

TrustedED

Connecting communities across the ACET Trust

Parent Newsletter March 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of a busy and productive term, I would like to take a moment to thank you for your continued support of our academies and the wider Trust. Your partnership plays a vital role as we strive to achieve the very best opportunities for our children and young people.

This term has once again reflected the strength of our shared values. Across our Trust, we have seen clear improvements in pupil/student attendance, particularly in our secondary academies. These improvements are the result of a strong, collective focus between staff, pupils, and families, and we are pleased that this progress has led to ACET being successfully 'off-ramped' from the Department for Education's Attendance Support Programme. Alongside this, we remain committed to ensuring that every child, regardless of their background or circumstances, is supported to succeed and thrive.

I would like to share an important update regarding Swinton Academy. Following careful and thorough consideration, the Trust has taken the difficult decision to close Post-16 provision at the academy from September 2026. We fully recognise the impact this will have on students, families, and colleagues, and this has not been an easy decision. However, the provision has become financially unviable, and it is no longer possible to sustain the level of funding

required without affecting the quality of education for students in Key Stages 3 and 4. Our priority must remain the long-term stability of the academy and ensuring the best possible education and outcomes for all students. This decision has been approved by the Department for Education, and we will continue to support all those affected through this transition.

Looking ahead, there is also very positive news for Swinton Academy. We are eagerly anticipating the next stage of the School Rebuilding Programme, with the feasibility phase due to begin shortly. This marks the start of an exciting journey, and we look forward to working closely with the Principal, Chela Wilson, to help shape the vision and design of a new school building that will serve the community for generations to come. This represents a significant and long-awaited opportunity, and we are hopeful that it will bring lasting benefits for students, families, and the wider community.

As we approach the Easter break, I hope that you and your families are able to enjoy some well-earned rest and time together. We look forward to welcoming pupils/students back for the summer term, ready to continue building on the progress we have made together.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Scutt
CEO



Long Standing **Service Leaders**

A huge thank you and a fond farewell



Sandra Guymer

ACET Finance Manager

As Sandra retires, we would like to recognise and celebrate the exceptional contribution she has made over many years in her roles across ACET.

Sandra joined Aston Academy in 2004 as a classroom assistant, supporting pupils in English. It quickly became clear that her skills, dedication, and quiet determination extended far beyond the classroom, and she soon moved into finance as a Finance Assistant. In 2007, she was promoted to Finance Manager, a role she has committed her career to ever since.

Outside of work, Sandra loves spending weekends with family, especially enjoying trips to places like York and Skipton, and she is very much looking forward to an exciting new chapter as she becomes a grandparent later this year.

Sandra leaves with our heartfelt thanks and very best wishes. She will be greatly missed, and we wish her every happiness in her well-earned retirement.



Cheryl Barquero

ACET Strategic Director SEND and Inclusion

I would like to acknowledge and celebrate the extensive contribution of Cheryl Barquero, Strategic Director for SEND and Inclusion, whose service to Aston Community Education Trust spans 20 years. Over two decades Cheryl has demonstrated professionalism and an unwavering commitment to making a difference for our most vulnerable learners across the trust.

Cheryl began her journey at Aston in 2006 as a non-teaching SENDCo and through her wide range of roles has always put the interest of the students at the heart of all her work and achievements. Many staff within the trust across all phases have benefited from Cheryl's support and informed SEND and Safeguarding advice.

Cheryl will be missed on so many levels, and I am proud to continue the invaluable work she began on improving the provision for our SEND students. On behalf of the staff and students within our ACET family, I wish her every success in her next steps on her journey and ask one thing. Enjoy your different pace of life, most especially your grandchildren and please don't be a stranger.



Secondary Showcase

GOLD



Resilience is 'Golden' at Shirebrook Academy

Shirebrook Academy recently achieved the 'Gold' standard Pupil Resilience Award for the work that we are doing within school and the wider community to improve resilience skills with our young people.

Shirebrook Academy have been working towards achieving this award for the last eighteen months. The journey started with the production of an Intent plan outlining areas of strength and areas of development linked to all aspects of Pupil Resilience.

Student voice was incredibly influential in helping us to achieve the award as a wide range of students across all year groups were able to explain the importance of resilience in their learning, extra-curricular opportunities in school, support for mental health, reading and career experiences.

We are very proud to have achieved this award and would like to thank all our staff, students, parents and external partner for your efforts, determination and enthusiasm in supporting our application.



Congratulations to Cheryl Dunphy!

We are delighted to congratulate Mrs Cheryl Dunphy on her recent appointment as Associate Inclusion Lead at Shirebrook Academy.

Since joining the academy in September, Cheryl has made a positive and meaningful impact through her work with students, demonstrating a strong commitment to supporting inclusion and student wellbeing. Her dedication, professionalism, and ability to build strong relationships have already been evident, and we are pleased to see these qualities recognised through her appointment to this important role within our Inclusion Faculty.

We are confident that Cheryl will continue to make a significant contribution in her new position and further strengthen the support we provide to our students.

Being part of the Bolsover District Youth Council has helped me build my resilience by giving me the confidence to communicate with others as, personally, I struggle communicating with others and the confidence to do so. It also helped me with teamwork doing activities and relying on others to help complete a task. These allow me progress with social skills inside and outside of school with personal skills I want to develop.

Beatrix Fisher Y8



World Book Day week extravaganza- Shirebrook Academy has a 'Hunger' for Reading

Developing a love of reading in our students is a key part of our Reading strategy. Over the past few years, we have worked hard to develop a passion for reading in our students and our staff and World Book Day week is now a key event in our school calendar.

In March, we celebrated the importance of reading through our highly successful World Book Week which focused on the Hunger Games series of books.

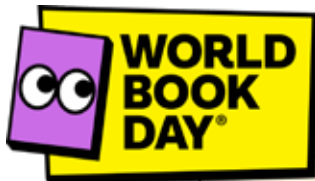
Students read extracts from the Hunger Games books in Reading lessons, created Tutor group banners, participated in quizzes, competitions, and events and the entire school transformed into the Hunger Games Arena.

The week culminated in World Book Day quizzes and staff dressed up as characters from the books to help to further inspire students and to develop a fun atmosphere across school.

The Humanities faculty won Staff Dress up with the Inclusion Team and Leadership Teams in Second and Third place respectively.

At break time, Mrs Burgin as 'Effie Trinket' addressed the students to open the day of celebration which created a real buzz and team spirit. In the afternoon, a group of Year 8-10 students, were involved in a Q&A session with the author of the 'The Bletchley Riddle' which the students thoroughly enjoyed.

Overall, the week was an excellent success and part of our wider commitment to developing a love of reading in our students linked to the wider National Year of Reading campaign.



Quote from a Year 9 student: 'World Book Day week was actually really fun this year. I liked how everything was based on The Hunger Games, it made all the activities feel connected.'

Quote from Year 7 student: 'My favourite part was building the arena in art. It was fun being creative and seeing all the different ideas people came up with.'

Quote from staff: 'The level of student engagement was excellent. Even those who are usually more reluctant readers were keen to take part. The form time banner competition created a real sense of community and healthy competition between groups.'

Quote from staff: 'World Book Day week was a fantastic opportunity to bring reading to life across the whole school. The Hunger Games theme really captured students' imaginations. It was great to see such strong cross-curricular links, from creative arena building in Art to problem-solving in Maths and character development in English.'

Goodbye and Good Luck

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye and good luck to four colleagues who are leaving us to begin new and exciting chapters in their careers. During their time at the academy, each of them has made a significant contribution to our school community and provided invaluable support to our students. Their dedication, commitment, and positive impact will not be forgotten.

In particular, Miss Elmer has served the academy for seven years in a variety of roles across both the Mathematics Faculty and Pastoral Teams. Her long-standing commitment and the difference she has made to so many students and colleagues is appreciated.

We would like to thank them all for their valued contributions to the academy and wish them every success and happiness in their future endeavours.





EXAM

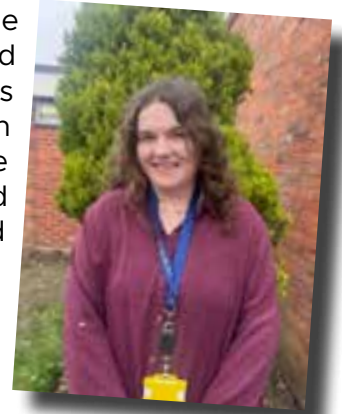
Exams – Laura Jarvis

A special mention to Laura, who has made a fantastic start this term in her role as Exams Manager at Aston Academy. Laura has quickly shown herself to be highly organised and very capable, taking real ownership of her work from the outset.

Her knowledge of exam processes and proactive work with staff across the school have ensured that everything is being put in place ahead of the upcoming exam periods. Staff across the academy have quickly come to value Laura’s support and professionalism, and there is already a strong sense of trust in the work she is doing.

Laura has approached the role with confidence and independence, and it is clear she takes real pride in ensuring examinations are organised and delivered smoothly for both staff and students.

A brilliant start and a very positive addition to the Aston team. We are incredibly lucky to have her.



Attendance Team –

Lynn Jeffries, Sulena Ellinger, Barrie Wheatcroft and Alice Birch

A huge well done to our Attendance Team for the work they do every day to support students and families. Their persistence and care have played a key role in Aston Academy maintaining attendance above the national average, something we are incredibly proud of as a school community.

Barrie plays a key role in the team through his persistence with home visits, often working closely with some of our more hard to reach families. His strong safeguarding focus and determination to support students back into school makes a real difference.

Sulena plays an important role managing both attendance and safeguarding processes, ensuring that concerns are identified early and that the right support is put in place for students and families, ensuring all stakeholders have faith and trust at Aston Academy.

Lynn brings a deep and detailed understanding of our students and their individual contexts. Her forensic knowledge of attendance patterns and the wider factors affecting young people allows the team to respond thoughtfully and effectively to the challenges students face.

Alice has also provided fantastic support to the attendance work while continuing to support the Principal in her role as PA. Her knowledge, organisation and willingness to support wherever needed have been greatly appreciated. Alice makes a huge difference to the smooth running of systems within the academy on a daily basis.

Together, the team demonstrate real pride in their work and a strong commitment to ensuring every student is supported to attend, feel safe and succeed at Aston Academy.

Drama - Steve Taylor

Steve has been running a fantastic after-school games club, every Friday after school in our Post 16 Common Room. This is incredibly well attended, with students from Y7 all the way through to Y13 having a chance to play board games. The club is extra special because it brings together a group of students who would not normally have an opportunity to mix. A number of the

students may find busy schools challenging or making friendships difficult, but the club has provided a place for the students to build their confidence, friendship groups, and a sense of belonging. Thank you, Steve!



Physical Education

A huge well done and congratulations to our fantastic PE faculty! Aston Academy continues to celebrate an exceptional term of sporting success and achievement across all year groups. For example, our Y9 Football boys have been proudly crowned Plate Winners for Rotherham Schools—a fantastic accomplishment for everyone involved. The Y7 and Y8 Netball teams have also excelled, securing their place in the Rotherham Schools Netball Finals Day at Wickersley.

Huge congratulations also go to all students who have successfully completed their Sports Leaders qualifications, with Level 2 and Level 3 achievements awarded to 22 students. We are incredibly proud of their dedication and leadership. Our Y11 GCSE PE students delivered outstanding performances during their practical examination moderation on 16th March, showcasing their skill, resilience and commitment to excellence.

We now look ahead with excitement to our upcoming Aston Showcase, where students and staff are working exceptionally hard to prepare dance, cheer, gymnastics, music and drama performances for the event, which will take place over two evenings. Well, done to all—your achievements continue to embody the importance we place on opportunity, belonging and team at Aston Academy.



Maths – Ms Amy Slack

Amy Slack has given us all something to celebrate after completing the Sheffield 10K with an incredible personal best time of 1 hour and 6 minutes. It's a fantastic achievement and a testament to the dedication and effort she put into preparing for the race. Everyone at Aston Academy is immensely proud of what she has accomplished.

What makes Amy's run even more impressive is the determination she showed in the lead-up to the event. Battling cold and flu-like symptoms just days before the race, she could easily have stepped back. Instead, she showed real resilience, grit and focus to make it to the start line and push through to the finish.

Crossing that line with a personal best was an outstanding result and a reflection of Amy's hard

Maths Live Conference - Paris, March 2026

Aston Academy maths faculty took fifty Y10 students to mathlive at Disneyland Paris at the beginning of March. They travelled down overnight by coach and arrived on Sunday March 1st for a full fun day in the parks. The students (and staff) thoroughly enjoyed the rides, the parade, and their burgers and slept very well at the hotel Cheyenne that night.

The second full day was the conference in the morning, where the guest speakers included Dr Matt Pritchard and Professor Nira Chamberlain. The students listened to their stories and how maths had supported them in their careers and in developing ideas. The afternoon was spent in the parks, again, where the students completed a work booklet (which did mean more rides to answer some of the questions) and to end the trip the fantastic firework and light parade at the castle.



Students have raved about their trip and were impressed with the conference highlighting how maths is used in everything we do. Parents have thanked the Academy

for taking their child on such a well-informed trip. Members of the public and the coach driver complimented us on the excellent behaviours, responsibility, and engagement of our students throughout the trip. A huge thank you and well done to trip leader Louise Rhodes and staff Rachel Cadman, Tracey Ellis, Giorgio Rubbo and Joe Raisborough.

work and commitment. It's inspiring to see someone set a goal, face challenges along the way, and still achieve something special.

To make the achievement even more meaningful, all the money raised from Amy's run was donated to Sheffield Children's Hospital, a cause close to the heart of Aston Academy. Not only has she made us proud with her performance, but she has also made a real difference for a fantastic cause.

Congratulations Amy, A brilliant effort all around!





World Book Day is celebrated at Swinton Academy! The students below named the theme of each faculty's fancy dress, identified the Masked Readers and worked out the name of the five books and authors from their extracts. There were hundreds of entries from across the year groups.

Y7 students studied sonnets and many of them entered a competition to write their own.



Staff and students joined in the dress up fun.

National Literacy Quiz

Some of our KS3 students participated in the regional heat of the National Literacy Trust's Reading Champions Quiz. They showed great knowledge and a passion for reading!



Etihad Stadium Trip

Some of our Y9 students went on a visit to the Etihad Stadium, Manchester City. Thank you to our PE staff.



Swinton
ACADEMY

Library Donation

Members of our Student Leadership Team met with local councilors to receive a massive £9000 donation towards our school library. Well done to Helen Moran!



Young Readers

We are delighted that some of our Y7 students visited our feeder primary schools to listen to young readers. Thank you to Louisa Longstaff.



Primary Showcase

Charity Fundraising

A huge thank you goes to **Emily Bates** for her organisation, creativity, and leadership throughout some amazing fundraising work Listerdale have taken part in this term.

We have been proud to support charities close to our hearts. This term, we raised **£353.43** for **Emeesy and the Children's Heart Surgery Fund**, two charities that work tirelessly to support children and families living with specific



medical conditions. Pupils came to school wearing red and blue and spent time learning about the important work these charities do.

In addition, we have raised an amazing **£2,216** for the **Sheffield Children's Hospital Charity** through the Pride of Yorkshire campaign. Children arrived in their disco clothes ready for a whole-school Dance-a-thon, with music and dancing taking place all day—an event filled with energy, smiles, and community spirit.

As part of the Pride of Yorkshire project, our school lion cub design—created using a range of artwork entries from across Listerdale—has now been painted onto the cub and we all cannot wait to see the finished product.

A shout out also goes to Donna Lee, who has supported with this creativity!



Congratulations

A huge congratulations to Cathryn Walker, who took on the Wickersley 10km in March and completed the race in fantastic style. Not only did Cathryn rise to the challenge of the run itself, but she also used the opportunity to support a great cause. Through her efforts, she raised **£220** for Roundabout, a local youth housing charity that provides vital support to young people facing homelessness. It's a brilliant achievement and a great example of the positive impact our team can have beyond the workplace. Well done, Cathryn and thank you for supporting such an important local cause!



Charity Fundraiser

Just before Christmas, Thurcroft Junior Academy organised a festive Reindeer Run to raise money for the Rotherham Hospice. Despite the cold, children sprinted around the school yard for 15 minutes each, giving Clifford, the hospice's dog mascot, a high five as they passed.

The whole school came together to raise an incredible **£2,265.85!** This fantastic total is a testament to the generosity of our school community and the spirit of giving that makes Thurcroft Junior Academy so special. Well done to all the children for their energy, enthusiasm, and support for such a worthy cause!



Comic Relief

Thurcroft Junior Academy showed fantastic support for Radio 1 presenter Greg James as he took on one of his most gruelling—and wonderfully absurd—challenges yet: cycling an incredible 1,000 kilometres across the UK in just 8 demanding days... on a tandem bike.

The challenge was undertaken in aid of Comic Relief, raising vital funds to support people facing difficult circumstances across the UK and beyond. The enthusiasm and encouragement from the school community were truly uplifting, helping to spur Greg on every mile of the journey.

Everyone at Thurcroft Junior Academy was proud to play a part in such a meaningful and memorable challenge and celebrated Greg's achievement.



Eco-Warriors

Thurcroft Junior Academy's wonderful Eco-Warriors have been out and about litter picking around Thurcroft Village, joining forces with Joe from Love Where You Live and Diane and Steph from the Parish Council.

Their hard work and dedication help keep our community clean and green, showing that even small actions can make a big difference. Well done to all our Eco-Warriors for making Thurcroft a tidier and happier place to live!



A Royal Visit

In January, our Year 5 pupils had the exciting opportunity to visit Skills Street as part of the official launch event which was attended by The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh. It was an incredible, special experience that the children will never forget.

Skills Street is an innovative education centre that has been developed by James Beighton, our chair of Governors, to support young people to explore different careers and develop essential life skills through interactive, practical activities. The aim of the venture is to raise aspirations, build confidence and show how classroom learning connects to opportunities as an adult in the world of work.

During our visit, the pupils took part in activities in the construction and drama zones. They worked collaboratively across the different areas, including using the interactive sand pit and planning and building their own wall as a team in the construction zone. In the drama area, they demonstrated their creativity by developing production skills through role play and creating their own short play, complete with props. We were incredibly proud of how engaged, polite and confident the children were throughout.

They were delighted to have the chance to speak to The Duke and Duchess, who showed genuine interest in their learning and even joined in with activities during our sessions. The event was featured in the local paper and on ITV News which was a wonderful moment of pride for our school.





A huge THANK YOU to everyone who took part in our very first Y4 Strictly Come Dancing competition.

What an afternoon! There were Y7, Y10 and primary dance routines, followed by a mini disco and then we had our winners perform again to celebrate! Well done Brookfield!



The performances were amazing, and it was clear how much time and effort had gone into preparing each routine – the bar was definitely set high. Many thanks and praise must also go to the members of staff that were involved.

Thanks again to everyone involved for all your support in making it such a great event.

Keep dancing!

Sport England - The Movement Fund

We are absolutely delighted to share that **ACTIVE ALL STARS** has been successfully awarded £15,000 from Sport England's Movement Fund! This funding will enable us to deliver a 39-week community sports programme based at Brookfield Junior Academy, in partnership with Positive Impact Sports. The project will provide inclusive after-school, evening and weekend activities including Multi-Sport, Family Boxing & Fitness, Youth Boxing and

Girls-Only Football, supporting over 300 local children, young people and families. Shaped entirely by community voice, ACTIVE ALL STARS responds directly to the needs of Swinton families by offering safe, walk-to, affordable opportunities to be active – helping to tackle health inequalities, build confidence and strengthen community connections. We are incredibly proud to be investing in the long-term health and wellbeing of our community.

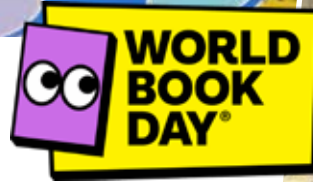




World Book Day

We have had an amazing day full of reading fun, games and activities. The pupils were very excited to show off their costumes, and we were blown away by the effort our parents and carers made to support them.

The Waverley team were as dedicated as they always are and went above and beyond to join in dressing up (which the children loved) and planning exciting ways to develop a love of reading.



Bunny Hop

At Waverley Primary Academy we were very proud to support Weston Park Cancer Charity's Bunny Hop. Our EYFS pupils had a great time taking part in the sponsored hop wearing their ears and tails and collecting carrots in their baskets.

Cara Murphy from the charity came to visit and held a special assembly for our youngest children. She spoke to them about and how the money they raise will make a big difference.

They raised an incredible £1031.

Thank you to Charlotte Booth our EYFS Lead for organising the event and to our caretaker Mr. Cullen who surprised the children by dressing up as the Easter bunny.



Cash Academy

Our Y6 pupils had a brilliant day when Cash Academy came to visit.

The school hall was transformed into a town for the children to take part in interactive and role-play-based activities. The pupils looked at real-life scenarios involving money, jobs, tax, budgeting and decision-making and we were very proud of the insightful and interesting questions they asked

The sessions were delivered in an age-appropriate and engaging way and linked perfectly to the Y6 maths curriculum. The morning was a huge success with the children developing key life skills, using and applying their maths learning and most importantly having fun.



Pride of Yorkshire

We are very excited to be taking part in The Sheffield Children's Hospital Charity's Pride of Yorkshire campaign and our cub @From Waverley with Pride' is almost finished.

Our vibrant lion cub sculpture celebrates everything we love about Yorkshire. Designed collaboratively by our school council using ideas from all our pupils, each section showcases a different aspect of our proud county – from iconic sports teams such as the Sheffield Steelers and mouth-watering local food like Yorkshire puddings to beloved attractions and landmarks including The Yorkshire Wildlife park. Featuring our school logo and bursting with bright, colourful detail, this creative masterpiece reflects our pupils' passion for their Yorkshire heritage and showcases their artistic skills.

Thank you to Natsha Froggatt for supporting our school council through the design process and to Joanne Mayfield for helping them with the decoration.



New York Stadium Tour

Mrs. Bolton had the pleasure of taking our Y5/6 girls football team to the New York Stadium in February.

After being crowned Rotherham champions in the Premier League Primary Stars Cup in November they were invited for a tour and to collect a fantastic away kit to wear for the regional finals in Chesterfield.

Thank you to Rory Coleman and Davis Sills for always arranging sporting events for our pupils to compete in and enjoy.





World Book Day

We had a fabulous World Book Day at Temple Normanton Primary Academy with our special bedtime story theme! It was wonderful to see staff and children arriving in their cosy pyjamas or dressed as their favourite book characters – the creativity was amazing! Each class worked hard to create products linked to their World Book Day class text, which they proudly sold at our farmers market. The afternoon was a huge success, and we're delighted to announce that we raised an impressive **£280!** It was lovely to see so many families spending time together in the sunshine, browsing the stalls and celebrating our love of reading. Thank you to all the staff who helped to make this such a special day!



Gardening

Our children are working hard together to build a school allotment where we can begin to grow our own vegetables and promote wildlife within the school grounds. This hands-on project is helping our pupils develop important skills while learning about where food comes from and how to care for the environment. We're looking forward to holding a farmers' market later in the year to sell our produce and raise money for the school.



Attendance Improvement

A huge congratulations to Skye Nuttall, our Education Welfare Officer, for doing an amazing job supporting attendance across both Temple Normanton and Langwith Bassett. Thanks to Skye's dedication and hard work, we've seen massive improvements in attendance at both schools, and the attendance gap has significantly reduced. Well done Skye!!





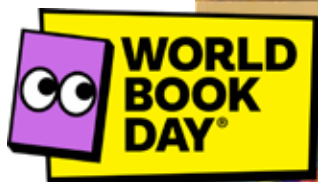
Love and Kindness Day – 13th February

We celebrated Love and Kindness Day on 13th February, and it was wonderful to see the school filled with red and pink! Children embraced the spirit of the day by wearing something in these colours, and there was great excitement as they had the opportunity to purchase a Wonka chocolate bar with hidden golden tickets inside. Thank you to everyone who participated in making this such a special day.



World Book Day

World Book Day was a huge success and enjoyed by all! Children loved wearing their PJs for our bedtime story theme, and the day was filled with a love of reading and storytelling. In the afternoon, we held a farmers market selling products made through inspiration from our class texts. It was great to see so many families supporting this event. A special thank you to all our staff for their hard work in making World Book Day such a special occasion.



Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

We were delighted to celebrate Mother's Day with a special afternoon tea. It was a very special afternoon and lovely to see so many families enjoying this time together. A huge thank you to our PTA for helping to organise this wonderful event.



Rocksteady Concert

Monday 2nd March – Children, who have been having lessons with Rocksteady, put on a concert for the whole school and their parents. The concert was amazing and the children were fantastic. Children have learnt to play a guitar, keyboard, drums and sing and continue to rock their lessons every Monday!



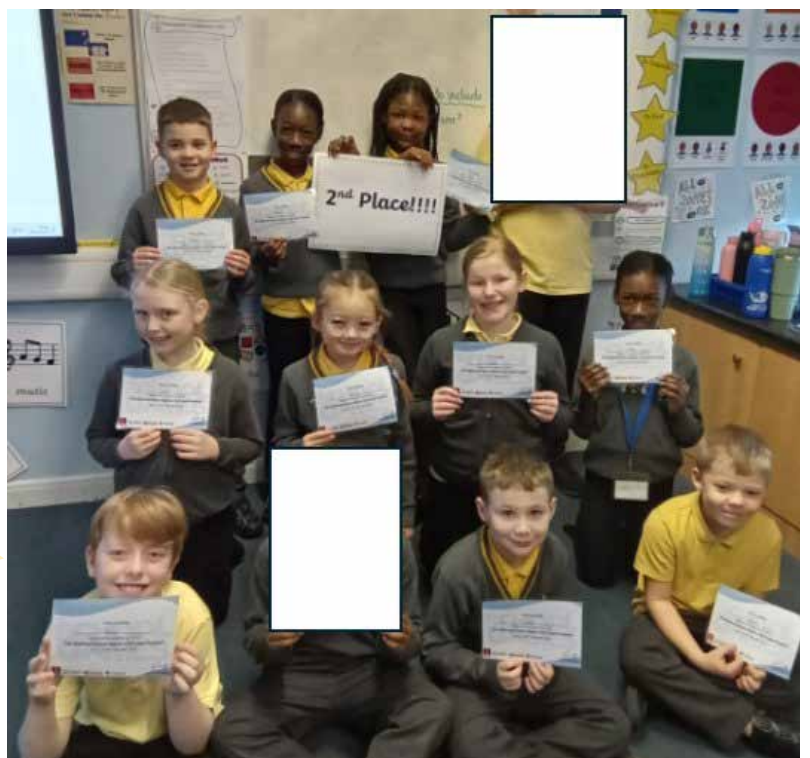
Year 4 Swimming Competition

Wednesday 25th February, some of our Y4 children took part in a swimming competition against several other Sheffield schools. They had an amazing opportunity to compete in an Olympic-sized swimming pool at Ponds Forge.

They came 2nd place!

We are so proud of them all. They represented Lowedges brilliantly, demonstrating outstanding behaviour and fantastic talent throughout the event!

Way to go Y4!



Pride of Yorkshire

Our Pupil Parliament decided this year that we would raise money for the Sheffield Children's Hospital Charity by joining the 'Pride of Yorkshire'.

As the cub was due to arrive, the Pupil Parliament organised and judged a competition to find a design for the cub.

The winning design chosen, reflected the academy colours, with the addition of our new logo.

The Pupil Parliament, along with

the child whose design won, helped to paint the cub with Mrs Frost

The cub looks amazing and the children can't wait to go out into Sheffield to find it and have their picture taken with it.

In order to have the cub, the Pupil Parliament have set each class a challenge – to try and raise as much money as possible!

We have seen lots of different fundraising events happening – sponsored walks and dancing, photographs with our chicks, guess how many sweets are in the jar and name the lion cub,

aeroplane competitions, penalty shoot outs and lots more. We cannot believe how much money the children have raised so far... with still lots more events to take place. There has been a real buzz in the academy and a little competition amongst the staff too on whose class will raise the most money!



Eco-Warriors

The Eco-warriors this half-term have been working with the S17 Swift Action Group to learn all about swifts and work with the group to add a Swift box onto our school grounds to hopefully create a home for swifts.





Springwood After School Childcare Club

At Springwood, our After School Childcare Club has gone from strength to strength this year with the strong leadership of Amy Wells. Through Amy's effective planning, organisation and creativity, plus the hard-work and enthusiasm of Tracy Hall, our pupils are eager to attend and not eager to leave with parents having to 'wait in the car' as pupils are having far too much fun.

Parent voice is now extremely positive with parents explaining that,



"It is a life-saver."

"Since Miss Wells has started, the quality and range of the activities have been wonderful!"

"My children love attending and that makes it much easier for me to work; they like to attend even when they don't have to."

A huge thank you and well done to Amy Wells and Tracey Hall on their commitment to ensuring Springwood's provision is the very best it can be!

Eco-Committee Success and Ambition

A huge well done to our Eco-Committee, and June Gude as lead, for their hard work to increase the biodiversity of the school grounds. Through their work with Kids Plant Trees, they have managed to increase the number of trees in the school grounds, added raised beds across school, made bug houses to encourage insects into the school grounds to support biodiversity, developed the allotment.

This year, the Eco-committee are taking part in the Nature Park Well-being Survey which consists of carrying-out a range of nature-based activities over a six week period with entry and exit surveys to measure impact. These activities have been completed by pupils across KS2 plus the Eco-committee, including recording wildlife on our school site (plus uploading photos on to the iNaturalist app), considering the points of view of an insect/animal and what would make an area better for them, exploring wildlife corridors and recycling planters.

The Eco-committee have also successfully received £2000 fundraising to support the development of a Learning Garden within the school grounds.



School Council showcasing Pupil Leadership

A huge thank you and well done to our School Council, led by Abbie Smith. This year, they have worked hard to gather pupil and parent voice to choose a local Charity of the Year (Rotherham Hospice). They have planned, organised and led a charity day to raise funds for Rotherham Hospice and for our school to enhance pupils' experiences at school. This involved a swap shop where pupils could donate a toy and then use their golden ticket to select a new one, a bake sale and a non-uniform day. **This was a great success and raised a huge £340.** They are already planning the next one!

In addition, they have planned, organised and led an Easter Bonnet competition and an Easter Parade for parents. A huge thank you to all of our families who got involved, we had the largest number of Easter entries this year with the largest turn out of parents, carers and grandparents for our parade. Even in the heavy winds!



ACET College - Celebrating Leadership Excellence

Congratulations to all colleagues who have completed the ACET Middle Leader and Senior Leader Excellence Programmes.

Across the programmes, colleagues engaged in a blend of face-to-face sessions, online seminars, mentoring, and independent research. They explored evidence-informed themes such as effective leadership behaviours, strategic decision-making, implementation, curriculum and data, behaviour and safeguarding, and working with stakeholders.

The termly face-to-face sessions were a particular highlight, offering valuable opportunities for cross-trust collaboration, honest professional dialogue, and shared problem-solving.

Each participant designed and delivered a small-scale implementation project linked to an academy priority. Projects ranged from strengthening attendance systems to introducing oracy approaches. These projects demonstrated colleagues' ability to apply research, lead teams, and measure impact over time.

The programmes concluded with a formal viva in which participants reflected on their leadership development and the outcomes of their project. The standard was exceptionally high, showcasing thoughtful evaluation, evidence-led thinking, and growing confidence as leaders.

We want to acknowledge not only the achievement of completing the programme, but also the personal commitment it represents. These rigorous 18-month, research-informed programmes demand sustained focus, and balancing them alongside the day-to-day pressures of school life is a significant undertaking. Colleagues demonstrated determination, resilience, and a clear commitment to improving their practice and contributing positively to their academies.

A massive thank you to those colleagues who supported the programmes by running a session or being a mentor.

We are currently reviewing our ACET Staff College offer and will be publicising details of future developing excellence and leadership opportunities in the near future.

Middle Leader Excellence Programme



From left to right: Josh Balcombe (Aston), Natasha Froggatt (Waverley), Claire Markie (Lowedges), Rebecca Bamber (Aston), Giorgio Rubo (Aston), Rachel Brass (Aston).

Senior Leader Excellence Programme



From left to right: Rosie Aspinall (Swinton), Claire Gambles (Shirebrook), Linzi Vaughan (Swinton), Alicia Spiewak (Aston).



National Professional Qualification Accreditations

We are thrilled to celebrate our staff who have successfully completed National Professional Qualifications in leadership. This achievement reflects their commitment to lifelong learning and their dedication to being true ambassadors of the ACET values. Through this development, they continue to strive for excellence, promote equity, and foster empowerment in everything they do. By enhancing their leadership skills, they are making a tangible difference in the lives of children and achieving significance in the workplace—shaping a positive, lasting impact on their academy community.

Thank you for the personal time you have invested in completing these qualifications – not an easy task while remaining fully committed to your day-job! Well done to each of you – we are extremely proud of you!



Congratulations to **Julie Wilcox**, Y2 teacher at **Brookfield Primary Academy**. Julie is pictured with her certificate after she successfully completed the NPQ in Leading Teaching earlier this year. We are very proud of the effort and commitment displayed

while working towards this in her own time.



Congratulations to **Claire Markie, at Lowedges**. Claire has successfully completed the ACET Staff College Middle Leader Excellence Programme.



Congratulations to **Rebecca Baldwin, Thurcroft Junior Academy**, who successfully completed her NPQ for Leading Teacher Development in October. This is a fantastic professional achievement and reflects Rebecca's commitment to supporting high-quality teaching and learning. Well done, Rebecca, on this well-deserved accomplishment and for the positive impact your work will have across the school.

Many congratulations to **Annabel Eades from Waverley Primary Academy** on successfully achieving the NPQH. This is a fantastic professional milestone and a reflection of her hard work, commitment, and leadership in education. We are excited to see her continue to put her learning into practice supporting the Waverley staff and pupils.





ACET

Striving for **Excellence**
Empowering **Achievement**
Shaping **Learning**

