



Media Release

Date: November 2021

Pupils from four Oasis academies in Oldham have signed the pledge to peace and planted Peace Pledge Saplings that survived 1945 Hiroshima A-bomb

Community members from Oasis Hub Oldham alongside staff and students from Oasis Academies Oldham, Leesbrook, and Clarksfield, joined local dignitaries to plant special saplings from Hiroshima as a symbol of hope and peace.

Four Oldham Oasis Academies are signatories of the 'Pledge to Peace', alongside 24 other local academies, schools and colleges in Oldham who have so far made this commitment. The Pledge to Peace was launched in the European Parliament in November 2011 to 'promote a culture of peace across Europe'.

Says Richard Outram, of the Oldham Pledge to Peace Forum, "The trees were grown by Oldham Council staff from seeds given as a gift by the Mayor of Hiroshima to the Mayor of Oldham as a fellow member of the international initiative 'Mayors for Peace'.

"These seeds came from a ginkgo tree which survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in August 1945 and they were first planted at a special ceremony held at Alexandra Park in April 2017 by Japanese *hibakusha* ladies who had themselves survived that same atomic bombing."

Marie Dillon, Principal of Oasis Academy Oldham, said "this tree symbolises our hope for peace within the school community, within our borough, and between the people of the United Kingdom and Japan. I know that the pupils and staff will cherish and nurture it as it grows into a mighty tree."

Continued:

Oasis Academy Oldham photo caption:

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Andrew Smyth, Oasis Community Hub Leader and Oldham Mayor, Councillor Jenny Harrison, hold a plaque explaining the story behind the peace tree planted at Oasis Academy Oldham.



Front row: Left to right: Richard Outram, Secretary of the Oldham Pledge To Peace Forum, Marie Dillon, Principal, Andy Smyth, Cllr Jenny Harrison, Jane Hughes (Regional Director, OCL) and Craig Dean, Oldham Community Hub Chair

Back row: Community Hub volunteers with students Rahmat Folami, Eve Adedire, Harry Gardner, Millie Powell and Haider Ali Mahmood



OA Leesbrook senior pupils Ayo, Khizr, Haafizah and Subhan with OA Clarksfield pupils Nida and Isfa plant a Peace Pledge sapling grown from seeds from gingko tree that survived the 1945 Hiroshima A-bomb.

They were joined by Oldham Mayor, Cllr Jenny Harrison and members of the Oasis Academies Community Team.

More information about The Pledge to Peace can be found at: <https://www.associazionepercorsi.com/en/pledge-to-peace-2/>

More information about the Mayors for Peace can be found at: <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/>

Editor's note:

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Oasis Academies in Oldham are part of Oasis Community Learning is one of the largest Multi-Academy Trusts in England, with a family of 52 primary, secondary and all-through academies in five regions across the country. It serves over 29,000 young people, 49% of whom are from low-income backgrounds.

Alongside its academies, Oasis runs some 40 community hubs providing wide-ranging and integrated services, designed to meet the needs of local people and build communities where everyone can belong and achieve their God-given potential. www.oasisuk.org

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