

Woodeaton Manor School to join Propeller Academy Trust



BREAKING NEWS

We are delighted to announce that Propeller Trust has been selected by the Department for Education, to undertake the stewardship of Woodeaton Manor School. The Trust is committed to delivering the best the best possible educational experiences for SEND students.

Woodeaton Manor School's integration into the Propeller Trust family, in February 2025, marks a significant opportunity to uphold the Trust's unwavering dedication to high quality education and inclusivity.

As Propeller embraces this new chapter, it reaffirms its steadfast commitment to the students, staff and communities of both Woodeaton Manor School and its existing academies. The Trust recognises the importance of supporting and empowering its team members, and remains dedicated to their ongoing development and success.

“We are honoured to be entrusted with the responsibility of Woodeaton Manor School. This partnership reflects our enduring commitment to fostering positive educational outcomes and nurturing the growth of every student within our care. We are eager to embark on this journey, working closely with local community, parents, and staff to ensure a smooth transition and drive positive change.

We look forward to welcoming the whole team at Woodeaton to join the Trust community in the coming months.

Tom Pegler
CEO Propeller Academy Trust



Web Directory

Here are the links to all our sites, for your convenience

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[Bishopswood School](#)

[Fitzwaryn School](#)

[Kingfisher School](#)

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Propeller Academy Trust selected to establish new SEND School in Bracknell Forest

Propeller Academy Trust proudly announced recently that it has been selected by the DFE to establish Forest View Academy (*working name*), a free special school catering to students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in the heart of Bracknell in partnership with Bracknell Forest Council.

Forest View Academy will be a new build, set to provide a nurturing and inclusive environment where students can thrive and achieve their full potential. Strategically located in Bracknell Forest, the school's proximity to the Trust's Bishopswood School, in Sonning Common, offers promising partnering opportunities.



Tom Pegler, CEO,
Propeller Academy Trust

"This is an incredibly exciting opportunity for Propeller Academy Trust," remarked Tom Pegler, CEO of Propeller Academy Trust. "Forest View Academy represents our ongoing commitment to excellence and inclusivity in education. We are eager to embark on this journey and make a positive impact on the lives of students within Bracknell Forest and beyond. We are looking forward to working in the local community with parents, carers and our new pupils."

While embracing this new endeavour, Propeller Academy Trust reaffirms its steadfast commitment to its existing pupils, staff and schools. The trust recognises and values the contributions of its team members and remains dedicated to their ongoing support and development.

Follow the Trust on social media, for more details on the development of Forest View Academy, over the next year or so, as Propeller Academy Trust continues to navigate this exciting new chapter in its journey.

Bishopswood School breaking down barriers and boosting parental engagement



In an inspiring move to foster better communication and inclusivity, Bishopswood School has made significant strides in parent engagement. The school's headteacher, Priya Bhagrath, has taken the innovative step of translating a critical parent survey into *nine* different languages. This initiative is already showing profound benefits for the school community with significant increases to the number of completed surveys returned.

The primary aim of this multilingual approach is to ensure that all parents, regardless of their native language, have an equal opportunity to participate in the survey. By breaking down language barriers, the school is not only showing respect for the diverse linguistic backgrounds of its students and their families but also emphasising the importance of every parent's voice.

Contact Helen De Broize if you would like this newsletter translated in to your own language.
Helen@PropellerTrust.org





from **Bishopswood School**
by Mrs Bhagrath, Headteacher



Secondary School update

We have enjoyed a wonderful few terms filled with exciting activities and enriching experiences. Our older pupils had the fantastic opportunity to participate in the Careers Festival, where they explored various industries and career options. They engaged with new technologies, tried on uniforms, learned about pathways into the army, and even had discussions with scientists about their work.



Daily Mile Gold Award

We are thrilled to announce that we have achieved the "Daily Mile - Gold Award" in recognition of our commitment to daily movement during both morning and afternoon sessions. This accomplishment is particularly significant given our limited outdoor spaces.

Our dedicated staff and enthusiastic pupils have shown tremendous commitment to ensuring everyone benefits from this daily activity.



Our Forest School sessions have continued to be a highlight, with pupils taking part in hedge laying and enjoying the fun of making fresh outdoor pizza. Additionally, we visited a farm where the children had the delightful experience of cuddling newborn lambs.

Our enterprise skills have also flourished, as pupils created a variety of arts and crafts, including decorations and food items, which they sold to fellow pupils, staff, and parents.

Something Special

Last month, the 'SOMETHING SPECIAL' production team visited Bishopswood School, looking for children to be involved in the filming for the next series of the show.

Something Special is a CBeebies programme created to help young SEND children and uses Makaton signs to help pre-vocal children learn to communicate their feelings and desires to their family and friends. Mr Tumble is the main character in the show and uses his signature visual humour to engage the audience (sadly MrTumble wasn't part of this visit).



Primary School update

We've had some fantastic enrichment activities recently that we'd love to share with you. Our sessions with Make Sense Theatre have been a highlight, featuring interactive storytelling, drama, song, and dance. These sessions are always a hit, and we thoroughly enjoy every moment.

In the classroom, our pupils have been diligently working on their maths skills, particularly focusing on concepts such as "heavy" and "light." Additionally, we have placed a special emphasis on physical movement to help our pupils feel regulated and calm, ready for learning. This includes our morning sensory circuits and horse riding sessions.

Our horse riding sessions have been particularly enjoyable, with pupils gaining confidence and improving their balance on horseback.





from **Fitzwaryn School**
by Mrs Coneboy, Headteacher



Join our Careers Support Network

We have some great partnerships with local business and enterprise organisations, who support our careers education programme at Fitzwaryn, but we're always looking to extend our network.

Next term as part of our Accreditation for Catering & Hospitality, Hannah is looking for a chef to come in and give pupils a presentation on different cooking methods, how to use them and why they are so different!

If **this** is something you'd like to be involved in, you can contact Hannah direct by emailing h.quinn@fitzwaryn.oxon.sch.uk to discuss in more detail!



Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards 2024

We are delighted to share the news that Hannah Gordon, Assistant Headteacher & Careers Leader at Fitzwaryn School has won the **Careers Champion Award** at the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards! Over 50 people were nominated, and it was recently reported that Hannah was one of three finalists. The awards evening was hosted by F1's Williams in Wantage on 16th May 2024.

Hannah has worked hard to raise the profile of careers at Fitzwaryn School, and has partnered with a number of local business and enterprise organisations to increase the opportunities for the Fitzwaryn students. She has worked so hard on this area and deserves the recognition!



Preparing for adulthood

“ For young people, having a pathway that encompasses everything about them is so important. The world of work is accessible to all, and it's our dream that, moving forward, many of our young people are able to access this when moving on to be independent and into their adult life. Our vision is, that through learning to learn, pupils will access society, and our Pathway Through Life curriculum embodies that and ensures that our young people have the best and most enriching experiences.

And the Winner is...



Hannah Gordon

Assistant Headteacher & Careers Leader
Fitzwaryn School



from Kingfisher School
by Lorraine Wilson, Headteacher

Coffee Mornings

We've hosted some great Coffee Mornings recently. Firstly 'Brave the Shave' in support of Breast Cancer Awareness and also the Fashion Show, which also supported the RED Nose Day event.

Last term the Enterprise Group hosted a slightly easier Bacon Roll Day due to the term being so extra busy! Two Albatross and two Eagle students represented our school at this year's Consumer Challenge Quiz and the class went along to support and cheer on their team. The whole class visited the Kassam for this year's Careers Fest. Students were able to ask a range of questions to employers and some students even had a go at learning some new skills!



Sporting Heroes



Photo courtesy of LTA website

This year, some of our students have been enjoying some additional sports coaching, thanks to the generosity of the Tim Henman Foundation (THF). We were grateful too, to THF, for organising a visit to school by Louise Hunt, who represented Team GB at both the London and Rio Paralympics where she participated in Wheelchair Tennis. Louise came into school and visited a number of classrooms. She was inspired by our pupils and vowed to come back for another visit soon.

We were also joined by Henry Atkins, the Oxford Cheetahs Speedway rider who brought in his speedway bike for us to see. The pupils had a great time chatting to him and seeing his bike up close. Some pupils even managed to sit on the bike.



Some students have engaged in work experience both on and offsite and we have been planning and preparing for our next work placements now the

weather is improving. We look forward to some exciting new opportunities ahead, as well as further future College visits.

Trips and Visits

As we'd hoped, we have managed to send some children to visit the Radley Animal Centre. Last term was particularly special as some of the students had the opportunity to feed and cuddle the lambs.

One of our favourite trips earlier this year, was to Our Lady's Abingdon (OLA) to see their production of 'Matilda'. It was astonishing how good the show was. The children commented that it was 'like going to a real show in London'. I have to agree with them, it was brilliant.

The staff at OLA were so helpful and welcoming and even sent minibuses to help all of the children at Kingfisher that were able to go, get there. The children wrote great thank you letters and drew some fabulous pictures, which really showed their enjoyment.



Empowering Education: Special School Outreach Initiative



As of January 2024, Propeller Academy Trust is funded to enable our member schools to deliver Special School Outreach services. The primary goal of this initiative being to empower and upskill staff in mainstream schools, enabling them to better address the needs of SEND pupils by leveraging best practices from special schools within our Trust.

Jenny Jura is our Special School Outreach Lead and collaborates with colleagues across the Trust to provide tailored support packages to schools that have been referred through the Oxfordshire SENCO Helpdesk.

We are currently supporting over 40 schools and received overwhelming positive feedback. We are hoping to extend the offer in the near future which would allow us to expand our outreach, utilising more staff from our Trust to share our outstanding practice.

The Special School Outreach initiative represents a pivotal moment in our efforts to provide a more inclusive educational environment for all young people in our communities. By sharing expertise and best practices, we aim to build a stronger, more supportive network that meets the diverse needs of students across Oxfordshire.

Stay tuned for more updates as we work towards fostering an inclusive, supportive, and empowered educational community.



The response from schools has been overwhelmingly positive. SENCOs have expressed that they find the support reassuring and supportive. The opportunity to visit Propeller Trust Schools and meet staff enables them to reflect upon the work they are doing to successfully include pupils and address their needs appropriately.

Jenny was fantastic to work with, communication was strong, she was friendly, knowledgeable, listened to our needs and suggested resources and strategies that were useful to our age phase.

The resources were really useful, and it was great being able to talk through the situation with someone else, to get a fresh pair of eyes.

It was an absolute pleasure to work with Jenny. She is very knowledgeable. She had a positive attitude which meant that staff were able to engage well with her. She listened so staff felt that their concerns were heard. She was also pragmatic about the best resources for the child which worked in a very small school.

Keep it running! (when the trial period is over, please don't stop it).

After working with Propeller Trust, staff were more positive in how to support and to create a more inclusive and supportive environment.

Thank you so much for helping make sense of planning for SEN. I am delighted that I have the tools to organise and implement meaningful planning for our lovely boy and all the lovelies that will follow!

Charity Fundraising

Last month, Kingfisher School played host to a Brave the Shave event led by Kingfisher parent and charity fundraiser Mel (pictured right). We invite you to Support Mel who is raising money which will be split 50/50 for **breast cancer charity** and also towards a **school prom** which some parents and staff are starting to organise!

At time of writing the fund had reached **£2540**. It would be amazing if we could all help her achieve a grand total of £3000. Visit Mel's Just Giving Page here www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/lisa-oconnor-3 to contribute.



We all had a delightful day getting silly and raising money through fun activities. Classes had a blast with karaoke using inflatable microphones and guitars. Willow and Ash classes even engaged in an epic rap battle, showcasing raps they created during a lively lesson.

The afternoon was full of joy as pupils (and staff!) competed in The Silly Olympics, demonstrating their flexibility in the silly limbo, speed in the rug race, and dance moves in the silly dancing contest. They also enjoyed making funny faces and wearing silly props in the Red Nose Day photo booth.

A great day and the best bit was that we raised an amazing **£147.08** for a brilliant cause! Thank you for your generosity.

Willow Class - Fitzwaryn School



World Book Day

Fitzwaryn had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day! Each class spent the morning bringing a book character to life, gearing up for an exciting whole-school character hunt in the afternoon. Pupils explored the school, searching for characters and hidden golden envelopes which contained letters to uncover a secret word. The creativity showcased across the school was truly impressive and at the end of the day, we gathered all the characters together for a grand display.

Miss Murphy, English Lead, Fitzwaryn School



Long Service Achievements

Across the Trust, and our member schools, we are excited to celebrate some of our longest serving staff. Please do congratulate them if you see them! We thank you all for such commitment!

27 years
Clare Johnson
Kingfisher School
(Pictured right)



32 years
Maria Swanson
Fitzwaryn School

23 years
Tina Hitchen
Kingfisher School

23 years
Stephanie Coneboy
Fitzwaryn School
(Pictured right)



24 years
Janet Crossley
Kingfisher School

My first connection to Kingfisher School was when I worked at the SEN resource base attached to the Radley Road site when my children were young. I then joined the Admin Team at Kingfisher with a short time initially at the senior site at Blacknall Road. At that time, we also had pupils based at Drayton, Kennington and had a link with Fitzharrys School.

I had always thought I would move on once my children left primary school but here I am nearly 30 years later. There is lot to be said for a quick cycle to work and spending the day with such lovely staff and pupils. I have seen some pupils arrive in the nursery aged 2 and leave at 19 – it all goes way too quickly!

I now have a grandson who is the same age my son was when I first joined Kingfisher. I've made some great friends along the way and I'm still in touch (and go skiing with) the first headteacher I worked with all those years ago. As well as seeing me in the school office, most Kingfisher parents will come across me at Annual Review meetings which I have been attending for the last few years. We have some very special pupils and it really is lovely to meet their parents and hear how well their children are progressing. I really will miss everyone when I retire (not just yet though!).

Janet Crossley, Kingfisher School

Long Service Achievements

I joined Fitzwaryn when my daughter was 3 years old, she is now 27 and a teacher in a primary school in Abingdon. I wanted a term time job until my daughter left school and here, I am 24 years later! I don't think I will leave the Trust now until my retirement (I won't tell you when that will be!)

I feel very fortunate to have been part of the Fitzwaryn team and have thoroughly enjoyed working for three headteachers, Marion Tighe, Barbara Harker, and Stephanie Coneboy

As the Trust has grown, I have now joined the Central team dealing with all aspects of Finance and HR across all the schools but as we are based at Fitzwaryn I still have the benefits of interacting with staff and witnessing pupils grow and progress into young adults.

Carole Hollister

24 years
Carole Hollister
Propeller Trust
Central Team

(Pictured right)



20 years
Dawn Broughton
Propeller Trust
Central Team

(Pictured right)

21 years
Lynette Dodds
Kingfisher School

20 years
Liza Eccles
Kingfisher School

19 years
Esther Gardner
Kingfisher School