

# PARTNERSHIP BULLETIN

The Macclesfield Academy



## Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the Central Team Partnership Bulletin. We are delighted to share some of the key priorities and initiatives that our central teams have been working on this term. These projects are designed to provide valuable support to both staff and students across the school. Take a moment to explore the updates below and see how these efforts are making a difference. We're stronger together!

**Mat Galvin, Headteacher**

## ESTATES UPDATE

### RAAC Works Complete

For our first termly newsletter, we are incredibly pleased to report that all the **RAAC from the drama studio has now been removed**. The works, however, are still ongoing and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at TMA for their continued patience and support with regard to these works. We look forward to hosting an **opening ceremony** for when the works are completed.

### Energy Sparks

Energy Sparks is an online tool that provides data insights, action prompts and educational resources to help schools deliver real climate action as well as energy and carbon savings. Secondary schools on average **saved £21,000 and 26 tonnes of CO2** on their energy using Energy Sparks. **Pupil Power** - Energy Sparks provides a student dashboard to see our real energy usage together with educational aids and tasks for our students to complete. Please contact **Paul Reed** if you would like to be set up with access to the dashboard and we can also get you started on tasks for students. Last year we used 562.80 kWh of electricity per student at TMA, can we better this in 2025-26?

### New Look Entrance

Over the summer the estates team transformed the entrance corridor to better reflect our **values**. The new colours and student photographs look terrific and really showcase TMA.

### Funding Bid

Following success obtaining Condition Improvement Funding for the roofs, we are exploring a bid for to replace the **heating system** for the two sports halls. The boilers which run this area are no longer performing as designed and the associated plant and equipment is at the end of its economic life.

## IT UPDATE

### Microsoft Licenses Alignment

We now have in place a trust-wide Microsoft licensing arrangement, giving us more tools to ensure files and data are safe. One of the first new tools to be used was the phishing test system - **congratulations to all of you who passed the test!** We will run these tests throughout the year to help keep us all vigilant when opening emails.

### Arbor for Education

As a trust we are moving away from SIMS and will be

working with Arbor for Education from May 2026. Arbor is a **cloud-based** MIS designed specifically for schools. It provides secure, DfE-compliant data management with seamless integrations to other EdTech tools, enabling schools to centralise attendance, behaviour, safeguarding, assessment and communications in **one platform**.

### Windows 10 & 11

We have extended our Windows 10 operating system using a Microsoft approved program so we can continue our association with Windows 10 for the next 12 months. Meanwhile we are testing Windows 11, which should be available next year.



Finance Team, from left: Hieu Hickey, Athene Atkinson, Angela Dillon, Liz Woods, Rosie Hay Rachael Ryder, Liz Whitehurst, Andrea Moores. Also in the team but not pictured Rachel Goulbourne and Lindsay Manford

## FINANCE UPDATE

We are pleased to report that TMA finished the year **ahead of budget**. These are difficult times for our sector, and a full re-forecast has already been prepared for the 2025-26 financial year (Sep-Aug), taking into account the latest pay awards and additional funding as well as changes to staffing and non-staff costs. **All 2025-26 budgets have been confirmed** and uploaded to the finance system. The finance team are currently working on new developments that should give budget holders direct, live access to their budget reports, along with visibility of orders and invoices. The team are aiming to roll these out before Christmas.

### Trips & Visits

The central finance team can now support with all the financial aspects of educational visits. Please contact the team for help creating or reviewing a trip budget, obtaining quotes, or if you need a new chargeable item setting up on School Comms. **Angela Dillon, Finance Officer**, will be on site every Thursday and **Athene Atkinson, Finance Business Partner**, every other Monday. Why not drop in and say hello? Work is also continuing on a central charging and remissions policy. This is a statutory requirement for all 11-16 academies. The central policy will replace the individual versions, saving time for SLTs and local governing bodies.

### Compliance

Part of the benefit of the centralised model is that the central team takes a lot of the public sector compliance burden away from each academy. At the time of going to print, the annual budget forecast return has been submitted on time to the DfE, the year end process has predominantly concluded and the auditors have been and gone, all (hopefully) with minimal impact on the school and maximum efficiency.

## HR NOTICES

### Mandatory Training

The start of the academic year sees the organisation completing significant CPD and mandatory training updates. A big thank you to everyone who has completed the requirements and to colleagues for facilitating the in person sessions. Any certificates for completed mandatory training courses should be returned to [humanresources@sjbf.org.uk](mailto:humanresources@sjbf.org.uk)

### Performance Reviews

This year we have continued to roll out additional functionality within SAM People, including the appraisal process and values based objectives. Thank you to all staff and managers for taking part in this process.

### Staff Consultative Association

Alongside the local staff forums, TMA nominates staff representatives who meet with the Foundation leadership once a term to champion the voice of their colleagues. The aim is to shape a better working environment and support communication across the

Foundation. SCA Representatives will be talking to colleagues throughout the year to both share information as well as take feedback/themes and suggestions from colleagues. The minutes are available on **The Brunner Free Library**.

### Health & Wellbeing

Earlier this term, we informed colleagues of our enhanced health and wellbeing offer, which can be accessed on a new digital platform called **Spark**. Amongst many services, Spark offers 24/7 access to a **virtual GP, physiotherapy, children's mental health assessments and support, support with long-term health conditions and expert financial and legal information**. It also provides a rich supply of **resources** including nutrition planning, fitness tracking, meditation, online gym and wellbeing podcasts. Colleagues can access Spark from their phones, via an app or from a desktop. More information, including how to register, can be found on Staff Hub or **The Brunner Free Library**.