and strengthen our shared commitment to improving outcomes for every child.

Victoria O'Farrell, Headteacher of Educational Diversity, said:

"It's a momentous day filled with great optimism for the future. I'm so looking forward to working in partnership with the trust to secure even better outcomes for our young people, families and staff!"

Neill Oldham, CEO of Synergy Education Trust, said:

"Educational Diversity joining Synergy reflects our shared vision and values. With three mainstream primaries, two special schools, and now an alternative provision, we are strengthening our commitment to support vulnerable pupils in Blackpool. We are very excited to go on this journey together with the experienced and dedicated teams at Educational Diversity."



Trust Inaugural Inset Session

This term we held our very first Trust-wide INSET session, bringing together over 250 colleagues from our schools, central team, trustees, and local governors.

It was such a special opportunity for everyone to connect, share success stories, and celebrate what it means to be part of our Trust community.

The energy in the room was amazing, full of pride, passion, and a real sense of belonging.

A huge thank you to Moor Park Primary School for hosting the event, your hospitality helped make the session a success!

We were also thrilled to launch our new Trust Ambassador Programme, which will shine a light on our wonderful staff who go above and beyond to support colleagues across our schools.

Some of the feedback says it all:

- “It gives you goosebumps when you feel part of such a brilliant organisation.”
- “All the school staff left feeling uplifted.”

We are all united by shared vision and values, all striving for the very best for our pupils.

Forbes Trailblazer Award Winners

Synergy Education Trust were thrilled to be honoured with the Forbes Solicitors Trailblazer award for Public Sector Hero.

Out of hundreds of nominees, we're incredibly proud to be recognised for our unwavering commitment to collaboration and inclusivity, for our pupils, our staff, and the communities we serve.

At Synergy, our shared vision and values unite us. We may be six schools, but together, we are one team, removing isolation and strengthening connections across our Trust.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributes to making Synergy such a special community!

Green Flag Award

Congratulations to Boundary, Highfurlong and Moor Park for being awarded the Green Flag Award 2025.

The Eco Schools award empowers our young people to protect and care for our planet.

Equal Access School 2025

We're thrilled to announce that Boundary, Moor Park and Stanley have achieved Equal Access to football for girls.

This incredible achievement comes as part of the latest survey conducted at the end of the last academic year, helping England Football/FA measure the percentage of girls who have equal opportunities to play football across the country.

We're proud to be part of this movement, ensuring every child has the chance to enjoy the beautiful game.



National School Business Lead Winner

In December, we were proud to attend the National School Awards at the House of Lords in London. Our Chief Operating Officer, Lisa Tupman, was shortlisted as one of the top three finalists for School Business Leader of the Year. We were thrilled to discover that Lisa was named the overall winner!

Lisa plays a pivotal role in supporting all schools across our Trust, driving operational excellence, championing the vital work of school business and operations managers, and ensuring efficiencies that contribute to high-quality education and positive outcomes for children.

Congratulations, Lisa, on this outstanding and well-deserved achievement!

Pilot Ofsted Visit

In September, we were delighted to welcome Ofsted to Boundary Primary School as part of the pilot for the new inspection toolkit. While official gradings and feedback were not given, the experience was incredibly positive and the wonderful children truly did us proud!

Inspectors were highly impressed with the school and the unique 'Boundary Way'. A huge well done to all the amazing staff, it was a challenging week, but your hard work and dedication shone through. Thank you for always going above and beyond for your pupils.

We are so proud that Boundary Primary School is part of the Synergy family!



Your Assistance Programme

A 24/7 helpline from Health Assured. Wellbeing and mental health support to get you through life's issues, problems, and worries.



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It's not easy to balance the pressure of work, home life, and any other personal issues that you may be experiencing. Health Assured provides support and guidance for you and your immediate family.*

What can I use this service for?

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Your Assistance Programme

- Stress & anxiety
- Debt
- Work
- Addictions
- Relationships
- Legal



Free 24 Hour Confidential Helpline

0800 028 0199

Download Wisdom now

wisdom.healthassured.org

*Health Assured define immediate family members as spouse/partners and children aged 16 to 24 in full-time education, living in the same household.

All staff can download the Health Assured Wisdom app via Google play or Apple store using the code MH A051861 – Here you can access "live chat" facility or request a call back

Boundary Primary School

As we come to the end of another successful Autumn term, we are delighted to share with you a summary of our key achievements and highlights across Boundary Primary School.



Anti bullying week

In November, we took part in National Anti-Bullying Week. We started the week off with a whole school assembly with the focus on this year theme 'The Power of Good'. We talked about different types of bullying and how we can use our power of good to be an upstander rather than a bystander. Back in class the children took part in a range of activities focused on bullying.



Nursery Get Ready Teddy

Our preschool children are about to begin a very exciting journey – and they won't be doing it alone! Throughout the year, they'll be helping our Boundary Bear get ready for Reception.

Together, the children and their cuddly friend will be practising all the skills needed to become confident, independent and school-ready.

Salsbury Wood trip

During November, the children in the Reception classes had a fantastic time visiting Salisbury Woods to look for signs of Autumn.

The children enjoyed collecting a range of different autumnal objects including autumn leaves, conkers and pine cones. As they walked around the woods, they discussed the changes that can be seen during the season of Autumn.



Oracy morning

During the last week of November, we held an Oracy morning where the focus was on collaborative learning and talk. Some of the activities that took place included; Year 1 using their oracy skills to predict which material would make the best umbrella for Ted, Year 2 used Colourful Semantics to build expanded noun phrases and Y6 took part in hands on Maths with weighing scales, tape measures, and jugs used to estimate and measure mass, capacity, and length

Pupil Wellbeing Champions

This half term we have recruited and relaunched our Pupil Wellbeing Champions. They have attended the launch part of their training. This was provided by One Goal. One Goal training is planned to continue throughout the year for this pupil leadership group.



Democracy Week

Chris Webb MP launched our School Election campaign with a visit to Boundary. Any child who wanted to run for School Councillor had the opportunity to write their manifesto, explain why they would make a good school councilor and then present it to their class. After this, the school took to the polls. The votes were counted and verified and the results announced during a results assembly.

Times Table Bee

This term we held our first Times Table Bee for Years 3 to 6. This was an opportunity for our team houses to compete against each other to quickly recall multiplication facts.

A huge well done to those who represented their houses, you all did brilliantly.



Educational Diversity

We are thrilled to join the Synergy family and to be able to showcase what our wonderful pupils have been up to this term.



Diwali

This year we celebrated Diwali for the very first time across the whole school. Students enjoyed learning about the festival of lights through art, storytelling and cultural activities. It was wonderful to see our community embrace and celebrate new traditions.

Hello Yellow Day

In support of World Mental Health Day, students and staff embraced Hello Yellow Day with enthusiasm. Through activities and discussions, we reinforced the importance of speaking up, supporting each other and looking after our emotional wellbeing.

Remembrance Day

Our students took part in an important act of remembrance with a visit to the local war memorial. They conducted themselves with respect and maturity as we reflected on the sacrifices made by others.

Flourish Fridays

A highlight for our younger students this term has been Flourish Fridays, where KS3 learners have embraced a variety of enriching activities designed to build confidence, wellbeing and teamwork. Students have taken part in Time to Breathe sessions with Lancashire Youth Challenge, focusing on mindfulness, resilience and emotional awareness. Others have enjoyed outdoor adventures with NRG, fun and games in Stanley Park, competing in 10pin bowling and energetic sporting activities delivered by Ultimate Pro. These sessions have been a fantastic opportunity for students to discover new interests and develop essential life skills in a supportive and enjoyable environment.

Year 11

Our Year 11 students have been working incredibly hard during their mock exams and preparing for their next steps. Alongside our Engagement Coach, they have been planning their Post-16 pathways, ensuring they feel supported and informed about their future options. Their commitment has been impressive, and we are proud of the determination they have shown

Skills Builder Bronze Award

We are delighted to achieve the Skills Builder Bronze Award, recognising our school's commitment to developing essential skills such as teamwork, leadership and problem solving

School Games Mark Award

Our ongoing dedication to physical activity and competitive sport has once again been recognised with the School Games Mark Award, a testament to the work of our PE team and the enthusiasm of our students.

School Council

Our School Council has been actively gathering student voice and contributing thoughtful ideas about how to keep improving school life. Their commitment to representing their peers has been excellent, as well as their representation in the local community with the Schools' Symposium and with Blackpool Streetlife supporting homeless young people.



Wow, what an incredible autumn term here at Team Highfurlong! It has been full of amazing activities, achievements, and experiences, all of which we are excited to share with you.

Council Elections

This term we have held elections for our Senior Pupil Team, Primary and Secondary House Captains and Pupil Council. A huge well done to everyone who put themselves forward for these important roles. Their enthusiasm, dedication, and commitment to making a difference in our school community is truly inspiring.

Air Capella

We were delighted to welcome the Air Capella choir from BAE Systems to our school. Their performance was truly inspiring, and our pupils thoroughly enjoyed singing along. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate music and community, creating an experience that will be remembered by all!

Children In Need

Children in Need was Spotacular! Everyone loved wearing their spotty outfits and enjoying all the Pudsey crafts throughout the day! The whole school spotcaular fashion show was amazing!

World Science Day

To celebrate World Science Day, each class designed an invention that would solve a current problem in the field of science or technology. We had so many wonderful inventions from apps to vehicles to medicines! Seal class won the prize for best Primary invention, Ocean for best secondary and Shore class won best overall invention!

Dance Festival

In October, 24 pupils performed on the Winter Gardens stage for the Dance Festival 2025. They performed their hearts out to a K Pop demon hunters medley and absolutely smashed it! We are so proud of them all!

Christmas Fair

The Christmas fair was a hive of activity, each class made lots of festive items and had lots of opportunities to use their lifeskills in real life settings. We also welcomed some of our Synergy school friends to the event.

Duke of Edinburgh

This year, our amazing Duke of Edinburgh team will be working hard towards their Bronze and Silver Awards! Students will be giving back to our community by volunteering their time to clear, upgrade, and maintain outdoor areas of the school. Alongside this, they'll be developing their chosen skills in cooking, modern foreign languages, woodwork, or art. We're so proud of their commitment and can't wait to see their progress throughout the year!

MATP Centre of Excellence

Highfurlong is proud to be recognised nationally as an MATP (Motorised Activity Training Programme) Centre of Excellence, celebrating our outstanding development, implementation, and outcomes within this fantastic programme. As an MATP Hub, we are delighted to be sharing our expertise. Our lead, Miss Altham, recently delivered training to colleagues from across and beyond Blackpool, supporting them to enhance their own inclusive PE provision.



Moor Park Primary School



It has been such a busy start to the year at Moor Park. Here are some of our celebrations:

No Pen Morning

Earlier in the term we celebrated 'No Pen Morning' across school. In Year 2 they carried out practical activities in maths and English using different ways to show learning instead of using pencils and pens. In maths we used a range of resources to partition numbers and also learned a new game using dice to get speedy at adding! We enjoyed orally creating our own stories in English.

Together time

We invited parents/carers into school to visit classrooms to support their children's learning. There was a range of activities taking place from building electrical circuits, making parachutes, phonics and music.

Show Racism the Red Card

Our Sports Captains had the opportunity to go to Blackpool FC and take part in 'Show Racism the Red Card' event. This day was full of important learning and experiences which the children are going to bring back to Moor Park and share. They had a wonderful day: they got to see the first team changing rooms, take part in lots of activities and even got to meet a Blackpool player.

Space week

Miss Woods launched our Space week with an exciting whole-school assembly on life beyond Earth, from microgravity and the International Space Station to NASA's legendary pizza parties! KS2 pupils became scientists, testing how body position affects reaction time with a ruler drop experiment. KS1 tackled astronaut training at their own NASA Space Camp before designing creative, nutritious space meals. Early Years explored rockets, learning their parts and launching bottle rockets sky-high! An out-of-this-world week of curiosity, creativity, and cosmic fun at Moor Park!

World Mental Health Day

This year's theme was 'access to services - mental health in catastrophes and emergencies'. Our Wellbeing Ambassadors supported the children in their classes in a Tea and Talk session on ways to look after their Mental Health and why talking about this helps them. Some of the children went on to create posters to help others with strategies they can use to support our mental health.

Geography

This half term, children at Moor Park have started their new Geography units. In Key Stage 1, they have thoroughly enjoyed using our new atlases to explore hot and cold places around the world and studying aerial photographs of our local area to identify key features

Eat well, move more

This half term, Year 2 have enjoyed working with Shannon and Megan from Active Blackpool. We have spent the last 6 weeks learning how to 'Eat Well and Move More'. We have learned about different fruits and vegetables, the importance of walking to school and getting exercise and how to swap our treats for healthy snacks. We finished with a 'festival' wearing our head and sweat bands to dance to party songs. We certainly got lots of exercise!



Stanley Primary School

What a fantastic and action-packed term it's been at Stanley! Our calendar has been bursting with exciting events and achievements that truly highlight the talents, creativity, and teamwork of our school community.

Building works

This term has seen incredible progress at Stanley. Over the summer, capital funding from Blackpool Council enabled the creation of Embrace, a fully refurbished intervention room complete with an attached bathroom and changing facility. Thanks to the Vera Wolstenholme Charity, we secured essential SEND equipment, and a successful bid by to Dreams Come True provided £20,000 for a stunning new outdoor provision area designed by Pentagon Play.

Show Racism the Red Card

A group of our Year 6's had a fantastic time at the annual 'Show Racism The Red Card' event at Blackpool Football Club! They joined other local schools to take part in powerful workshops all about anti-discrimination and allyship. A real highlight of the day was meeting Blackpool FC's Ashley Fletcher, who spoke to the children about his own experiences and the importance of challenging discrimination in sport.

Yellow for World Mental Health Day

Our children spread positivity and kindness for Young Minds UK's Hello Yellow Day. Each class wrote uplifting messages and drawings on yellow post-it notes, which were turned into an amazing 'Mental Health Day' mural.

Cressida Cowell- author visit

We had a magical visit from author Cressida Cowell – creator of How to Train Your Dragon and Which Way to the Future?

The children were so inspired hearing all about her stories and what it's like to be an author. What an incredible experience for our young readers and writers!

Joint Student Council Meeting

Just before half term, our School Council reps had a fantastic day at Boundary Primary School for a joint School Council meeting!

They took part in games like People Bingo, team activities about leadership, and discussions on local issues such as mental health, pollution and crime. They were an absolute pleasure to take and represented Stanley beautifully.

Strictly School Games

Our Y5 & Y6 superstars took over the Blackpool Tower Ballroom for Strictly School Games! They teamed up with other schools, learnt brand-new choreography, danced for guest judges, caught a fab performance from Blackpool Sixth and even picked up extra moves with 'The Blackpool Way'! Such a fabulous opportunity

Judges Lodgings

Our Year 5 historians stepped straight into Victorian life on their trip to Judges' Lodgings in Lancaster!

They explored the grand rooms, checked out artefacts from the era and discovered what life was really like in Victorian times – the good, the bad, and the downright strict!

A brilliant day of hands-on learning and "wow, they really lived like this?!" moment



The Maple School

This term Maple welcomed new Head of School Mr Cooke to the team. Pupils have had an incredible start to the year with lots of achievements and progress being made.

Year 11 results day

Congratulations to our Year 11 students who collected their results in August. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and hard work that helped them secure places in work and further education.

Nathan Parker Visit

Local author Nathan Parker came into school to deliver poetry workshops in English to every class

Nathan's inspirational words helped students to go on to write their own poems and annotate poetry in great depth with mature discussions.

Careers and Coffee Morning

We welcomed parents and carers into school for our Christmas careers and coffee morning. Parents and students were able to speak to lots of different organisations about the options for them once they leave Maple. It was a great opportunity for children to ask questions and understand the next steps they have available.

Antibullying week

As part of anti-bullying week across the curriculum, Ash class designed The Maple School's new anti-bullying posters which were displayed throughout school to promote kindness and solidarity.

Youth Empowerment Forum

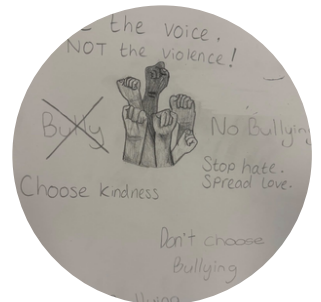
We were delighted to welcome visitors from Blackpool Council to carry out some student voice activities with our Y11 children. They said the children were incredibly polite and really helpful in terms of the responses they provided to them.

English Careers Trip

This term some of students attended St Annes Library where they had a Q&A session with the librarian. The students were given time to explore the library environment and then have a 30-minute reading session in the calm area with their personal Accelerated Reader books.

UK Parliament Week

The students took part in UK Parliament week entering discussions about the role of the Prime Minister and what they would do if they were Prime Minister for the day.



Congratulations!

to all of our Bronze Ambassador

AWARD WINNERS

Sarah Bartrupe
Trust Central Team

Katy Bishop
Stanley Primary School

Samara Crystal
Boundary Primary School

Tina Daila
Highfurlong School

Nicola Edge
Boundary Primary School

Joanne Forrester
Moor Park Primary School

Charlotte Harrison
Moor Park Primary School

Sarah Meek
Stanley Primary School

Sarah Senior
Highfurlong School

Jenna Stanbridge
Boundary Primary School

Grace Whitehouse
Moor Park Primary School

Hannah Woods
Moor Park Primary School

IN RECOGNITION OF
OUTSTANDING
CONTRIBUTIONS TO
SCHOOL LIFE AND
THE TRUST AS A
WHOLE

**Wishing Neil Tinkler
and Jimmy Gallagher**

all the best for their
retirement after a
combined 47 years
service at Highfurlong
School

Well done

to Robyn Starkey at
Boundary for successfully
completing her NPQSL

Well done

to Helen Stuart at
Educational Diversity for
successfully completing
her NPQSL

Well done

to Jarek Radon at
Boundary for settling into
his new role as Operations
Manager brilliantly and for
achieving 100% on his
statutory compliance data

Congratulations!

Well done

to Shelby Mercer at
Highfurlong for having an
article published in SEN
Magazine on inclusive
phonics

Huge congratulations

to Ellie Scott and Jasmine
Crystal from Boundary for
completing their
apprenticeships

Huge congratulations

to Karen Marlow at Maple
for successfully
completing her L4 School
Business Management
qualification

Huge congratulations

to Kathryn Bastow at
Educational Diversity for
completing the Senior
Mental Health Lead
training

Thank you!

A Christmas Thank You

To every member of staff and volunteer in our schools:

For every concert, play, and cheer,

For costumes, props, and festive gear,

For elf runs, parties, visits too

We simply want to say thank you.

You've made this season warm and bright,

For every child, pure joy and light.

Well done to all – you're incredible!



Merry
Christmas

& HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM
SYNERGY EDUCATION TRUST

