

Transforming Lives



Our ATT Magazine
Issue 1 | 14.11.25



A Welcome from **Our CEO**

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the first issue of Transforming Lives, a magazine that celebrates the extraordinary work taking place every day across our academies.

Within these pages you will see the spirit of Academy Transformation Trust in action - schools that are ambitious for every child, communities bound by purpose and belonging, and colleagues whose commitment transforms lives and futures. From national awards and community regeneration projects to creative teaching and inspirational leadership, each story reflects what can be achieved when people share a belief in possibility.

Our mission is simple: to provide a transformational education that builds capable, competent, and confident young people. We do this through a culture of continuous improvement and by ensuring every pupil and colleague feels that they belong, that they matter, and that they are becoming their best selves.

As we look to the future through our ATT2030 strategy, this magazine will serve as a window into that journey - a place to share success, highlight innovation, and demonstrate the collective strength of our Trust.

Thank you for your interest in our work and for joining us as we continue transforming lives through education.

Mark McCourt

Chief Executive Officer
Academy Transformation Trust





Celebrating Success!

We're thrilled to share some fantastic news from North Walsall Primary Academy, who are celebrating not one, but three major national accreditations—a true testament to the school's commitment to excellence, inclusion, and creativity.

NWPA has achieved the Primary Science Quality Mark, a nationally recognised award for outstanding science teaching and leadership. This recognition highlights a commitment to delivering high-quality science education that sparks curiosity and helps children understand the world around them.

"Such success is only possible through the collective effort of the whole school community," said Helen Sizer, PSQM Director. "All those involved should be incredibly proud of this achievement and the positive difference this is making to children's learning."

Adding to their achievements, the academy has also been awarded the Music Mark of Recognition, a new accolade celebrating schools committed to providing high-quality music education. This award recognises the school's efforts to ensure that every child has access to the joy and benefits of music, whether through singing, playing instruments, or creative expression.

These latest awards follow the school's achievement last academic year of Flagship School Status from the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM). This prestigious status is awarded to schools that demonstrate exceptional inclusive practice and a deep commitment to supporting every child to thrive, regardless of background or ability.

NWPA Principal Sabrina Khera said "We're incredibly proud of our staff and pupils for their hard work and dedication. These awards reflect our shared belief that every child deserves the very best education—one that inspires, includes, and empowers them to achieve their full potential."

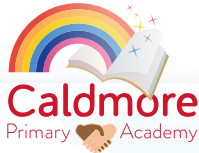
We are incredibly proud to share that Bristnall Hall Academy have been nominated for the prestigious *Secondary School of the Year* award in the Education Today School and Supplier Awards 2025.

Education Today has chosen nine nominees who have "made a difference to the learning and lives of [their] pupils, be that through outstanding teaching, great pastoral care or excellent whole school practice". The winners will be announced at a London ceremony in December.



Special congratulations go to Nolwenn Deneuche, who has also been nominated for New Teacher of the Year. Nolwenn is an outstanding MFL teacher who has recently finished her Early Career Teachers Programme with the school. Best of luck to BHA and Nolwenn in their respective nominations!

What's Happening Across Our Trust...



North Walsall Primary Academy & Caldmore Primary Academy

Walsall, West Midlands

We've been excited to see our primary academies celebrating Mental Health Awareness Day on 10th October! Pupils and staff wore yellow to show solidarity and raise awareness, whilst lessons focused on resilience, understanding emotions, and how to support others.



Bristnall Hall Academy

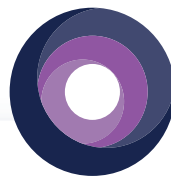
Oldbury, West Midlands



Sutton Community Academy

Sutton in Ashfield, Notts

We love to see our academies working together- and what could encourage collaboration better than a bit of dance? BHA and SCA came together virtually this term for a lunchtime disco dance-off at their respective schools. The year 7 and 8 playground at BHA was buzzing, as was The Cornerstone Theatre at SCA, with music keeping spirits high throughout the lunch break. Both schools are looking forward to a rematch soon!



Sutton Community Academy & ATT Further Education College

Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire

Work has now finished on the Cornerstone Theatre, an exciting new facility at SCA & ATTFE College! In 15 months, the old school theatre has been transformed into a vibrant events space. The £6.27m project was funded by the UK Gov Future High Streets fund as part of broader plans to revitalise Sutton's town centre and evening economy.

Since completion, the new theatre has played host to the launch of ATTFE College's In This Together 2025 campaign, which aims to upskill over 2000 people across Nottinghamshire with the CitizenAID qualification, giving them the skills to help in emergency situations before first responders arrive. A host of exciting dramatic performances have also been announced!

Learn More 

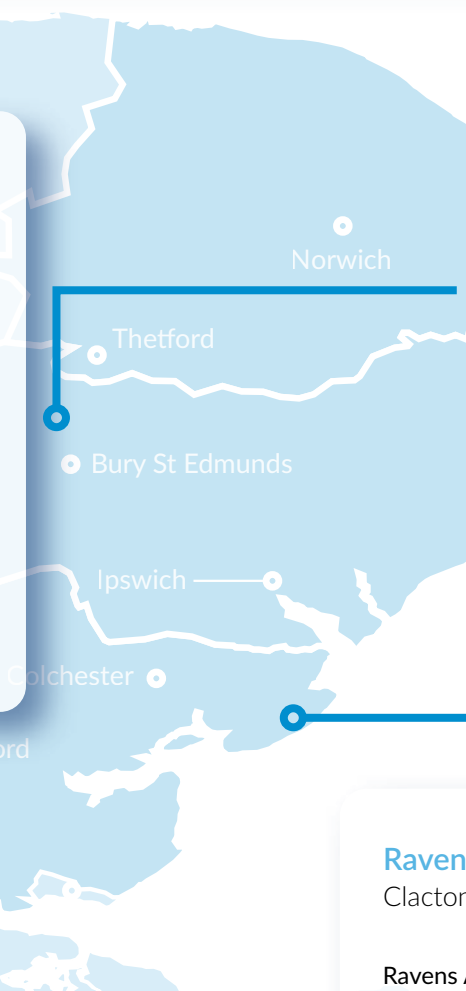
Trust-Wide

Across England



We recently launched a Trust-wide essay competition inviting pupils to write about what *belonging* means to them. The response has been extraordinary- thoughtful, moving, and beautifully written reflections on family, friendship, identity, and place have poured in from across our academies. We're excited to share a selection of their essays in future communications!

More About Belonging
& Our ATT2030 Strategy 



Mildenhall College
ACADEMY



Bristnall Hall
Academy

Mildenhall College Academy & Bristnall Hall Academy

Suffolk & West Midlands

Colleagues from MCA & BHA will be guest speakers at an exciting event from our ATT Inclusion Team! Improving Secondary Attendance: Inclusion by Design is a free webinar for education professionals that will share proven strategies from across our Trust for supporting learners with SEND. We're so proud of the colleagues at these academies for working hard to improve attendance and now sharing their knowledge across the sector.



Ravens Academy

Clacton-on-Sea, Essex

Ravens Academy celebrated an exciting achievement this term- a day of 100% attendance across the entire school! Attendance Lead Lucy Love said it was the first time she had seen this accomplishment in ten years at Ravens. Hard work from Lucy and her colleagues to remove barriers to attending and help educate families on the importance of attendance has made this event possible. Well done to Ravens' staff and pupils- keep up the good work!



ATT FE College Senior Leader Awarded MBE



Simon Martin said to local press, "I am humbled that our many years of providing community learning to those who need it most has been rewarded in this way. In receiving this Award, I recognise that I am but a representative of the large team of peerless colleagues whose commitment has made our achievements possible, and so I hold it and carry it on behalf of everybody.

"It is also a fitting reflection upon the outstanding work of ATTFE College in its communities and further afield, and I will be working hard to prove myself worthy of this recognition on behalf of our ongoing collective endeavour".

"This is such good news and so well-deserved for Simon for his 4 decades of service and commitment to the school, further education, and wider learning in the areas of Nottinghamshire that we serve." said ATTFE Principal Liz Barrett. "It is also a further tribute to the work of ATTFE in the economic, social and civic regeneration and support for our communities. It obviously also reflects very well upon the Trust and the work that it does in its surrounding school communities and further afield."

We're thrilled to congratulate Simon Martin, DSL and SLT member at our ATT Further Education College, on being made an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) at the 2025 King's Birthday Honours earlier this year.

Simon was recognised for his Services to Further Education, a field in which he has worked for the past 35 years. He has been instrumental in ATTFE's recent growth and success, including securing tens of millions of pounds worth of funding from national and local sources over the past 8 years to enable ATTFE's transformational impact, and the strategic oversight of ATTFE's highly regarded safeguarding work. He'll be continuing this essential mission to maximise ATTFE's contribution to the learning and skills development of the exciting new EMCCA region.

Community Spotlight:

Behaviour & Culture



Our ATT Communities are an important vehicle for our work to provide a transformational education to learners across our Trust. Communities are groups of colleagues with representatives from each academy, who work collaboratively to share knowledge and build strategies that help us constantly improve.

For our first Transforming Lives Newsletter, we're shining the spotlight on our Behaviour & Culture Community, which brings together leaders from across our primaries and secondaries to share best practices, develop consistent approaches, and ensure every child feels safe, respected, and ready to learn. Working together, these colleagues focus on strategies that promote high expectations, positive behaviour, and a deep sense of belonging for all students. They're building environments where every child can succeed, academically, socially, and emotionally.

At this month's Behaviour & Culture Community meeting, leaders from our primary and secondary academies came together to reflect on the progress we've made in creating positive learning environments and to plan for the year ahead.

Primary leaders celebrated the success of key strategies like *No Opt Out* and *Right is Right*, which have helped foster a culture of high expectations and student engagement. Secondary leaders shared how their collaborative efforts have led to a reduction in suspensions and exclusions, even as national figures have risen.

A thought-provoking session on the new Ofsted framework, led by Secondary Education Director Garry Trott, encouraged leaders to reflect on how well our support strategies are working for all students, especially those eligible for Pupil Premium, and how we can ensure every child feels a strong sense of belonging.

The community also explored our new *Behaviour Connection Plans* and *Reintegration Meetings*, with inspiring insights from Pool Hayes Academy. These initiatives have been designed to support students in returning to learning successfully after time away from school. Academies who have already launched these strategies successfully provided insight on how we can roll them out Trust-wide with consideration for local need.

To close the day, our leaders made personal pledges to focus on improving behaviour and culture for specific student groups, ensuring that every child in our academies is supported to thrive.

We're excited about the year ahead and remain committed to creating safe, respectful, and inclusive environments where all children can succeed.



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