

Transforming Lives



Our ATT Magazine
Summer Term 2 2026



A Welcome from Our CEO

Welcome to the latest edition of Transforming Lives.

As another academic year draws to a close, this magazine offers a reminder of the breadth of life across Academy Transformation Trust. Within these pages, you will see pupils performing Shakespeare, competing at county level, exploring science and technology, discovering future careers, developing their voices and working with partners to improve the communities around them. Each story is different, but together they reveal something important about who we are becoming as a Trust.

Our purpose is to create places in which children and young people are known, supported and challenged to become capable, competent and confident. That ambition is visible throughout this edition. It can be seen in the confidence of pupils reaching the final of the West Midlands Speak Out Challenge, in the creativity of performing at the O2, and in the curiosity of exploring everything from robotics and artificial intelligence to animal life cycles and the natural environment.

I am particularly pleased that this edition shines a light on inclusion. ATT serves significantly more disadvantaged pupils than the national average, and we are determined that background should never be allowed to determine destiny. The national recognition received by Kingsmoor Academy, Sun Academy Bradwell and Bristnall Hall Academy for the outcomes of disadvantaged pupils demonstrates what is possible when ambition is matched by expertise and relentless care.

The success of our central Inclusion Team at the MAT Excellence Awards is another source of immense pride. Their work is helping our academies to build increasingly consistent, thoughtful and effective provision for pupils with additional needs. Much of this work happens in the background, but its impact is felt every day by children, families and colleagues across our Trust.

This term has also shown the growing strength of ATT as a professional community. Hosting researchED East Anglia at Mildenhall College Academy brought outstanding professional learning to Suffolk and demonstrated the contribution our Trust can make to the wider education sector. Through our ATT Institute, colleagues are increasingly able to learn with and from one another, strengthening practice across all 22 academies.

Perhaps the clearest expression of One ATT this term was our first Staff Excellence Awards. Hundreds of nominations were received, reflecting the extraordinary commitment found in every part of our organisation. The evening was a recognition that transforming lives is a collective endeavour, made possible by teachers, leaders, support staff, volunteers and central colleagues working together in service of our pupils.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition. There is still much more for us to do, and our ambitions for every child remain high. However, these pages show that across ATT there is talent, compassion, expertise and determination in abundance.

Thank you to every colleague, pupil, family and partner who continues to contribute to our shared mission.



Mark McCourt
Chief Executive Officer

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink.



ATTFE College

Heathland Fire Project

We are proud that our ATTFE College is playing a key role in the Heathland Fire Prevention Education Project, a collaborative initiative that will engage more than 3,000 young people and their families across Mansfield and surrounding areas in Nottinghamshire by March 2028.

Last week, representatives from ATTFE College joined partners from Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, The Sherwood Forest Trust, Mansfield Building Society, and the local community at the official launch event at Oaktree Heathland.

As the education lead for the project, ATTFE College will help deliver engaging learning experiences that raise awareness of wildfire risks, promote environmental conservation, and inspire young people to take an active role in protecting their local environment. Through workshops, school assemblies, creative projects, and hands-on conservation activities, learners will have the opportunity to develop practical skills, build confidence, and make a real difference within their communities.

ATTFE College said; "We believe that education is a powerful tool for positive change, and we're excited to work alongside our partners to help safeguard Nottinghamshire's precious heathland habitats for future generations".

Celebrating NeuroDiversity

We're very proud of the success of Mildenhall College Academy's Neurodiversity Club, which has spent the past year raising awareness, celebrating differences and helping to create an even more inclusive school community.

Club members have led a range of projects designed to increase understanding of neurodiversity, both within the academy and beyond. Working with the local community library, students created displays and activities to help people learn more about neurodiverse conditions, and club members discussed the project with members of the public.

The club has also encouraged students to challenge misconceptions, celebrate individuality and recognise the many talents and contributions of neurodiverse people. Through awareness campaigns, competitions and student-led activities, members have played an important role in promoting understanding, belonging and respect throughout the school.

We're incredibly proud of the club's efforts to ensure that inclusion is a defining part of everyday school life. MCA staff have been sharing the club's successes as part of our Trust-wide DEI community, supporting *all* our schools to create environments where all young people feel accepted, supported and empowered to succeed.

What's Happening Across Our Trust...

Bristnall Hall Academy

Oldbury, West Midlands



We were delighted to hear that two Bristnall Hall pupils, John and Eric, were selected for the West Midlands *Speak Out* final!

The *Speak Out* challenge is an oracy initiative from the Speakers Trust, designed to equip students with "the skills and confidence they need to share their ideas and reach their potential". To reach the final, John and Eric participated in a series of workshops, where their standout speeches, about microplastic pollution and the benefits of wearing a school uniform respectively, were chosen by Speakers Trust judges to progress to the next stage.

The students delivered their speeches confidently and competently, and judges were impressed with their vocabulary choices and overall structure of their pieces. Congratulations to both boys for reaching the final 8 of over 600 students across the region!



The Nicholas Hamond Academy

Swaffham, Norfolk

Students from The Nicholas Hamond Academy recently showcased their talent and creativity through a series of performances at the Westacre Theatre. Members of the Key Stage 3 Drama Club performed abridged versions of three Shakespeare classics – *Romeo and Juliet*, *Othello* and *The Merchant of Venice* – following months of dedicated rehearsals.

The production gave pupils the opportunity to develop confidence, teamwork and performance skills while bringing some of literature's most famous stories to life.

Audience members praised both the ambition of the project and the maturity of the performances.

The school has also been using the theatre to support GCSE Drama students, giving them the chance to perform their own devised work in a professional setting. Experiences such as these help young people develop creativity, communication skills and self-confidence, while providing memorable opportunities beyond the classroom.





Great Heath Academy

Mildenhall, Suffolk

Earlier this term, a group of Year 6 pupils proudly represented Great Heath at the Suffolk Orienteering County Final, held at Haughley Park, Stowmarket.

The children demonstrated excellent teamwork, determination and navigation skills throughout the event, tackling the challenging course with enthusiasm and confidence. They performed brilliantly and narrowly missed out on a medal, which is a fantastic achievement at county level. Well done to all the children who took part and represented the school so positively.



Ravens Academy

Clacton-on-Sea, Essex

Year 5 & 6 pupils at Ravens had the exciting opportunity to visit Penguin Random House, one of the world's largest publishing companies, earlier this term. In partnership with The National Literacy Trust, the children took part in a truly memorable day centred around reading and writing, meeting author Iqbal Hussain, who lead them in a creative writing workshop. Pupils also designed and decorated their own book bags and enjoyed a fascinating tour of the warehouse, which houses an incredible 40 million books.

Every child was able to choose another book of their own to take home, helping to further nurture their love of reading. This was a truly inspirational day for the Ravens pupils, and the beginning of a fantastic partnership that will continue to foster literacy and readership across the school.



Mildenhall College
ACADEMY

Mildenhall College Academy

Mildenhall, Suffolk

On the 14th June, *Voice Junction* performed in the National Entertainment Awards at the O2. The choir are a suffolk-based singing group for young people aged 6-18, which includes several MCA students. At this performance, they received the 'golden buzzer' from the judges, putting the straight through to the 2027 finals at the O2 and the 2028 finals on Broadway in New York!



Subject Spotlight:



STEM

Preparing Young People for the Future

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) are among the most important subjects that young people study. While STEM disciplines help pupils understand the world around them, they also develop essential life skills including problem-solving, critical thinking, creativity, teamwork and resilience. These are skills that benefit young people regardless of the careers they eventually choose.

The importance of STEM continues to grow. From healthcare and renewable energy to artificial intelligence, engineering and digital technology, many of the fastest-growing industries rely on people with strong STEM knowledge and skills. By providing high-quality STEM education, schools can help ensure that pupils are prepared not only for further study, but also for the opportunities and challenges of the future workplace.

Across Academy Transformation Trust, STEM learning goes far beyond the classroom. We are committed to providing a rich and engaging curriculum that helps pupils make connections between what they learn in lessons and the real world around them. Over the past term, pupils across our family of schools have enjoyed a wide range of exciting STEM experiences.

Communication

Through collaborative projects, presentations and practical investigations, pupils learn how to share ideas clearly, listen to others and work effectively as part of a team- skills to help them succeed in any future career.

Problem-Solving

Whether troubleshooting a robot, improving a rocket design or investigating a scientific question, pupils learn to identify challenges, test solutions and adapt their approach.

Creativity & Innovation

STEM encourages pupils to think differently, design new solutions and explore possibilities. From imagining future technologies to developing engineering projects, pupils learn that creativity is just as important as technical knowledge.

Resilience

Experiments do not always work first time and designs often need refining. STEM helps pupils learn from setbacks, persist through challenges and understand that mistakes are an important part of learning.

Digital Literacy

Through coding, robotics, data analysis and the use of emerging technologies, pupils gain confidence with the tools that are shaping the modern world. These skills open doors to a wide range of future study and career opportunities.

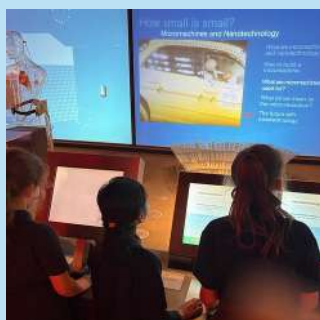


Science learning starts early across our Trust. At Great Heath Academy, Year 2 pupils nurtured and harvested their own potatoes, learning about food production and plant growth through first-hand experience.

Meanwhile, children at Caldmore Primary Academy observed chicks hatch from eggs and learned how to care for them, providing a fascinating insight into animal life cycles and living things.

At Star Academy, Year 4 pupils enjoyed an inspiring visit to Birmingham's Thinktank Science Museum, where they explored electricity, engineering, transport technology and even examined real dinosaur bones, helping to bring scientific discovery to life.

At The Nicholas Hamond Academy, students took part in the University of East Anglia's Bringing Scientists to You programme, where they explored robotics, genetics, pharmacology and space science through practical workshops. Students also worked alongside RAF Marham on a hands-on aerodynamics project, designing and testing model rockets while learning how STEM principles are applied in professional settings.



Technology and engineering have been brought to life in other schools too. Students at Bristnall Hall Academy developed programming and engineering skills through a LEGO robotics workshop, while pupils at Westbourne Academy explored the rapidly evolving world of robotics and artificial intelligence through a webinar hosted by the National Robotarium. Their imaginative competition entries demonstrated not only technical understanding but also creativity and innovation as they considered how technology might solve real-world problems.





LEADERSHIPEDGE
Coaching in schools

Supporting
Education

CAR
INTE

AN

Academy

SCHOOL
CE

ap
Awarding

Inclusion by Design

Award-Winning Expertise Supporting Every School

For our Trust, inclusion is a core principle that shapes everything we do. This term has been especially significant for our central Inclusion Team, whose work continues to have a profound impact both within our own schools and across the wider education sector.

“ Their clear strategic, trust-wide approach highlighted a full core offer and high universal provision built around a clear framework with strong evidence of qualitative and quantitative impact ”

-MAT Excellence Awards judge comments

Earlier this year, this work was recognised nationally with our win for the SEND Award (13+ schools) at the MAT Excellence Awards. Celebrating our strategic and systematic approach to inclusion, this award recognised the expertise, collaboration and commitment that have helped strengthen support for children and young people with additional needs across our schools. The team's work has helped develop a more consistent and effective approach to inclusion, with schools benefiting from improved attendance, reduced exclusions and stronger outcomes for pupils with SEND.

Over the past year, this team has also developed sector-leading guidance designed to help schools respond proactively to emerging challenges and changes in education. This includes pioneering guidance on protecting pupil images from AI manipulation, helping schools navigate new safeguarding risks in an increasingly digital world, and guidance on Enhanced Resource Provision, sharing practical expertise that supports both ATT schools and the wider education sector.

Inclusion Team members recently delivered sessions at our highly successful researchED East Anglia conference, providing vital professional learning opportunities of the kind that are rarely seen in this area. Our growing reputation was further highlighted by the recent appearance of Katie Langley, National Attendance and Belonging Lead, on the Being the Head podcast, where she shared insights into the relationship between attendance, belonging and inclusion. Internally, the team continues to provide schools with access to specialist expertise, training, resources and guidance through the Trust's Inclusion Core Offer, helping academies develop confident, consistent and sustainable approaches to supporting pupils.

This work often happens behind the scenes, but its impact is felt every day in our classrooms. As part of ATT, our schools have direct access to specialist knowledge, innovative guidance and a network of experts committed to ensuring that every child feels supported, valued and able to thrive.

Inspiring Ambitions:

Careers Education

Helping young people explore future careers is an important part of education. By introducing pupils to different professions, pathways and opportunities, our schools help raise aspirations, build confidence and support informed decisions about the future.

This term, pupils across ATT have taken part in a range of exciting careers activities. At The Nicholas Hamond Academy, Year 10 students visited the College of West Anglia to experience higher education in subjects ranging from Engineering and Construction to Photography and Sport. At Kingsmoor Academy, primary pupils celebrated their first Careers Day, meeting professionals and exploring the skills needed for different careers.

Meanwhile, students at Bristnall Hall Academy attended the Black Country Careers Fair, connecting with employers and training providers, while Year 10 pupils at Pool Hayes Academy completed a Virtual Work Experience Week with organisations including the NHS, ASDA, HubSpot and the Metropolitan Police.

These experiences help young people broaden their horizons, develop valuable employability skills and gain a greater understanding of the many pathways available to them. Across our Trust, we are proud to support pupils in discovering their ambitions and preparing for the opportunities that lie ahead.



researchED East Anglia

Bringing World-Leading Teacher PD to Suffolk

In June, Mildenhall College Academy hosted researchED East Anglia, organised by our ATT Institute. ResearchED conferences are internationally renowned for sharing evidence-informed learning for education staff, and we were extremely proud to host the first event of this kind in Suffolk.

It was inspiring to see the conference so well received and well attended by education professionals from across the country, with more than 30 expert speakers delivering inspiring and interactive sessions. Highlights included a keynote from Dr Christine Counsell OBE, one of the country's leading voices in curriculum development and history education, alongside sessions covering topics such as teaching, leadership, inclusion, behaviour, reading, curriculum and professional development.

By giving school staff access to high-quality professional development and the latest thinking in education, we help teachers and leaders continue to strengthen their practice, share ideas and bring fresh approaches back into the classroom. When staff have opportunities to learn from experts, collaborate with colleagues and explore evidence-informed strategies, they are better equipped to deliver engaging lessons, support different learners and help every child achieve their potential.

researchED
— East Anglia —



ATT STAFF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

At ATT, we know that great schools are built by great people. On Thursday 2nd July, colleagues from across our academies and central teams came together for our first Staff Excellence Awards – a special evening dedicated to recognising the exceptional individuals and teams who make a difference to the lives of children and young people every day. More than 500 nominations were submitted from across the Trust, highlighting the commitment, professionalism and care shown by staff in every role.

The awards celebrated excellence across a wide range of educational and operational roles, reflecting the fact that transforming lives takes a collective effort. From teachers and leaders to support staff and volunteers, the event recognised those who go above and beyond to help pupils thrive and communities flourish.



Supporting Education Colleague of the Year

**Katie Toole,
Icen Secondary Academy**
For demonstrating outstanding leadership, engaging students, and ensuring their voices are heard and valued.



Belonging Award

**Thomas Monksfield,
Pool Hayes Academy**
For providing enriching extra-curricular opportunities for every pupil and transforming their self confidence.



Safeguarding & Wellbeing Champion of the Year

**Jessica Phillips,
Caldmore Primary Academy**
For working with passion and tenacity to safeguard pupils, and going above and beyond to support families.



Rising Star Award

**Emma O'Connell,
Kingmoor Academy**
For leading by example, showing dedication, creativity, and a strong commitment to achieving high standards for all.



Community Impact Award

**Liz Barrett,
ATTFE College**
For unwavering commitment to strengthening partnerships and creating learning opportunities beyond the classroom.



Secondary Teacher of the Year

**Steph Badham,
The Queen Elizabeth Academy**
For creating carefully constructed lessons that awe and inspire pupils, and passion for her subject.



Unsung Hero

**Barbara Hosiaux,
Phoenix Academy**

For volunteering her time to support Phoenix's pupils, showing incredible care and dedication.



Principal of the Year

**Louisa Simcock,
Bristnall Hall Academy**

For demonstrating exceptional leadership, modelling values and embedding a culture of integrity, ambition and care.



Enabling Education Colleague of the Year

**Sharon Betts,
Pool Hayes Academy**

For a hardworking & dependable nature, approaching tasks with patience, sensitivity, and genuine willingness to support others.



Inclusion Award

**Grace Walters,
Sutton Community Academy**

For her calm, relational and highly skilled leadership, leading to measurable positive outcomes in her academy.



Early Career Teacher of the Year

**Chloe Schrier,
The Nicholas Hamond Academy**

For her infectious enthusiasm, overcoming challenges, and working hard to put pupils first in everything she does.



Leader of the Year

**Lauren Wintrip,
The Dukeries Academy**

For exceptional leadership underpinned by humility and attention to detail; unwavering dedication to her school & pupils.



Primary Teacher of the Year

**Stephanie Nelmes,
Kingsmoor Academy**

For her genuine compassion, championing inclusivity, her collaborative approach and willingness to share expertise.



Team of the Year

**Senior Leadership Team,
Pool Hayes Academy**

For overcoming challenges and working together with determination to build a positive school culture.



Lifetime Contribution Award

**Simon Martin MBE,
ATTFE College**

For remarkable dedication over two decades of working with ATT, reflecting extraordinary service, leadership, resilience and impact.

The greatest strength of an academy trust is the opportunity to learn from, celebrate and support one another. Bringing colleagues together from across our family of 22 schools enabled us to share success, recognise outstanding practice and reinforce the values that unite us. Congratulations to all of this year's winners and finalists, whose dedication continues to inspire colleagues and benefit the pupils and communities we serve.



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