

Introduction

Richard Chapman, CEO



As we approach the end of another term, I want to take a moment to thank you all for your unwavering dedication and hard work. The progress we've made together this term reflects the strength and commitment of the Thrive Education Partnership community.

Our safeguarding provision continues to evolve, ensuring that we remain at the forefront of best practices for our learners. Progress is also being made on the Baginton Fields building project, which is now in the design stage, paving the way for improved facilities in the future. We really do have a lot going on.

To support our growing network, we've expanded the central team, enhancing the services available to all our academies. In addition, we've rolled out a series of CPD opportunities for staff and established working groups designed to support career progression - a reflection of our commitment to nurturing talent within the partnership.

As we look ahead, I encourage you to take the time to recharge and reflect on the incredible impact you've made this term. Your efforts are transforming lives and futures, and for that, I am truly grateful.

This year has been one of growth and achievement, with highlights including the addition of Baginton Fields Academy to the Thrive family, Mary Elliot Academy's new playground, and the Warwickshire Academy welcoming its first Year 10 students.

Other milestones include Corley Academy's coffee shop and music room, Calthorpe Academy retaining its IQM Flagship School status, and Deputy Headteacher Gemma Nicholls earning her PhD. Amazing work.

Save the Date!

I'm pleased to share that we have also secured a date for our annual conference - mark your calendars for the 2nd May 2025, when we'll come together to reflect on an extraordinary 2024.

It's been an incredible journey, and we can't wait to share more with you in May! Wishing you a restful and enjoyable break and my very best wishes for 2025. Thank you for everything you do.

Here's a snapshot of last year's conference!





Katie Greenwood Head of Therapeutic Services

In the blink of an eye and a fluttering of snow, 2024 is getting ready to take a bow. We reflect on a term filled with lots of exciting developments. Professor Kathryn Riley has partnered with Mary Elliot to launch a school-wide belonging project. There will be future updates as the project unfolds and Kathryn works with more schools across the trust.

November marked the beginning of a year-long Compassionate Leadership training for our Senior Leadership Teams, starting with a day led by Dr Kate Lucre on the science of compassion and its vital role in fostering supportive and connected cultures. In December, we welcomed Self Space – a contemporary mental health organisation – to train 20 staff members across our schools as Mental Health Champions. Our Champions are there to raise awareness of mental health, challenge stigma and positively shift the culture around talking about how we feel.

Over the next year, our Mental Health Champions will expand their knowledge on topics including, breaking stigma around ADHD and Autism, returning to work support, setting boundaries, signposting, empathetic communication, and more. We will update you more in the new year, but it's clear.. the Champs are coming! In September, I attended Europe's biggest trauma, mental health and wellbeing conference, the Oxford Masters Event.

So, as we step into the winter break, I remind myself that holidays are there to enjoy, not to recover. I will allow myself to pause and be truly present with this ever-changing world, and all of us perfectly imperfect people in it.

To quote Ferris Bueller (because I love my 80s movies!),
"Life moves pretty fast – if you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."



Beth Blakey Joins GB Women's Rugby Team

The Warwickshire Academy is thrilled to celebrate PE instructor Beth Blakey, who has been selected to play for the GB Women's Fire Service Rugby Team. Beth's passion for rugby and commitment to youth sports inspire students and staff alike, perfectly aligning with Thrive Education Partnership's values of fostering growth through supportive and enriching environments.

A talented player with Old Leamingtonians Rugby Club, Beth has had a remarkable journey in rugby. From starting as a young player training alongside boys due to the absence of a girls' team, to captaining her school team and leading Old Leamingtonians to an undefeated season, her dedication is a testament to perseverance and excellence.

As The Warwickshire Academy's first PE instructor, Beth plays a vital role in encouraging students to explore fitness, teamwork, and self-confidence. "Seeing students ask for advice or want to improve their skills because they see me in my kit or hear about my journey is truly rewarding." Beth shares. Congratulations Beth, on this incredible achievement!



Lord Mayor Mal Mutton visits Kingsbury Academy

Kingsbury Academy proudly unveiled its new sensory-regulating playground to an audience of students, parents, colleagues, and the Lord Mayor of Coventry, Councillor Mal Mutton.

Thanks to the support of donors and Thrive, this playground is now a crucial part of our 'Learning for Life' curriculum. Headteacher Amjid Zaman said: "Our learners are benefiting greatly from the new equipment, aiding in sensory regulation and skill development."

Generous contributions from parents, local businesses, and community organisations made this project a reality. PTA leader Jo Le Poidevin said: "The new playground has made a huge difference, offering a fun and dynamic learning environment for our students."

Councillor Mutton commented: "This is a fantastic facility that was enabled by people and organisations coming together to raise money for the benefit of the school community. Not one person could have done this, it takes a whole community approach."



Opening Doors Corley's New Classroom

We're proud to announce the completion of Corley Academy's new classroom - this fully accessible space includes a sensory room and breakout area, purpose-built to support the Academy's curriculum and cater to the diverse needs of its students. The project, a collaboration between us and Coventry City Council, reflects our shared commitment to addressing the increasing demand for special school places in the local area.

Headteacher Mark White shared, "This classroom allows us to provide nine more children with the education they deserve, supporting their unique needs - whether autism, communication challenges, or complex learning difficulties.

It's a space where they can develop life skills, build confidence, and prepare for the future, showcasing how collaboration enhances outcomes for SEND learners and aligns perfectly with Thrive's mission for inclusive, high-quality education."

Congratulations to the Corley Academy team on this fantastic addition, which is already making a meaningful impact!



Calthorpe Strikes Gold with UNICEF Award

Calthorpe Academy has proudly received the prestigious Gold Award from UNICEF UK's Rights Respecting Schools Programme, recognising its outstanding commitment to embedding children's rights into every aspect of school life.

Since beginning its journey with the Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) in 2021 and achieving Silver in July 2023, the school has championed a culture of respect, inclusion, and mutual understanding, culminating in this top accolade.

Headteacher Mounir Meghalsi said: *"We are incredibly proud to receive the Gold Award, reflecting our commitment to placing children's rights at the heart of everything we do. As a school supporting learners with ASD, PMLD, and SLD, we believe every child deserves a voice and the opportunity to thrive."*

UNICEF UK's Martin Russell praised the school's dedication: *"Calthorpe Academy impressed us with its enthusiasm, respect for children's rights, and fostering a global perspective. We are pleased to award them Gold: Rights Respecting."*

Well done to the Calthorpe Academy team on this incredible achievement.



Exploring Futures at Kingsbury Careers Week

Kingsbury Academy had an exciting Careers Week, with visits from West Midlands Fire Service and Police to inspire learners about future career paths.

A fire engine and police officers were on hand, allowing students to dress up, explore the fire engine, and try out a high-pressure hose - remarkably, without anyone getting wet!

Inside, West Midlands Police shared insights into their work, demonstrated equipment, and taught learners how to make a 999 call in emergencies.

Students were encouraged to think about their future ambitions and dress up as their dream careers, including mechanics, doctors, construction workers, an astronaut, and even a Tesco worker inspired by this year's work experience programme.

A huge thank you to the West Midlands Fire Service and Police for engaging with the students and helping make Careers Week such a success!



Baginton Fields Academy Welcomes New Goats!

Baginton Fields Academy is delighted to welcome not one, not two but three new goats to its thriving animal family! Joining the Academy's beloved ducks and geese, these new arrivals are set to further enhance the school's enrichment and therapy offerings.

The goats play a vital role in supporting students' well-being, providing opportunities for therapeutic interaction, sensory engagement, and a calming presence in the outdoor learning environment.

Caring for these animals helps students develop responsibility, confidence, and a deeper connection with nature, perfectly aligning with the Academy's holistic approach to education.

We're excited to see how this growing family of animals continues to bring joy, learning, and enrichment to students and staff alike at Baginton Fields Academy! Names TBC!

Thrive's Annual Report 2024 now available

We are excited to share our first annual report, reflecting on a year of significant progress and growth.

This milestone report highlights key achievements, including the development of a diverse, inclusive curriculum tailored to each student's individual needs, alongside a commitment to fostering staff well-being and professional development.

Thrive has also enhanced its partnerships with local communities, businesses, and mental health providers, ensuring a holistic approach to education.

Looking forward, we are focused on sustainable growth, with plans for additional schools and continued innovation in educational practices. This report not only celebrates Thrive's successes but also sets the stage for an optimistic and exciting future.

Take a look at the report [here](#).

Deck the Doors Calthorpe's Competition!

It's that magical time of year again at Calthorpe Academy, and we're delighted to celebrate the creativity and festive spirit of its Annual Christmas Door Competition! This much-loved tradition has once again brought learners and staff together to transform classroom doors into dazzling displays of holiday magic.

From snowy winter scenes to Santa's workshop, the corridors are alive with sparkle, tinsel, and Christmas cheer. This competition isn't just about fun - it's a wonderful opportunity for learners and staff to collaborate, fostering teamwork, creativity, and a shared sense of community.

Congratulations to the winning classes, who each receive £100 to spend via the LEA budget - an incredible reward for their festive flair!

Let's keep the Christmas spirit alive - well done, everyone!



Baginton Fields Earns UNICEF Silver Award

Headteacher Alison Francis shared her pride: *"We are so happy to receive the Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award. It reflects our dedication to ensuring that all our students, regardless of their challenges, are supported in understanding their rights and feel confident to voice their opinions."*

"Our entire school community has embraced this ethos, and it's wonderful to see the impact it's having on both students and staff."

Baginton Fields Academy remains committed to its vision of delivering inspirational, tailored learning experiences for every child.

Alison Francis added, *"Achieving Silver is a testament to our ongoing commitment to fostering a supportive and rights-based environment. We look forward to continuing this journey and building even further on these values."*

Baginton Fields Academy is already setting its sights on the next milestone - achieving Gold, the highest accolade in the Rights Respecting Schools programme. Congratulations to the Baginton Fields team for this incredible achievement.



Mary Elliot Showcase Video Incoming

Mary Elliot Academy is delighted to soon unveil its new showcase video, celebrating the school's inclusive environment, innovative approaches, and the exceptional opportunities it offers students.

The Academy has also opened a new playground featuring trampolines, climbing frames, swings, and sensory walkways. Designed to support sensory regulation, social interaction, and independence, the space is already making a big impact.

Headteacher, Rebecca Davies, said, *"The new playground has had a huge impact on our students. It's not just for play - it meets sensory needs and helps pupils return to the classroom ready to learn."*

These developments showcase Mary Elliot Academy's commitment to student well-being and growth. Join us in celebrating these achievements! in congratulating the Mary Elliot team on their fantastic achievements!



Lucky's Journey at Tesco

We partnered with Tesco to create meaningful opportunities for students to develop skills that prepare them for the future. We would like to extend a special thank you to Tesco for their continued support in helping these students grow and thrive.

Kingsbury Academy student, Lucky, recently had the opportunity to gain hands-on experience at Tesco, learning about the job process and the handling, labelling, and preparation of fresh food and fruit. This experience provided Lucky with valuable life skills, offering insights into the working world and fostering his independence. Lucky's parents shared their gratitude, stating, "This opportunity has sparked a joy in Lucky, and we're so thankful to the Academy and Tesco for making this possible."

Well done, Lucky! A group of Kingsbury students has benefited from this same Tesco programme, gaining similar experiences and life skills to shape their future.

