

# HOSPITALITY CONNECT: WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER



MANCHESTER HOTELIERS  
ASSOCIATION

Welcome to the Winter issue of the Manchester Hoteliers Association's Hospitality Connect bulletin! Via our twice annual issues we aim to showcase the excellent encounters taking place between our hotelier and school partners across Greater Manchester.

With kind thanks to all of the MHA members who volunteer to have a school partnership and introduce the hotelier industry so positively to the students.

We now have a project website! Check it out by clicking [here](https://www.hospitality-connect.org/).  
Or visiting [www.hospitality-connect.org/](https://www.hospitality-connect.org/)



## TERM ONE NEWS

We launched wave 4 of Hospitality Connect in Manchester on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at The Lowry Hotel in Salford. With many thanks to our hosts Vicky Marshman and Luke Martindale from the property. During the event we heard from Adrian Ellis, Founder of Hospitality Connect and Laura Johnson the UK Schools & Liaison Manager regarding the exciting developments of the project across the UK.

The event was well attended by our hotelier and educator partners as we also ran through the recommended programme of activities and formally confirmed all partners for this academic year. Please see the [final page](#) for our full list of partners.

We were lucky to have exciting guest speakers from Springboard, Tameside and Trafford College Group and Manchester Metropolitan University regarding additional opportunities for schools. We will keep promoting the exciting FE and HE pathways available in Greater Manchester to our schools as well as sharing news of additional activities educators can take advantage of.

Through the Hospitality Connect initiative, we hope that young students across Greater Manchester gain a better understanding of their post 16 pathways at FE and beyond that can lead so clearly into the hospitality sector.



Regional delivery of Hospitality Connect got started in the winter of 2021 here in Manchester with the kind support of 10 MHA member hotels. At that time, we called it the 'schools and hotels partnership programme' but it soon developed to 20 and then 30 partners by 2023.

The Savoy Educational Trust then provided funding to replicate our successful Manchester project model across the UK, and 'Hospitality Connect' was then formally launched as our project name.

During the last calendar year the project has launched in:

- Birmingham
- Central London
- Chester
- Edinburgh
- Lake District
- Leeds
- Liverpool
- North East England
- West London
- Wider Cheshire
- York

And in 2025, we are excited to launch partnership projects in:

- Glasgow
- Milton Keynes
- Derry, Northern Ireland
- Leeds (wave 2)
- Nottingham

## ACTIVITIES IN GREATER MANCHESTER

Since the wave 4 launch at the end of September for Manchester, our hotelier and school partners have been busy delivering their activities for term 1 and planning for the rest of the academic year.

With huge thanks to all of the incredible volunteer Hospitality Connect Ambassadors for their amazing contributions in facilitating these activities!



## HOLIDAY INN MANCHESTER CITY CENTRE WITH OAKWOOD ACADEMY

6<sup>th</sup> Form Students from Oakwood Academy, along with teachers visited the Holiday Inn on the 13th November 2024 for an introductory tour and showcase of the different departments.

The students were really wowed by the Christmas decorations and enjoyed lunch as part of their visit. The team delivered some fun activities including towel art and crafting welcome plates.

In January 2025 the school will visit again with catering students to have chef encounters and help put curriculum into context around presentation of food, nutrition and allergens.

*"It is our pleasure to be in partnership with Oakwood Academy. Strengthening our ties with the local community provides opportunities for students to gain valuable experience, an insight into Hospitality and highlights the opportunities that are available for students wishing to work within the hospitality industry. We cultivate this relationship with the aim of generating interest in the wonderful world of hospitality and hopefully identify new team members for the future."*

**Jane Shaw, People Administrator, Holiday Inn Manchester City Centre.**



## DOUBLE TREE MANCHESTER AIRPORT, PARTNERED WITH ST JAMES HIGH SCHOOL IN STOCKPORT

In October the team visited the school to deliver a careers talk to the students in key stage 4  
*"We are happy to be working with St James School for another year and sharing with them the great opportunities which working in the hospitality sector can bring."*

**Jane Haselden, Double Tree Manchester Airport**

## THE ALAN HOTEL, PARTNERED WITH DROYLSDEN ACADEMY IN TAMESIDE

Two year 10 groups have visited The Alan Hotel in term 1, led by Lorraine Ball, Food teacher and Paul Walsh General Manager. This is a new partnership in Manchester starting in a very strong position and looking forward to further activities in 2025 to bring the curriculum to life and offer students valuable employer encounter opportunities.

### **Paul Walsh, GM said:**

*"It was great to host students across two visits to showcase all the different options across hospitality. It was wonderful to see how engaged the students were in all aspects: kitchen, mocktail making, bed making, revenue, finance and maintenance."*



## NOVOTEL MANCHESTER CITY CENTRE WITH ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC COLLEGE IN TAMESIDE

Quote from Daniel Ward, Talent & Culture Manager who visited the school in December for a class talk:

*"This December we had another wonderful site visit with Year 10 Students at All Saints Catholic College. Every visit is unique, and what really stood out to me on this visit is how interested and engaged pupils are in vocational learning and development."*

*This year we spoke about the different number of employment opportunities available within Accor Hotels, and as a regular presenter at the school it was clear to me that many of these young minds were interested in the Hospitality journey! Come January 2025, our Year 10 pupils will join us for a site visit and carousel of learning activities! I'm told that our Work Experience opportunities already have a waiting list with our Year 10 pupils. What a wonderful end to 2024 and a great start to 2025!"*

## THE LOWRY HOTEL, PARTNERED WITH THE LOWRY ACADEMY SCHOOL IN SALFORD

The year 10 Food Technology class visited for an introductory hotel tour of front and back of house in November. We delivered a careers talk on what the hotelier industry can offer, covering the breadth of occupations with a lively Q&A. The students also got to meet our F&B manager, General Manager and our People Director to gain their insights. The students enjoyed taking a look at our bedrooms and wider facilities and were surprised to hear about apprenticeships - and that a lot of the jobs they were interested in are available within hotels.

We look forward to welcoming the group again for some practical activities in the new year - we are in our 4<sup>th</sup> year now with this partnership and really enjoy getting to know the students and showcasing the industry!

### **HR Manager, Luke Martindale**

### **Sharon Maddocks, Food Teacher:**

*"The Lowry Academy and Lowry Hotel school and hotel partnership has official begun with a successful first visit to the 5-star Lowry hotel in Manchester. The students had a tour around the hotel and its different departs. Thank you to all the Lowry hotel staff for such a wonderful warm welcome and very informative question and answer sessions. We are very much looking forward to the exciting plans for the rest of the year."*





## THE REACH PICADILLY, PARTNERED WITH WELLACRE ACADEMY BOYS SCHOOL IN TRAFFORD

The Reach welcomed 18 hospitality students from Wellacre Academy for a Hotel Takeover Day, where students got the chance to work alongside different teams and pick up some new skills.

The day concluded with a talk from GM Peter Nye and a selection of delicious cookies, freshly made by the boys alongside our Executive Chef.

*"We are thrilled to have partnered with Wellacre Academy in Trafford. At The Reach at Piccadilly, we are committed to fostering the next generation of hospitality professionals, and this collaboration gives us a unique opportunity to engage with young talent and provide hands-on experience in the heart of Manchester. By involving 18 students in the event, we aim to inspire their passion for the industry, showcase the diverse opportunities within hospitality, and encourage their career development. We believe that initiatives like this can create lasting impacts on both the students and our business, and we look forward to building a strong, ongoing relationship with the school."*

**Peter Nye, General Manager of  
The Reach Picadilly.**

**Sam Ashburn, Food teacher from Wellacre said:**  
*"The boys engaged brilliantly with the activities and talked to the staff from within the departments they were working in. Amari and Gabrielle were teamed up with the Executive Chef and made chocolate chip cookies, which were delicious. Dylan received a business card from an American guest, with a business in AI and hospitality! Students were impressed to see two influencers too!"*

**Max, a Wellacre student said:**  
*"I enjoyed learning about how to set a table correctly, and how to make coffee and other hot drinks. We learned how the hotel is maintained by housekeeping and the demands on the staff to keep the hotel running. We learned more about the different careers, the qualifications and routes into the industry."*

Clayton Manchester and Mercure Manchester Picadilly have also visited their school partners for

careers fair events in term 1 and look forward to welcoming group visits in 2025 as well as further work within the curriculum.

## GREATER MANCHESTER COLLEGE CONTACTS

During the wave 4 Manchester launch event, Lola and Mark represented the four colleges we work with across the region. We remind school educators to please reach out to the below contacts to arrange pathway encounters for your KS4 groups studying Food, Business and Travel. The colleges welcome the opportunity to be a guest speaker within your curriculum and can also offer bespoke group visits so that students can sample the excellent pathways that can lead so clearly into the Hospitality sector, a sector very much in growth in Greater Manchester.

**Please reach out to our college partners here:**

### **Tameside College**

Damien Cox | [damian.cox@tameside.ac.uk](mailto:damian.cox@tameside.ac.uk)

### **The Manchester College**

Mark Cooper | [MCooper@tmc.ac.uk](mailto:MCooper@tmc.ac.uk)

### **Trafford College Group**

Lola Doherty | [Lola.Docherty@tscg.ac.uk](mailto:Lola.Docherty@tscg.ac.uk)

### **Worsley College** (Salford City College Group)

Martin Coughlan & Rob Broomfield |  
[martin.coughlan@salfordcc.ac.uk](mailto:martin.coughlan@salfordcc.ac.uk)  
[robert.broomfield@salfordcc.ac.uk](mailto:robert.broomfield@salfordcc.ac.uk)



During the wave 4 launch event, we also heard from Springboard and the additional opportunities that educators can access for their students including Future Chef, summer school placements and more.

Please contact **Kerry Mabbley** for more information on:  
[kerrym@springboarduk.org.uk](mailto:kerrym@springboarduk.org.uk)



## MANCHESTER HOTELIERS ASSOCIATION – SCHOOL PARTNERS

We are delighted to confirm our partners for 2024-2025 academic year in Greater Manchester:

### SCHOOLS

#### ABRAHAM MOSS

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC COLLEGE  
ASHTON ON MERSEY HIGH SCHOOL  
BROADOAK SCHOOL  
CO-OP BELLE VUE ACADEMY  
CROMPTON HOUSE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL  
DENTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
DIXON BROOKLANDS ACADEMY  
DROYLSDEN HIGH SCHOOL  
GREAT ACADEMY ASHTON  
HOPE ST HELEN'S HIGH SCHOOL  
KINGSWAY SCHOOL  
LOSTOCK HIGH SCHOOL  
LOWRY ACADEMY  
LOWTON HIGH SCHOOL  
MANCHESTER COMMUNICATIONS ACADEMY  
MELLAND HIGH SCHOOL  
OAKWOOD SIXTH FORM AT UTC MEDIA CITY  
OASIS ACADEMY MEDIA CITY  
OASIS ACADEMY OLDHAM  
SALE HIGH SCHOOL  
ST ANNE'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY  
ST JOHN VIANNEY  
ST JAMES' RC HS, CHEADLE  
STRETFORD HIGH SCHOOL  
URMSTON GRAMMAR  
WALKDEN HIGH SCHOOL  
WELLACRE SCHOOL  
WESTHILL HIGH SCHOOL

### HOTELS

CROWN PLAZA MANCHESTER WITH  
HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS  
NOVOTEL CITY CENTRE  
THE TREEHOUSE  
HOTEL FOOTBALL & STOCK EXCHANGE  
VOCO MANCHESTER CITY CENTRE  
KIMPTON CLOCK TOWER HOTEL  
DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON, PICCADILLY  
CLAYTON MANCHESTER AIRPORT HOTEL  
THE ALAN HOTEL  
MANCHESTER MARRIOTT HOTEL PICADILLY  
INNSIDE MELIA  
DAKOTA  
HOTEL INDIGO  
LOWRY HOTEL  
MERCURE MCR PICADILLY HOTEL  
CLAYTON HOTEL, MANCHESTER CITY CENTRE  
DAKOTA  
HOLIDAY INN, CITY CENTRE  
HOLIDAY INN MEDIA CITY  
MALDRON HOTEL  
LEONARDO HOTELS, ANCOATS & CITY CENTRE  
INNSIDE MELIA  
HOLIDAY INN MEDIA CITY  
DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON MANCHESTER AIRPORT  
MIDLAND HOTEL  
MOTEL ONE MANCHESTER  
DELTA BY MARRIOTT - WORSLEY PARK HOTEL  
THE REACH HOTEL  
NATIVE APARTMENTS

With kind thanks to our project funders, the Savoy Educational Trust for their generous support and guidance and to UK Hospitality for creating this bulletin.