

WORKING TOGETHER ENJOYING LEARNING BEING BRAVE CELEBRATING DIFFERENCE



Hello from our CEO

As we reach the end of another busy and successful term, I want to take a moment to thank every member of our Esteem community for the dedication, compassion and commitment you show each day.

Since becoming CEO, I have had the privilege of visiting all of our academies and meeting colleagues, pupils, and partners across our Trust. I have been inspired by the warmth of the welcome I have received and by the unwavering focus on supporting children and young people.

This newsletter is a wonderful reflection of our values in action. Throughout the term, we have seen examples of collaboration, courage, inclusion and achievement across our schools. From exciting learning experiences and community projects to sporting events and creative successes.



Karen Hayes, CEO



This term has also given us the opportunity to come together and celebrate success across the Trust. I was delighted to attend another successful Esteem Awards Evening, where we recognised the exceptional contributions of colleagues. The event was a powerful reminder of the talent, dedication and compassion that exists across our Trust, and it was wonderful to celebrate the individuals who make such a positive difference every day.

As we look ahead to the summer break, I hope everyone takes the opportunity to rest, recharge and spend time with family and friends. Thank you for all you have done this year to support our children and young people, and for your continued commitment to our shared vision.

I wish you all a safe, happy and relaxing summer and look forward to another exciting year ahead.

Esteem Awards 2026



Schools marked the occasion with their own awards ceremonies, recognising and celebrating both nominees and winners for their contributions. The celebrations culminated with the whole Trust Awards Night on 10 July, where category winners from across all schools came together to be recognised. The evening also named Esteem's Kevin Dean Rising Star - Rebecca Hale - an exceptional emerging talent within our Trust.

This term, staff from across our Trust came together to celebrate excellence through the Esteem Awards, nominating colleagues who go above and beyond every day. We received an incredible number of nominations across all categories, including Teacher of the Year, Making a Difference in the Classroom, Making a Difference Outside the Classroom, and the David Symons Unsung Hero Award.

New Central Team Members



Danny - School Improvement Partner



Chloe - People Partner



Roberta - Governance and Compliance Professional



Churchill - Management Accountant

SINGLE TENANCY TRANSITION COMPLETE: A MAJOR MILESTONE FOR OUR TRUST

We're delighted to announce that the transition to Single Tenancy is now fully complete across our trust—marking a significant achievement in our ongoing digital transformation journey.

This milestone represents months of careful planning, collaboration, and dedication, and it brings with it a more secure, streamlined, and consistent IT experience for all staff.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

With Single Tenancy now in place, colleagues across the organisation benefit from:

- Improved security and data protection
- A more stable and reliable user experience
- Simplified access to systems and services
- Better performance and integration across platforms

In short, we now have a more modern, resilient, and efficient digital environment that supports the way we work every day.

Recognising the ICT Team

This achievement wouldn't have been possible without the incredible efforts of our ICT team.

From planning and migration to user support and documentation, their commitment, expertise, and determination have been outstanding throughout. The team has worked tirelessly behind the scenes—and on the front line—to ensure a smooth transition for the entire organisation.

A Stronger Digital Future

The completion of Single Tenancy is not the end—it's a foundation for what comes next. With this platform in place, we are well positioned to continue improving services, introducing new capabilities, and enhancing the overall digital experience.

Thank you to everyone who supported the transition and embraced the change.

Knowledge Base: Your Go-To Support Hub

A key factor in the success of this rollout has been the strength of our Knowledge Base—and it remains your first port of call for support.

Our Knowledge Base provides:

- Clear, step-by-step guidance for everyday tasks
- Practical troubleshooting advice
- Regularly updated content to reflect system improvements
- Quick and easy access whenever you need help

Whether you're onboarding new devices, accessing services, or resolving minor issues, the answers are often just a few clicks away.

We've seen fantastic engagement with our self-help tools, and it's clear they are making a real difference. The self-service approach has proven to be genuinely brilliant:

- Issues can often be resolved within minutes
- Confidence in using systems continues to grow
- Less waiting for support means more time focused on your role
- Our support teams can prioritise more complex needs
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It's a win-win for everyone—and we encourage all staff to keep making the most of these resources.

If you have not already discovered the Esteem Knowledge Base, you can find it here:

<https://esteemmat.sharepoint.com/sites/EsteemICTKnowledgeBase>

Alternatively type 'Esteem' into your search bar and click on the Esteem Knowledge Base app - which is listed in your start menu.

SUSTAINABILITY ROUND UP



The Aspire Academy pupils working with Bransford Court Farm

We have been driving sustainability forwards across our Trust since 2024. Climate Action Plans have been implemented across all of our schools, and at Trust level, and colleagues in schools have facilitated fantastic sustainability activities for their students during this time.



This term, Elmsleigh Infant and Nursery School achieved the Eco-Schools Green Flag Distinction Award. The Green Flag is an internationally recognised award for environmental excellence in schools which shows that a school is not just talking about sustainability, but is actively making real, measurable changes to help the environment. Schools across the world work towards it as a mark of success in eco-friendly action and education. Well done Elmsleigh!



Bracken Hill School have strengthened their ongoing partnership with E.ON this term as students took part in an interactive clean energy session. Matthew who delivered the session shared: “Visiting Bracken Hill School was a fantastic opportunity to bring energy and technology to life for students. It was inspiring to see them embrace the challenge, think creatively and work together to solve real-world problems.”

Michaela Gregory, Careers Lead at Bracken Hill School, said: “It has been fantastic to work with E.ON on this project. The presentation has introduced our students to both a range of jobs in the energy sector and to thinking about more sustainable use of our resources. This direct involvement has really inspired our students, and getting to present their findings to you at the end of the week has kept them focussed and motivated.”

We would like to say a huge thank you to our Sustainability Leads across our academies for remaining committed to sustainable practices and driving forward your Climate Action Plans within your school. Moving forward in 2026-2027, Lisa Carty will be taking over the role of Trust Sustainability Lead from Charlotte Brown as she takes maternity leave for 2026-2027.

Lisa is excited to take on this role and has already made some simple changes to make our Esteem Awards night more sustainable! She will be focussing on Trust-wide alignment on sustainability practices, from estates to governance, and is looking forward to what the next year will bring.





Inspiring Future Educators: NTU SEND Programme Returns to Fountains High

2026 marks the third year that Fountains High School has hosted an afternoon session for the Nottingham Trent University Intensive Training and Practice programme, focusing on the vital role of communication in supporting learners with SEND.

These trainee teachers will now go on to experience placements across a number of our schools, including Bracken Hill, Stanton Vale, Bennerley Fields, Esteem Valley Academy and Fountains High School.



Access to high-quality placements in SEND and Alternative Provision settings is essential in developing the knowledge, understanding, and confidence that future teachers need to support all learners effectively.

Partnerships such as these are an important part of ensuring the next generation of teachers has meaningful opportunities to learn from inclusive practice in action.

Fountains Primary School Kitchen Achieves a 5-Star Food Hygiene Rating

Fountains Primary School's kitchen has been awarded the top 5-star Food Hygiene Rating by the Food Standards Agency. This rating recognises very good food safety standards and reflects the hard work, care, and professionalism of our kitchen team. Executive Headteacher Nicola shared: "A huge well done to our kitchen staff - this achievement shows the pride they take in providing safe, high-quality meals for our children every day!"



Celebrating FASST

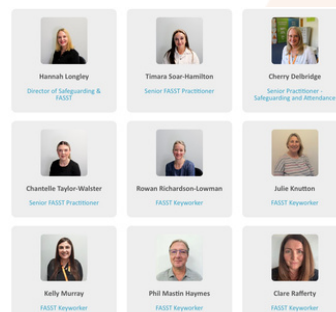
The FASST team continue to work tirelessly alongside students and families across our Trust. Their commitment makes a real difference every day, and we are proud to share some of the feedback we have received from those they support.

"I would like to say Phil has done so well with talking to me. He is very understanding with my problems and even with just chit chat. I really felt listened to and I really appreciated my time with him."

"Mum has been on the Family Thrive course with Timara. She said it was brilliant – it has really helped her to understand the reasons for behaviours in respect of what is happening in the brain."

The team's support in helping families access further assistance has also been life-changing. One parent reflected on Julie's role:

"Julie was a shining light when I needed help (when I didn't even know I needed it). Without her support, I may never have been accepted for a needs assessment, which will truly change my life having the support I need."





Aspire Academy Student Named “Classroom Hero” of STEM on Track

STEM on Track is an innovative education programme that combines Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths with hands-on motorsport experiences. Students work collaboratively to design, build, and race go-karts, applying their classroom knowledge in a practical and exciting environment. Students at The Aspire Academy have been taking part in this initiative and excelling!

One student has been named “Classroom Hero” since taking the lead in February, stepping into the roles of Team Manager and Lead Driver and becoming the driving force behind his team’s success.

This student has worked closely with Matt from MJ Logan Motor Services, using this partnership to deepen his understanding of engineering. By linking his Level 1 Motor Vehicle studies directly to the project, he has successfully bridged the gap between classroom learning and real-world application.

This journey shows how vocational study can come alive when paired with practical experience. His ability to think critically, solve problems, and apply mechanical principles under pressure has helped elevate the entire team. With the finals fast approaching, the team is now focussed on surpassing last year’s performance.



Bennerley Fields Enterprise Event a Huge Success

Bennerley Fields School was buzzing with excitement this term as pupils proudly showcased their achievements during the annual Enterprise Event – the culmination of a 12-week enterprise programme designed to develop confidence, communication, teamwork and employability skills.

The event highlighted the incredible progress pupils have made throughout the project, with each class creating and running their own enterprise initiatives. From designing products and managing budgets to marketing and customer interaction, pupils took ownership of every stage of the process.

The day began with a peer-to-peer assembly where pupils shared their experiences and reflected on the skills they had developed throughout the programme. It was wonderful to see the confidence and pride shining through as they spoke about their learning journeys.



One of the highlights of the afternoon was hearing pupils confidently explain their products, discuss their enterprise ideas and share what they had learned from the experience. Their communication skills, teamwork and resilience were evident throughout the event.

The feedback from visitors was overwhelmingly positive, with many commenting on the professionalism of the stalls, the welcoming atmosphere and the outstanding confidence shown by pupils. At several points during the event, stalls were so popular that visitors queued to speak with pupils and purchase items.

The Enterprise Event was a wonderful celebration of pupil achievement and a reflection of the dedication and creativity of both pupils and staff. We are incredibly proud of everyone involved and look forward to seeing continued success in the future.



MEET BENNO: EVA'S THERAPY LIZARD

Benno, Esteem Valley Academy's much-loved Rankin's dragon, has become a key part of emotional wellbeing support at their school. Affectionately known by students and staff as the school's "therapy lizard," Benno provides a calm, reassuring presence that helps pupils feel safe, settled, and ready to learn.

Benno is regularly used to support students who may experience anxiety, emotional dysregulation, or difficulty engaging with lessons. His calm temperament allows pupils to interact with him in a quiet, structured way, helping to reduce stress and promote emotional regulation.



Stanton Vale Students Showcase Their Creativity at the Esteem HUB

We were delighted to welcome pupils from Stanton Vale School to the Esteem HUB to present the fantastic artwork they had created for our new office.

During their visit, the students enjoyed exploring the workplace and taking part in a fun scavenger hunt, searching for hidden bubbles throughout the office. The visit also gave them an opportunity to see what a working office environment is like and learn more about the different roles within the organisation.

To thank the pupils for sharing their artwork with us, each student received a certificate recognising their contribution and congratulating them on their visit.

Elmsleigh Shines at Dance in the Forest

This term, Elmsleigh Infant and Nursery School took part in Dance in the Forest in Rosliston - a district-wide showcase featuring performances from local primary schools and community dance groups. Every child who took part showed enthusiasm, energy and confidence, representing their school community brilliantly

"We are so proud of each and every one of them. A huge thank you to all the children - you were all incredible! "

Jodie Bailey, Head of School





Bracken Hill School Attend Believe, Move, Achieve SEND Sports Festival

Newstead Class from Bracken Hill School had an amazing day out this May at the Believe, Move, Achieve SEND Sports Festival held at Nottingham University, enjoying a full day of inspiring and energetic sporting activities.

The day kicked off with Sitting Volleyball, where pupils jumped straight in, showing brilliant teamwork, enthusiasm and determination. Lots of encouragement and laughter filled the sports hall as everyone gave it their best!



Next, pupils were treated to a truly special experience with a talk from Paralympic silver medallist Mel Clarke, followed by an archery session led by Mel herself. She shared her inspirational journey to becoming a Paralympic athlete, and pupils were thrilled to hold her silver medal and even the Paralympic torch!

After this, it was time for Climbing, and Newstead Class showed incredible bravery and resilience. With coaching from the Nottingham University students, pupils learned how to belay for one another, supporting their friends and building confidence as they challenged themselves on the climbing wall.

The day finished with Boccia, where pupils showed off their fantastic skills. Having taken part in a Boccia tournament at Harvey Haddon Sports Village the week before, Newstead pupils proved they are now complete Boccia pros!

Throughout the day, pupils demonstrated excellent confidence, determination and a willingness to try new challenges. Many pushed themselves outside their comfort zones, showed growing independence and took great pride in their achievements. We are so proud of how they embraced every challenge with confidence and enthusiasm.

Fountains Primary School Recognised for Relational Excellence

This term, Fountains Primary School received the Staffordshire Virtual School Relational Pathway Bronze Award. This recognition reflects their strong commitment to relational and restorative practice which ensures every child feels safe, valued and heard. By sharing best practice across our school and Trust, and investing in ongoing training, Fountains Primary continue to develop their approach and support others beyond their own community.

A special thank you to Mrs Millman-Jones (East Staffs SEDIS Lead) and Mrs Betteridge (Senior Thrive Practitioner at Fountains Primary) for collecting the award and celebrating this achievement on behalf of the school community.



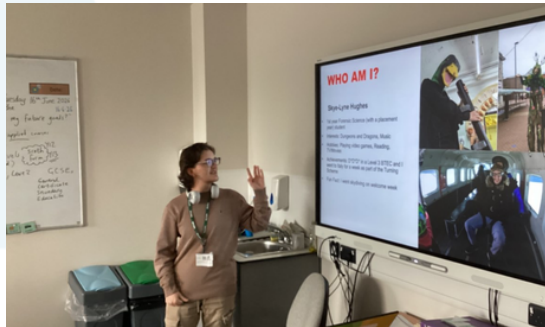


Mud to Magic: staff at Peak School complete fundraising initiative

Staff, parents, children and members of the Peak School community have raised £2500 to support projects that take learning beyond the classroom!

Their Mud to Magic events included 17 members of staff taking on the gruelling (and very muddy) 10k Born Survivor Challenge at Capesthorpe Hall in Cheshire, supported by many more Peak staff who came along to cheer them on throughout the day. The team's t-shirts were specially designed by a pupil at Peak.

Peak School advocates for an enhanced co-curricular programme that provides valuable opportunities for young people to develop communication skills, broaden their horizons, and gain a greater understanding of the world around them. Together with a contribution from Eric Wright they are heading towards a fundraising total of £5000 to support the implementation of this in school. Congratulations to all involved in the Mud to Magic fundraiser and thank you to those who have donated!



St Clare's School Alumni Shares Journey to University!

Ex St Clare's student Skye-Lynn shared her experience of overcoming challenges linked to her additional needs and explained how she actively sought support and guidance to help her successfully complete her post-16 course.

She is now studying Forensic Science at Staffordshire University and spoke with clear confidence when addressing the group. The group discussed the importance of setting goals and identifying the steps needed to achieve them. Year 10 and 11 students then reflected on their own aspirations, considering both their future studies and possible career paths.

St Clare's regularly encourages former students to return and share their post-16 experiences with current learners, helping to show that every child's journey is different and that success can look different for everyone.

Congratulations to Skye and St Clare's on this fantastic achievement.