

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Introduction

Richard Chapman, CEO



Thrive Education Partnership has another incredibly busy year! The acquisition of Corley Academy and the onboarding of Mary Elliot Academy have increased our support for SEND across the Midlands. Our academies

continue to thrive, and despite the national recruitment and retention issues in education, Thrive Education Partnership bucks that trend. According to the data available for similar schools, we have less staff leaving, and a growing number of staff applying for promotions, secondments or new opportunities within our Trust - which is, of course, a very positive indicator of staff wellbeing.

We are also pleased to announce that we have paid the teacher and teaching assistant proposed pay rise. Many of the local authority maintained schools have not yet received this pay rise. We decided to honour the uplift in pay to acknowledge the excellent work our staff do in keeping our students safe and happy, every day. We would like to thank our central team for their work supporting our academies and the due diligence of the new schools that have requested to join our Trust. Regardless of whether we officially onboard these schools, we have had the opportunity to further develop our practice and reflect on what makes us special as a Multi-Academy Trust.

Further, I am proud of the roles Craig Bennett and Dominic Broad have played in enhancing education outside the Trust. Craig has supported underperforming schools in Birmingham while both Dominic and the Trust have featured

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HMI and lead SEND inspector for OFSTED



in The Key, discussing the importance of great mentors and leading with values. Their efforts in supporting and improving underperforming schools exemplify our leadership in the educational sector.

Finally, most of you will know that a lot of our work, policies and processes were developed at Calthorpe Academy, our founding school. During our recent Ofsted there was a statement made that sums up how I feel about the work we do as a Trust:

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Technological Innovation at Corley Academy

Corley Academy has adopted pioneering new technology to help support learners on their transition both into the school and into the workplace. The school has purchased 12 virtual reality (VR) headsets, and has partnered with tech firm CGI, to demonstrate how this innovative kit can support SEND pupils. To support Year 6 pupils, who will be joining Corley in Year 7, the school is sending VR headsets and staff to provide a virtual tour of the school, answering any questions they might have along the way. This is often the students' first engagement - and first time seeing - the school. The headsets are also being used by the school's post-16s ahead of work experience placements, to help familiarise them with the real-world environment and ease their transition.

Welcoming Katie Greenwood, Head of Therapeutic Services

We would like to welcome our newest member of Thrive's central team, Katie Greenwood, who joins us as Head of Therapeutic Services. Katie is a Dramatherapist, EDMR therapist, and Clinical Supervisor. Katie joins us from working in an inpatient mental health setting.

Katie will help develop a unified approach and expand therapeutic provision to promote the mental health and wellbeing of our school communities. Katie has 20 years' experience working with adults, children and young people in a variety of settings including inpatient mental health, prisons and education. Katie is a Partner Assessor for the Health and Care Professions Council and has also worked as a visiting lecturer at Birmingham, Leicester and Roehampton Universities. She is currently completing her PhD, focusing on the area of trauma and dissociation. Katie is extremely passionate about promoting mental health and wellbeing, particularly the therapeutic value of play and the arts.

Since joining us in October, Katie has been supporting our Executive Team to review our provisions and our general approach to mental health and wellbeing across the Trust. She has also run training and consultancy workshops in some of our schools, focusing on enhancing understanding of trauma and trauma-informed care. Katie is very excited to work collaboratively with staff, learners, and families towards a therapeutic approach which supports our children and young people to be the best version of themselves.





Tesco Partnership at Kingsbury

The launch of the Tesco work programme at Kingsbury Academy is a significant step in offering real-world experiences, equipping our students with the skills needed for future success and importantly, they seem to be enjoying it.

As part of global citizenship, Kingsbury's Junior Leadership Team decided to fundraise for

one of the Lord Mayor's chosen charities. The charity, which the JLT voted on, was 'Muscular Dystrophy Charity'. Through our partnership with Tesco Ricoh, Kingsbury learners' enterprise products were put to the test in store today, raising a fantastic £329.79. Our JLT will be inviting the Lord Mayor and Lord Mayoress into the school next term to present them with a cheque and give them a tour of the school.

Coming together as a community at Warwickshire Academy

The Warwickshire Academy takes pride in its strong local partnerships. Amidst the cost of living crisis and rising fuel costs, these partnerships have been vital in aiding families during the Christmas period.

The academy recently worked with neighbouring Gurdwara Baba Vadbhag Singh Ji, which generously donated food parcels and gift vouchers to pupils' families. This gesture exemplifies the deep value of community collaboration.



Mary Elliott new branding

The unveiling of new signage and branding at Mary Elliott Academy signifies our vibrant and dynamic approach, reflecting our commitment to progress and excellence.



Thank you

I am also excited for getting everyone together at our forthcoming Trust conference in May at the CBS Arena in Coventry. There will be some significant guest speakers, yet to be announced and the excitement is already building up. The event promises an enriching experience for all.

In closing, my sincere thanks go to you and every member of the Trust for the hard work and dedication that everyone has shown this year. Your efforts are the cornerstone of our success and are appreciated by me and the SLT, but most importantly, I'm sure by the students and their families. Wishing everyone a restful and joyous festive break and a very happy and successful New Year.

Richard Chapman, CEO

