

# Transforming Lives



Spring Half Term 2  
**2022 – 2023**



We're kicking off this term's edition with an interview with our CEO, Sir Nick Weller, who has been with ATT since November 2022.

# Get to Know

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# Our CEO

## What attracted you to join ATT after such a long time with Dixons?

I was looking for a new experience and personally, I needed a new challenge. ATT is a Trust with a lot of potential that has had some very strong Ofsted judgements recently. I know it's been through some difficult times in the past, but I think we are through those now. Building on that and building a more positive culture across the organisation was really appealing to me.

## You've been with ATT for about six months now. What do you feel you've achieved in that time?

I think we now have a clear sense of direction going forward. We've done significant restructuring around the central team, we've boosted up safeguarding and SEND for next year. All Trusts are facing financial challenges, so putting ATT on secure financial footing has been a key priority for me in recent months.

## What are your ambitions for the Trust moving forward?

There are four goals we are working towards. The first thing we want to do is build a greater commonality in terms of what binds us together as ATT, including things like culture and learning.

We've made a start on restructuring our vital shared services, to make them as cost effective and impactful as possible.

We are working to improve outcomes, which is particularly challenging at the moment, with national attendance figures being what they are.

We're also starting to approach the idea of taking on new schools, and I think an element of growth over the next few years would be a very positive thing. Whereas in the past ATT wasn't the first port of call when a school became available for sponsorship, those perceptions are changing, and we are starting to be approached.

## Let's talk a little bit about your background. What have you been most proud of over your long education career?

I started my career as an English teacher in London. It was a fairly turbulent time in the early eighties, and I've always worked in challenging schools and environments with high levels of disadvantage. I've always been proud of opening up opportunities for students that they otherwise wouldn't have had. Over sixteen years at Dixons, I worked with some very challenging schools in a much more urban environment. I'm proud of the schools we started from scratch, and which absolutely transformed learning in those communities, but also those which we were brave enough to take on and turned around. This is the ethos I want to bring to ATT, whose rural communities are probably even more marginalised and forgotten than those urban communities I have previously worked with; they're not front-and-centre of political consciousness.

## Quickfire Questions

### Describe our Trust in one word?

I'd say high-potential.

### What would you have done if you'd not decided to work in education?

I think I would have been a barrister.

### What are you currently reading?

Scrum Master, by Joe Justice.

### What's your favourite food or restaurant?

I love a place called Dishoo- it's an Indian, modern fusion kind of place.

### What's your ideal holiday destination?

My favourite place to visit is Portugal.

### What's on your bucket list?

I'd love to do a trip down the Amazon. I'd like to say a parachute jump, but I don't know that I'd be brave enough to do it!

### What are your hobbies?

I dabble in DIY and carpentry, like building bookshelves.

### What's the best piece of advice you've received in your career?

That we do it for the pupils, not for Ofsted.



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# Looking to the Future

A transformational education sets students up for life, opening up career paths and opportunities for the future. This term, our secondary academies have been supporting students in planning for the future with comprehensive careers events.

Bristnall Hall Academy had a hectic and exciting National Careers Week, with activities including a visit from Steve Clamp to discuss careers in the media, organised and filmed by ITV; a careers fair for KS3 students and parents, with local education and employment providers answering questions; virtual venets from Birmingham Metropolitan College and Success for Schools. At ATTFE, learners have been refining their practical careers skills through mock interviews, with volunteer interviewers including local business owners, emergency services, and council representatives.

Across our academies, enrichment activities promote engagement in the growing field of STEM. TNHA and BHA have both attended workshops with the UK military this term to learn about STEM careers in the armed forces. At Kingsmoor, Year 3 have been engaging in STEM workshops with industry experts, learning about scientific skills and having their learning brought to life!



Mock interviewers at ATTFE.



STEM workshops at Kingsmoor.



ITV films Steve Clamp's talk at BHA.

A key part of our Trust's mission is to transform lives in the communities we serve, looking beyond the classroom and supporting action that makes a real difference. That's why we're incredibly pleased to share the amazing things our students and colleagues have been up to across the various community hubs that our academies run.

Westbourne Academy's brand-new community hub opened its doors in December, created to make better use of an empty space after school at a time when local residents were facing growing financial pressures. Now, the hub is a place of warmth and comfort that provides professional guidance on matters from money management to childcare, and distributes donations of food and other essentials to those in need.

The Westbourne Community Hub is also offering another innovative service, the brainchild of TA Opal Degville. Opal created a Pre-loved Prom Pop Up Shop, receiving an amazing 200 donations of formalwear items from the community. She wants to help to remove the cost barrier of fancy prom outfits and ensure every child has the opportunity to celebrate the end of secondary school like the rest of their peers.



Westbourne's Hub has collected over 200 prom outfits.

# Sharing in Learning

Our academies are all part of a wider community of schools in their local areas, and we love to see them coming together and sharing a love of learning.

As part of National Storytelling Week, The Nicholas Hamond Academy visited primary schools in Swaffham to read to the younger children. The primary pupils thoroughly enjoyed the sessions, writing thank-you notes for the readers.

At The Dukeries Academy, KS3 Sports Leaders organised and led an indoor athletics competition for four local primary schools as part of their enrich programme. The students were superb and represented the Academy brilliantly.

At The Nicholas Hamond Academy, local schools have been visiting to take part in a wide range of sports, events so far this year including; Tag Rugby, Football Festival, Cross Country, Dodgeball and Infant Agility festival.

ATTFE have been sharing their ethos of lifelong learning across their communities, offering free events for children outside of school hours, such as the after school maths club at Greenwood Primary School. At the club, pupils play maths based games, engaging in learning through play.

# In Our Communities

# World Book Day



Steve Clifford at Kingsmoor.



Errol Lawson at BHA.



Cressida Cowell with CPA.

This World Book Day on Thursday 2 March, our academies got into the spirit of reading with a range of exciting activities and events. Learners and colleagues alike were excited to take part in the tradition of dressing up as their favourite book characters. At Icení Academy, pupils enjoyed taking part in nationwide BBC Live Lessons alongside celebrations in their own classes.

Kingsmoor Academy was fortunate enough to have visits from author Steve Clifford for four days over Book Week. He spent lots of time with children in each year group, developing a love of writing and reading, answering their questions, and leading amazing workshop with creative writing challenges. Bristnall Hall Academy likewise invited Errol Lawson to speak to students about his amazing books and even more incredible life story.

Meanwhile, students from Pool Hayes Academy and Caldmore Primary Academy attended an event with award winning author Cressida Cowell at Wolverhampton's Grand Station, listening to her speak about her inspiration and receiving signed copies of her new book 'Which Way to Anywhere'.

The Nicholas Hamond Academy invited pupils from nearby Swaffham Primary Academy to join them for a WBD scavenger hunt and take part in their book swap.







# Primary

We want each and every one of our students to foster the ambition to reach their full potential, so we're always proud to share the competitions, challenges and projects our learners have taken part in over the course of the year.

The Hathaway Academy received some great news this term, following their students' entries to the Rotary International Young Photographer's Competition in their district. The senior category was won by Zachary S, and the intermediate category was won by Oliver K. The winners of each age group will take part in the 1240 Rotary District competition for the chance to progress to the National Rotary Finals. A huge well done to both of these students for participating and demonstrating their fantastic photography skills!

Hathaway also had fantastic success at the Essex Youth Speak Competition. students Muhammad, David and Akinyemi represented Thurrock in the senior category of the competition in Chelmsford, speaking on the topic "Is the government solely to blame for the cost of living crisis?". Although they lost out on the top spot by one point, they bagged two of the top awards for the evening, with David being awarded Best Chairperson and Muhammad Best Proposer. This brings the total number of individual awards to three as Akinyemi also won best opposer at the Thurrock Finals. Congratulations to all three boys!

Iceni Academy Methwold students took part in their local Rotary Technology Challenge, working brilliantly in collaboration with other local schools to achieve a certificate of completion. Congratulations to the Year 10 team who won the competition!

Pool Hayes Academy pupils took part in a Mock Trial competition at Birmingham Crown Court, working hard to prepare in the preceeding days and delivering excellent arguments throughout. Pool Hayes is also proud to share that Year 7 student HP was runner up in the Wolverhampton Young Authors' Prize, receiving a trophy from author Cliff McNish. Students ALB and EVL should also be congratulated for reaching the final with their 400-word stories.

Kingsmoor Academy is getting involved with an ambitious project to help improve education not only for their pupils, but children all over Europe! In January, 15 teachers from Spain, Romania, Turkey and the Czech Republic visited Harlow to work with Kingsmoor Academy as part of an Erasmus+ project called 'Playing with New Words' looking at the effectiveness of games when learning and promoting language acquisition. Mr Getley, Vice Principal at Kingsmoor Academy said, "It was a really good week looking at the similarities and differences between our education systems and working collaboratively on such an exciting project. The results from this project will benefit the children here at Kingsmoor for years to come".



Students from TNHA took part in an ambitious and prestigious project this term as part of the 'Never Such Innocence' Project, a charitable organisation aiming to amplify the voices of young people on the topic of conflict. After creating a song in workshops with recording artists, the cohort were asked to perform their original song at an event in Westminster.

They recorded the song with a sound engineer at the famous Hackney Road Studios in Bethnal Green, before heading to Westminster Hall to perform at an event attended by Lady Lucy French, the project's founder, Rachel de Souza, children's Commissioner for England, several MPs, and high-ranking representatives from the Ministry of Defence. The student's did themselves and their academy proud- well done to all involved!

[Click here to listen to the song:](#)



Kingsmoor's Erasmus Team.



TQEA's Brilliant Club.



THA's Winning photograph.



Essex Youth Speak Winners.



Iceni Tech Challenge winners.

Several students from The Hathaway Academy were honoured for exceptional achievement and outstanding conduct at the Jack Petchey Achievement Awards this month, with the Outstanding Leader Award being presented to Miss Rebecca Tyler.

TQEA's Brilliant Club graduated from their programme at Birmingham University this term. They received a commendation for the excellent academic speech they delivered at the ceremony.



PHA at Birmingham Crown Court.



THA Jack Petchey winners.

Bristnall Hall Academy's Music Department have recently achieved the Music Mark certificate, recognising their commitment to music education.

# Out and About

Education doesn't only happen in the classroom; we're proud that our academies offer their learners an incredible range of enrichment opportunities through trips and visits to places of learning, both closer to home and further afield. Read on to find out about some of the places our students have visited this term.

A group of students from Sutton Community Academy have embarked on the trip of a lifetime to Annapurna Basecamp in Nepal. Led by experienced guides, the students are trekking through some of the most beautiful and challenging terrain in the world. The students have worked hard to raise the funds for their expedition with the support of the local community, and the trip will allow them to develop their physical and mental resilience as well as their cultural awareness and global citizenship. SCA also wants to thank their neighbouring academy ATTFE for all of their support in making this endeavour a reality!

Pupils from Mildenhall College Academy's Sixth Form made a visit to the former Auschwitz-Birkenau camp in Poland, learning about the harrowing events of the holocaust first-hand from a concentration camp survivor, Janine Webber. The students were grateful for the enlightening conversation and later spoke eloquently about the experience in their local paper.

Many of our secondary academies, including Bristnall Hall and Icen Methwold, have made their annual visits to France this term, supporting the learning of MFL students. For the first time, one of our primary academies has joined the club! Jubilee Academy Mossley is our first primary to organise a trip abroad, demonstrating a commitment to fostering ambition and cultural capital that we hope to see more of in the future. Pupils enjoyed a five-day tour of Paris, exploring the Seine riverside, traditional food markets, and of course, theme parks; it seems like the staff enjoyed the visit to Disneyland Paris just as much as the children did!



Jubilee's France Trip.



Jubilee staff at Disneyland Paris.



MCA6 at Auschwitz.



SCA students in Nepal.



CPA pupils 'graduate' at wolverhampton Uni.



Phoenix pupils at Tamworth castle.



Iceni Hockwold and Great Heath Academy pupils visited Hunstanton for some first-hand learning on their Under the Sea topic at the beach and Sea Life Centre. North Walsall Primary Academy found out more about natural history at the Thinktank Science Museum, whilst Sun Academy learnt more about animals at the Peak Wildlife Park. Sun pupils also visited Ford Green Hall this term for an extraordinary history experience immersing themselves in the daily life of 1600s London; Phoenix Academy pupils similarly enjoyed a Tudor Banquet at Tamworth Castle! The Queen Elizabeth Academy's art students visited a professional artist's workshop, creating mixed-media artwork to add to their portfolios.

Performing Arts students from Bristnall Hall Academy had an amazing afternoon at Halesowen College, watching a fantastic performance and learning about the next steps in an arts career during an insightful Q&A session. Caldmore Primary Academy's Year 4 went on an exciting trip to the University of Wolverhampton, learning dance routines and Judo moves, and taking part in fun computing activities where they learned how computers think. TNHA students visited Cambridge University to explore the possibility of attending higher education.

Below: SCA students trekking to Annapurna Basecamp.



# We Care

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We're always pleased to see our learners giving back to their local communities, demonstrating impressive values of selflessness and compassion.

Mildenhall College Academy has been embarking on an innovative community project this term with their Year 13 Social Action Day. Sixth Form students spent the day working on a range of projects to improve their local community, including collecting and donating toys to their local hospital's children's ward; cleaning up and litterpicking at Felixstowe beach; building a bug hotel to encourage biodiversity and support wildlife. We're so proud of the incredible community spirit these students have displayed!

This March, several of our academies raised funds for the Comic Relief Red Nose Day appeal. Kingsmoor Academy pupils organised a bake sale and a sponsored walk wearing red. Caldmore Primary Academy organised a fundraiser for victims of the Turkey and Syria earthquake.

At ATTFE, community action never stops. This term, they've continued to offer free meals to vulnerable local people at their Social Eating Hub, providing over 750 meals since the hub's opening in November. At their community hub, ATTFE invited representatives from the charity FoodCycle to speak to local people at their warm welcome coffee morning about tackling food poverty in disadvantaged communities.



ATTFE's Hub team.



Red Nose Day at Kingsmoor.



MCA6 Social Action Day.



MCA6 Social Action Day.



MCA6 Social Action Day.



# porting uccess



BHA Girls KS3 Handball Team.

Congratulations to all the sporting stars across our academies who have participated in challenges and competitions this term, and to everyone who has put in their best and had fun doing it! Here's some of our notable sporting successes since the start of the year.

At Bristnall Hall Academy, KS3 boys and girls' handball teams won the Sandwell South tournaments, with both teams remaining unbeaten throughout. In the Sandwell South Dodgeball tournament, the girls were victorious and the boys finished a respectable second. This led to both teams representing Sandwell South in a champions tournament with the girls finishing second overall. The year 7 boys football team are the pick of the year groups this year where they remain unbeaten, with an impressive 27 goals along the way.

At Sutton Community Academy, the U14 Girls Football team took part in a competition in support of International Womens Day, attempting to set a record for the most female footballers playing football on a single day. At Westbourne Academy, the U13 Girls team won the Girls County Futsal Final!

We love to see our academies making staying active a fun and educational activity for learners.

This term, Sonia Sabri Dance Company visited Caldmore Primary Academy, showcasing a performance that celebrates South Asian culture with environmental themes. They completed workshops with Year 3 pupils, who demonstrated their learning as part of the performance for the rest of KS2 in the afternoon.

At Pool Hayes, pupils have been engaging with mixed martial arts session as an exciting addition to traditional sports.

TNHA hosted their first ever dance festival for Year 7 this term, inviting 3 local dance schools to put on workshops in a variety of dance styles including street and modern dance.

## Get Moving!



Sonia Sabri Dance Company at Caldmore.



Martial arts at PHA.



TNHA Dance Festival.

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