

SYNERGISE

Synergy Education Trust Newsletter



Welcome

NEILL OLDHAM, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

It is with great pleasure that we bring you the third edition of the Synergy Education Trust newsletter. This publication serves as an opportunity to share uplifting stories, highlight outstanding achievements, and celebrate the many successes taking place across all schools within our Trust. We are incredibly proud of the dedication, resilience, and passion demonstrated by both pupils and staff, and we hope this newsletter reflects the strong sense of community that defines our schools.

Over the course of this term, it has been a joy to visit each of our schools—whether for school improvement visits, to observe and share examples of good practice, or simply to connect and catch up. Everywhere we go, the commitment and enthusiasm of our staff and pupils are evident, reinforcing the high standards of education and care that we strive for.

One of the most remarkable aspects of Synergy Education Trust is the deep-rooted sense of belonging and collaboration that exists across all our schools. There is a genuine feeling of family, with a shared vision that places the wellbeing and success of pupils at the heart of everything we do. It is inspiring to witness the collective dedication of our staff, whose unwavering commitment ensures that every child is given the best possible opportunities to thrive.

As we approach the end of the Spring term, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a restful and enjoyable break. To those pupils who will be sitting their exams next term, we send you our very best wishes—your hard work will pay off, and we all believe in you.

Thank you for your continued support and for being part of our vibrant Synergy Education Trust community.

Neill



Happy 1st Birthday to Synergy Education Trust!

What an incredible year it has been!

We've grown from three to five schools, with more on the horizon, expanded our SEND provisions, and enhanced governance and operations. Collaboration has been at the heart of our journey, with schools working together to drive high-quality teaching, improve outcomes, and share best practices. From major infrastructure upgrades to strengthening our workforce and fostering innovation, we are proud of the impact we've made.

We were also thrilled to be shortlisted for 3 national MAT awards for Small Trust of the Year, Trust Leadership Team of the Year and Trust SEND Provision of the Year. Whilst we didn't win, it was an incredible honor to be shortlisted in our very first year of operations. Together, we are all raising aspirations and raising standards for all of young people.

A huge thank you to our staff, students, trustees, governors, and communities for being part of this journey. Here's to another year of excellence, growth, and partnership!



Best Practice Network: A Successful Term of Collaboration

Over the past term, the Best Practice Network has successfully delivered seven engaging and informative sessions, offering invaluable professional development opportunities. Covering a range of curriculum areas, including History, Science, Design Technology, Art, Music, and SCERTS, these sessions were made available free of charge to Synergy schools.

Led by highly experienced teaching staff from across the cluster, these sessions provided a platform for over 46 participants to collaborate, share best practices, and exchange innovative ideas. More importantly, the network has fostered strong professional relationships, reinforcing our shared commitment to high-quality teaching and learning.

This initiative supports our vision of educational excellence not only within Synergy schools but also across the wider Blackpool community. By continuing to invest in collaboration and knowledge-sharing, we strive to enhance teaching standards and improve outcomes for all learners.

We look forward to another successful term ahead, with even more opportunities for professional growth and development!



Boundary Primary School

At Boundary, we have had a very busy term.

Author Visit – Dan Worsley

Dan joined us for two fantastic storytelling assemblies, as always, the children were enthralled with his tales and his enthusiasm for fiction. Y2 and Y3 then had the opportunity to participate in workshops led by Dan to develop their own descriptive writing. Some lucky pupils even got to put on Dan's special storytelling jacket and share their ideas with the class. Dan spoke very positively about our pupils' enthusiasm and creative writing ideas.



Road Safety

We had a whole school focus on Road Safety. We used this opportunity to link to the Skill for Life of personal responsibility. We shared an assembly focusing on how to be a responsible passenger, a responsible road user (on a bicycle or scooter), how to be responsible near a road as well as our responsibilities when crossing a road. All classes then dedicated a PSHE lesson to Road Safety.



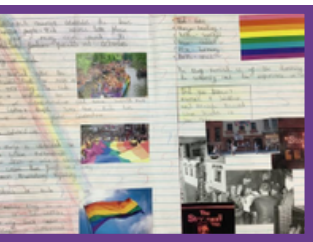
Year 6 'Learn to Earn'

As part of Boundary's work on careers, Year 6 enjoyed a morning working with Young Enterprise on their 'Learn to Earn' scheme. The children calculated the cost of their dream lifestyle and how much you would need to earn to live that lifestyle. They learned about the cost of living and the average starting salaries of different jobs in Lancashire. Then they discussed the importance of qualifications and the personal qualities and skills needed to do various jobs, which linked nicely with our Skills for Life.



LGBT History Month

We have started our LGBT themed Reading into Writing journeys this half term. The children have been learning about a range of 'age appropriate' topics and have produced some lovely work.



Wellbeing Award

On Thursday 23rd January we were visited by Dr Helen Mills for our Wellbeing Award reassessment. The assessment involved pupils, parents/carers, staff and governors. We passed the assessment and our assessor made many positive comments about our wonderful school.



Highfurlong School



Wow, what an incredible spring 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.

Research Mark

Highfurlong have been awarded the Chartered College Research mark. The accreditation recognises and celebrates schools who are embedding engagement with research and evidence within their curriculum. This reflects the hard work our whole team has done towards ensuring our practice is evidence based.



Schools Alive

29 pupils attended the annual Schools Alive event at the Winter Gardens, performing to the theme of 'Friendship'. A large group of staff volunteered their time to support the event which was a huge success.



Careers Fair

We held our annual Careers fair on 5th Feb. An opportunity for KS3, KS4 and Sixth form to be able to meet and talk to local colleges and training providers, connect with local support groups and to explore future pathways.

Canteen

Our community cafe Canteen is now open each Wednesday from 10am to 12pm. Pupils from KS3, 4 and 5 have had the opportunity to work in Canteen and the Giftbox. We have had visitors from our school and the local community



Equal Opportunities Award

Highfurlong were awarded with a sporting equalities award and were 1 of only 14 schools in the town who were given the award.



Twilight by CandleAAC and Communicate Team visit to ACE Centre

As we continue to develop our Communicate offer and staff knowledge, the teachers and senior support assistants worked with CandleAAC (a not-for-profit organisation that specialise in the education needs of students who rely on AAC) on their new literacy programme during the twilight on December 9th.

On January 9th the Communicate team, plus AHTs and NHS SALT attended a partnership day at the ACE Centre, also exploring literacy for AAC users.

Time to Talk Day

On Time to Talk Day on the 6th February the wellbeing team arranged breakfast treats that were available in the staffroom and were on hand to have a chat.

Our Time to Talk AAC group also had a good catch up and shared jokes for Comic Relief. They also had time to squeeze in a beautifully requested story to finish!



Stanley Primary School



Our children have returned from their break bubbling with enthusiasm for the new term, and we had some fantastic events lined up, including Book Week and Science Day.

Reception class were very lucky to have a special visit from Blackpool Police. The children learnt so much! They made fingerprints, listened to a story, tried on police uniforms and even sat in a real police car!

We also celebrated 100 Days of School this month! The pupils spent the day dressed up as someone who has lived for 100 years. They did many '100' themed activities and all had so much fun!

Year 5 went to Showtown! They looked at how Blackpool has changed as a tourist resort from the Victorian times to today. They looked at artefacts and had great fun looking at all the exhibits and finding out about clowns, and escapologists!

A group of our Y5's and 6's took part in an Athletics event at Blackpool Sports Centre this term. They took part in lots of different athletics activities such as relay, long jump, chest throw and triple jump. They came 4th! We are super proud as always.

Stanley took part in Schools Alive! They took to the stage with a FANTASTIC 'Jungle-Themed' performance. We are so proud of our Stanley dancers and singers for representing us like the STARS they are!

Stanley had an exciting time on British Science Day! We did lots of fun and educational activities relating to this years theme 'Change & Adapt'

We even got to see 'The Creepy Crawlies Roadshow' and learnt all about how different creatures adapt to live in their environments. We even got the chance to hold some creepy crawlies - super brave.

Some of our pupils have also taken part in the Young Seaside Art competition. We were happy to be a part of this Arts & Crafts Exhibition again and are proud to announce that 2 of our pupils are winners this year!

Finally we had a great day in school for World Book Day, supported by Blackpool Football Club. We also had another incredible author visit from Kiran Millwood Hargrave who came to promote two of her books from her award-winning Geomancer series.



The Maple School

This term the staff team have been focusing on continuous professional learning and have taken part in training including behaviour training and Ofsted readiness training. We are also currently rewriting our whole school curriculum.

We are also excited to become an accredited Thrive centre, with trained practitioners in school to improve wellbeing, boost attendance, transform behaviour and increase pupils' ability to learn.

Pupils have taken part in celebrating Chinese New Year and completed activities around the celebration. They were also able to taste a selection of Chinese cuisine.

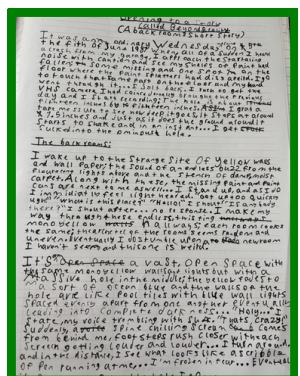
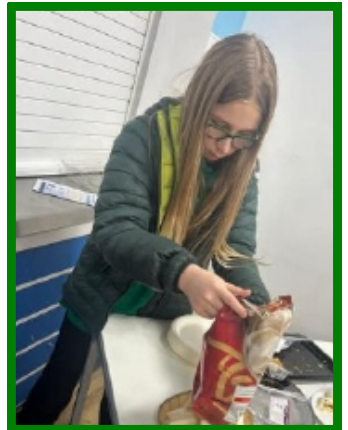
In March we celebrated World Book Day. There is a huge focus in school around reading for enjoyment. Pupils took part in a national quiz with hundreds of other schools across the country.

Our new school library has now opened. The new area has a wide selection of books and comfortable reading areas.

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the fantastic results achieved by our students in their English mock exams! Their hardwork, dedication, and perseverance truly shone through, reflecting the effort they put into their studies.

Our careers liaison, Natalie, conducted an assembly on the topic of higher/further education and how this would impact their future career prospects. Our students were fantastic throughout the assembly and were thoroughly engaged!

After the Easter holidays, The Maple School is excited to welcome our new Year 6 cohort to the school! The students have completed transition days leading up to the holidays and will be starting full-time when we return to school.



Moor Park Primary School



We have had a fantastic start to the year at Moor Park Primary School. Since January, so much has happened!

The SLT met to look at the community and school views on what makes us remarkable. Three Key elements came through: 'Being a Family together', 'Growing Together', 'Determined Together'. These 3 words will now begin to thread through everything with a real emphasis on TOGETHER at Moor Park.

Our parent/carer group Together Time has become very popular this year with regular attendees each month. Some of the things discussed include helping with phonics and maths problems and healthy eating.

In the Halo SEND provision, pupils celebrated Chinese new year by tasting different foods, watching lion and dragon dances, listening to Chinese music and making snakes.

This term we have also identified our new science ambassadors in school. This inquisitive bunch will be working very hard with Miss Woods over the next few months to improve and develop our Science curriculum. They talked about more opportunities for outdoor learning, peer-coaching in the classroom and across school, as well as supporting with some exciting Science Week ideas.

Some of our pupils performed in Schools Alive. All pupils were incredible and made us very proud.

We recently celebrated National Storytelling Week with National Literacy Trust. Reception and Year 1 used the story 'What will I be?' By Frances Stickley and Lucy Fleming. The children loved getting in role and turning themselves into imaginary characters. They spent time collecting adjectives to describe their characters and finally designed them.

We celebrated World Book Day in style today with our Mad Hatter's Tea Party! We've also been very lucky to receive a donation of books from the Premier League who has given away free books to children across England and Wales through its Premier League Primary Stars education programme.

Some of our children took part in New Age Kurling last week; it was amazing! They showed so many Moor Park Characteristics and came away with the bronze!



Trust Central Team Insight

What an incredible start to 2025! We are delighted to share some exciting updates from across the Trust, highlighting our continued growth, collaboration, and commitment to excellence in education.

Welcoming Educational Diversity to Synergy

In February, we were pleased to announce that Educational Diversity will be joining Synergy in September 2025. We are incredibly excited to welcome Blackpool's Pupil Referral Unit into our Trust family, as their vision and values align closely with our own. This collaboration will foster greater teamwork across all of our schools, driving school improvements and enriching the educational experiences of our pupils. We look forward to the positive impact this partnership will bring.

Preparing for Ofsted

In a commitment to continuous improvement, Suzanne Hamilton recently delivered 'Preparing for Ofsted' training to all senior leaders across the Trust. This essential training ensures our leadership teams are well-equipped with the knowledge and strategies required to meet Ofsted's expectations and continue delivering high standards of education.

Attendance Matters: 'Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow'

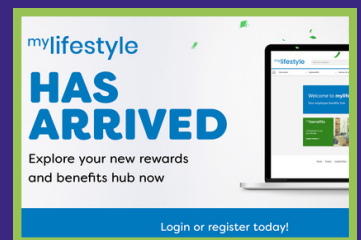
All schools across the Trust have launched our new attendance initiative, 'Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow.' This programme aims to reinforce the importance of regular attendance in achieving academic success. By working closely with pupils, parents, and staff, we are committed to fostering a culture where attendance is prioritised and celebrated.

Successful Trust-Wide Recruitment Day

Our Trust-wide recruitment day in January was a resounding success, with nine exceptional candidates securing positions across our schools. We are thrilled to welcome these new members to our team and look forward to their contributions. If you missed this opportunity, don't worry—our next recruitment event will be held in May, so stay tuned for further details!

New Employee Benefits: MyLifestyle Platform

We are excited to announce the launch of the MyLifestyle platform, an employee benefits scheme designed to support our staff in various ways. This platform offers a range of rewards and discounts, along with access to health, wellbeing, and additional support services. We encourage all employees to explore these fantastic benefits and make the most of what's available.



Infrastructure Update: Enhancing ICT Services

From 1st April, Holker IT will be our new ICT provider. This transition will streamline our processes, improve strategic thinking, and enhance the overall efficiency of our IT infrastructure. We anticipate significant improvements in digital learning and operational support across all schools.

Strengthening SEND Provision

We are pleased to share that Shelby Mercer from Highfurlong is now working closely with our SEND provisions to support high-quality teaching and learning. Her expertise will be instrumental in ensuring that all pupils with special educational needs receive the tailored support they require to thrive.

Attending the National MAT Awards

We were incredibly proud to be shortlisted for the National MAT Awards in our very first year of eligibility. Although we did not win this time, being recognised on a national stage is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our entire Trust. This achievement motivates us to continue striving for excellence.

First Trust AGM

We recently held our first Trust AGM, welcoming all school leaders, governors, and trustees. The event provided a fantastic opportunity to reflect on our achievements over the past year and outline our strategic vision for the future. It was an invaluable occasion for collaboration and strengthening our shared goals.

Our Central Team: Supporting Schools First-Hand

Our dedicated central team continues to be actively present in schools, providing invaluable support in training, development, leadership, and governance. Their hands-on approach ensures that every school benefits from expertise and guidance, strengthening our collective commitment to delivering the best possible education.

Thank you to everyone for your hard work and dedication. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in the lives of our pupils and the wider school community. Stay tuned for more updates in the coming months!



“

In **Synergy** we are stronger together
With an all-inclusive **Education** approach at our heart
We **Trust** and value our schools and communities

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Summer term priorities

The Summer priorities for the Trust will include:

- Setting the school budgets for 2025/2026
- Embedding and establishing Synergy policies across all schools
- Recruitment at both central and school level
- Further development of the Best Practice networks to support high quality teaching and learning
- Curriculum development at Maple
- Devise Trust wide sustainability and climate action plan

Synergy staff will:

- Be supported to fulfil their job role effectively
- Work in a culture where their learning is valued as much as the pupils' learning
- Experience the benefits of working in a caring supportive Multi Academy Trust
- Have an unerring focus on improving the quality of education they provide

**EMPLOYEE!
BENEFITS!**

Did you know you have access to a dental policy which helps to make costly and essential dental treatment more affordable for you and your family?

From now until **21st April 2025** you'll have the opportunity to select dental insurance as one of your employee benefits. This can be accessed through your mylifestyle platform.

unum DENTAL

Dental Plan

mylifestyle
**HAS
ARRIVED**

Explore your new rewards and benefits hub now



What's the benefit?

This policy reimburses you for costly and essential dental treatments up to the limits shown on your benefit schedule.

What's covered?

It helps cover towards the cost of both minor and major dental care such as check-ups, hygienist appointments, fillings, crowns and much more. Helping to maintain and restore your oral health*

How to apply

You can only join the dental scheme during the enrolment period 24/03/25 - 21/04/25 or within 30 days of your start date if you're a new employee.

To join:

1. Click find out more and enter the following information:

- Your enrolment code: 7B93C4/3399
- Your employee ID (payroll number)
- Your date of birth

<https://mypolicy.unum.co.uk/NIS/Join/Eligibility>

**AVAILABLE
NOW**

Recruitment Day Thursday 8th May

We are recruiting for classroom support assistant roles in our schools in Blackpool. Register your interest using the QR code and for further information

Synergy Education Trust
Recruitment Day - Expression of
Interest Form



WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

- Teaching Assistants
- Higher Level Teaching Assistant
- Special Support Assistants
- SEND Teaching Assistants



Well done
to Jennifer Monaghan at
Highfurlong, for
completing her Level 5
Early Years Practitioner
Course

Well done to
Stacey Clarke, Danielle
Fielding and Samara
Crystal from Boundary
who have all successfully
completed their National
Professional Qualification
(NPQ) courses.

Well done
to Nathan McIntosh,
Senior Support Assistant
at Highfurlong for being
awarded the Outstanding
Teaching Assistant Award
from Prospero Education.

Congratulations!

Huge congratulations
to our two Assistant Heads at
Highfurlong. Toni Pagett has
received her Masters in
Education and Shelby Mercer
has received her Masters in
Education (severe and profound
multiple learning disabilities
and autism)

Well done to
Michelle Hooson from
Boundary who
successfully delivered a
live lesson as part of the
Maths hub to over 30
teachers!

Huge congratulations
to Katy Bishop at Stanley,
who has not only completed
her School Business
Manager qualification but
has also been nominated for
Apprentice of the Year at
Salford College.

*Thank
you!*

to all pupils, staff, governors and trustees for your
incredible hard work this term.
Have a wonderful Spring break!

