

JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER

From Richard Chapman, CEO

As we reach the end of another school year, I find myself reflecting on just how much our schools and the people within them have achieved. It has been a year of real milestones, and I could not be more proud of every member of the Thrive family.

This term we were delighted to welcome colleagues, partners and friends to our annual Thrive Conference, and what an occasion it was. **Fatima Whitbread** joined us as keynote speaker, sharing a story that was by turns remarkable and deeply moving, rooted in the belief that one person's faith in a young person can change the course of a life. That message sits at the very heart of what we do, and it was a privilege to hear it told with such honesty and conviction. My sincere thanks go to our sponsors, **The Edwin Group, The Busy Group, Be Ready and Magma Maths**, whose generosity made the event possible and allowed us to bring together our community in the way it deserved.

I am also enormously proud to share that **Corley Academy, Mary Elliot Academy and Kitts Green Academy** have all received their Ofsted reports this term. Corley, which was inspected earlier in the year, received a very positive report with Strong standard ratings across key areas, a thoroughly deserved recognition of the work that **Mark White** and his team have sustained over many years. Mary Elliot Academy, which joined Thrive in 2023 following a period of significant difficulty, has now been judged to be meeting the expected standard across all areas. To see inspectors recognise what **Rebecca Davies** and her team have built, a calm, ordered school where every pupil is known, valued and supported, is a moment I will not forget. And at Kitts Green



Academy, which joined Thrive last September, inspectors confirmed that the school no longer requires special measures, with safeguarding standards fully met and real progress recognised in behaviour and leadership. It is a testament to the dedication of **Kate Fischer** and her team, and to everyone who has supported the school through a significant period of change. These outcomes speak to something I believe deeply.

As we look ahead to a new academic year, there is much to be excited about. New buildings, new programmes and new chapters are opening across the trust, and I look forward to sharing more in the months ahead.

To every member of staff across every Thrive school: thank you. What you give to these young people, day in and day out, matters more than words can easily express. I hope you enjoy a well-earned rest over the summer and return refreshed and ready for everything the year ahead has to offer.

Corley Academy Celebrates Positive Ofsted Result

To be a pupil at **Corley Academy** is to know you belong, are valued and heard. Those were the words of lead inspector **Gareth Morgan** following an inspection in January 2026, and they speak volumes about the school that **Mark White** and his team have built.

Corley received a very positive **Ofsted** report, with **Strong standard** ratings awarded in three key areas: behaviour and attendance, inclusion, and personal development and wellbeing. It is the school's first inspection since joining **Thrive Education Partnership** in 2022, and the results reflect the sustained progress made in the years since.

Among the highlights was a remarkable improvement in attendance, which has risen from below to above national averages for pupils with SEND over the past three years. Inspectors were also struck by the care and creativity with which Corley adapts its environment for pupils, from weighted cutlery and partitioned plates to flexible sensory spaces, all designed to help students feel secure, access learning and develop independence.

The school's expertise in supporting autistic learners was formally recognised as a significant strength, with inspectors noting that Corley actively shares its practice across Thrive and with the wider sector.

Mark White, Headteacher of Corley Academy, said: "This result reflects the hard work and dedication of every member of our team, and most importantly, the resilience and determination of our pupils every single day. We are incredibly proud."



Thrive Conference - A Great Success



What a day the **Thrive Conference** turned out to be. On 1st May, colleagues, partners and friends came together for what was an inspiring and memorable occasion, with **Fatima Whitbread** delivering a keynote address that left the room genuinely moved.

Fatima's story, rooted in the transformative power of one teacher's belief in a young person, could not have resonated more deeply with everyone in that room. It was a privilege to hear it told with such openness and conviction, and a powerful reminder of why every single person across our schools does what they do.

Our sincere thanks go to our sponsors, **The Edwin Group, The Busy Group, Be Ready and Magma Maths**, whose generous support made the conference possible.

If you weren't able to join us on the day, or if you'd simply like to relive it, you can **watch the conference film here** <https://youtube/3aMeR0I0hCk>

A Landmark Result for Mary Elliot Academy

Mary Elliot Academy has received a **positive Ofsted** report, with inspectors praising the quality of its education, its inclusive culture and the warm relationships at the heart of school life.

The result marks a remarkable turnaround for the Leamore Lane school, which was rated Inadequate by Ofsted in March 2022. The school joined Thrive Education Partnership in April 2023, beginning a period of significant improvement under new leadership.

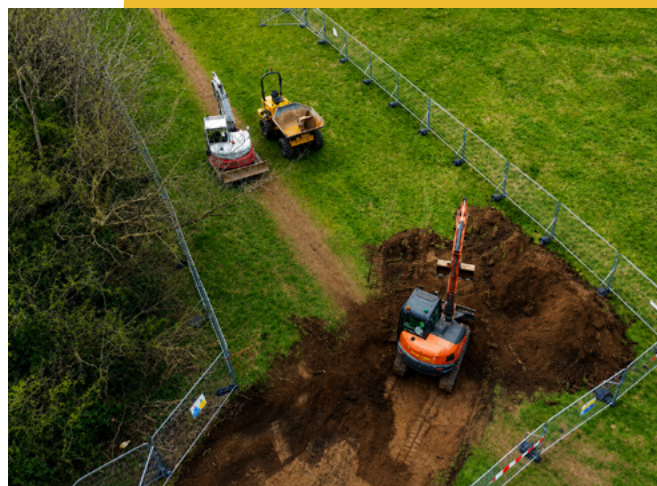
Mary Elliot supports pupils aged 11 to 18 with profound and multiple learning difficulties, severe learning difficulties and autism, with all 142 pupils holding an education, health and care plan. Following an inspection in February 2026, the academy was judged to be meeting the expected standard across all areas, including achievement, curriculum and teaching, inclusion, leadership and governance, and personal development and wellbeing.

Inspectors found the school to be calm and orderly, with staff building warm, trusting relationships that help pupils feel safe, valued and ready to take part in school life. The post-16 provision drew particular praise, with inspectors finding that students typically leave Mary Elliot confident, capable and ready for adult life.

Rebecca Davies, Headteacher of Mary Elliot Academy, said: "Every day at Mary Elliot I see the most incredible things. I see pupils who face enormous challenges finding their voice, building their confidence and achieving things that matter deeply to them and to their families. This report reflects the commitment of every single member of our team to making this school a place where every young person feels they belong. We are incredibly proud."



An Exciting New Chapter for Baginton Fields



An exciting new era is under way at **Baginton Fields Academy**, as building work begins in earnest on a major development that will transform the school for generations to come.

Work is already progressing on site, with a sod cutting ceremony to formally mark the start of construction planned for the coming weeks, bringing together Headteacher **Vikki King** and members of the school community to celebrate this landmark moment. It is a milestone that has been a long time in the making, and one that speaks to the ambition and vision that Thrive Education Partnership has for every school in its family. We look forward to sharing more on that in the new term.

When complete, the new build will include eight new classrooms, four breakout spaces, a new sensory room, therapy rooms, a nurse's office, hygiene suites and four classrooms purpose-built for pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties, each fitted with ceiling hoists and specialist facilities. A new admin block is also under construction, with the full project expected to be complete by **March 2027**. When the doors open, Baginton Fields will grow from 126 pupils to 206, meeting the increasing demand for specialist SEND provision in Coventry.

Vikki King, Headteacher of Baginton Fields Academy, said: "This is such an exciting moment for our school and our community. The new building will allow us to welcome more pupils and give every young person the environment they deserve. We cannot wait to see it take shape."

Looking Ahead - TWA's First Ever Sixth Form

From September 2026, The **Warwickshire Academy** takes its next exciting step with the launch of its very first sixth form. Pupils will have access to **core qualifications** in English and maths, **AQA certificates** covering a wide range of real-world activities and experiences, work experience every Thursday, and for the first time, an extended personal project qualification where students set their own title and create something truly their own.

The sixth form will have its own identity, with dedicated classroom space, a brand new kitchen and a relaxed area where students can call their own. And in a moment that feels quietly significant, two of the pupils joining the sixth form in September were among the very first students to walk through the doors of TWA when the school opened five years ago. They have been the first of everything, and they will be the first of this too.

Paul Hostead, Headteacher said: "Every year at TWA there has been something new, something that moves us forward. This is the next chapter, and we cannot wait to see what these young people do with it."



Calthorpe Academy Retains Prestigious IQM Flagship Award



Calthorpe Academy has once again retained its **Inclusion Quality Mark Flagship Award**, following a successful assessment on 3rd June, cementing its reputation as one of the leading inclusive schools in the region.

The Flagship Award is the highest level of IQM accreditation, recognising schools that not only demonstrate outstanding inclusive practice but actively share that expertise with others. Calthorpe has held Flagship status for a number of years, and this latest assessment confirmed that the school continues to go from strength to strength.

In a proud moment for the whole team, Assistant Headteacher **Laura Williams** has also qualified as an IQM assessor herself, meaning she will now support other schools on their own inclusion journeys.

Mounir Meghalsi, Headteacher of Calthorpe Academy, said: "Inclusion is not something we do at Calthorpe, it is who we are. To retain our Flagship status is a wonderful recognition of the commitment of every member of our team, and we are particularly proud that Laura is now able to take that expertise out into the wider sector."



A New Home at the Heart of Kingsbury - Kingsbury House Opens its Doors

Kingsbury Academy has transformed one of its on-site buildings into a brand new extended learning space, and the results are already making a real difference to pupils and staff alike.

Kingsbury House, formerly the school's caretaker's house, has been carefully refurbished with support from Thrive Education Partnership into a welcoming and purposeful hub at the heart of the school. Downstairs, there are new **one-to-one therapeutic spaces** where pupils can access higher quality interventions more frequently than ever before. Upstairs, staff now have **dedicated PPA space** where they can plan and prepare in a quiet, focused environment, as well as rooms for multi-agency meetings, meaning that professionals from across different services can come together on site rather than asking pupils and families to travel.

The transformation has been gradual and deliberate, developed over the course of the past academic year to make sure the space is used in exactly the right way. Both pupils and staff have embraced it warmly, and the impact on the quality of provision at Kingsbury is already clear.

Amjid Zaman, Headteacher said: "Kingsbury House has given us something really precious, more space to do more for our pupils. The trust's support in making this happen has meant a great deal to us, and we are already seeing the difference it makes every single day."

Growing Ambitions - Kitts Green Academy Expands its Age Range

Kitts Green Academy is expanding, and the future is looking bright.

From September 2026, the school will welcome pupils up to the age of 16, extending its age range and opening the door to qualifications for the first time. A group of ten pupils will move into the expanded provision, with the **first GCSEs** at Kitts Green Academy expected in **2027**, a significant milestone for a school that continues to grow in ambition and opportunity for its pupils.

Work to transform the school's spaces ahead of the expansion is taking place over the summer holidays, ensuring that everything is ready for the new term. It is an exciting moment for the whole Kitts Green community, and a clear sign of the school's commitment to taking its pupils further than ever before. The school is proud that its recent **Ofsted** inspection recognised the ability of its leaders to drive the improvements needed to take Kitts Green further still. Plans are also underway for an on-site construction centre, further strengthening the vocational offer available to pupils as they prepare for adulthood and the world of work.

Kate Fischer, Headteacher said: "This is a really exciting step forward for Kitts Green. We want our pupils to have every opportunity available to them, and expanding our age range means we can take them further on that journey. We cannot wait to see what they achieve."





Stem on Track - Corley Pupils Race Ahead with Stellantis

For the second year running, **Corley Academy** pupils took part in the STEM on Track programme on 20th June, building and racing their own go-karts in an exhilarating event fully **sponsored by Stellantis Car Group**.

Stellantis, which has a longstanding commitment to supporting young people with additional needs into employment, provided everything from the kart kits to the safety gear, with their own mechanics on hand on race day. A member of the Stellantis team even completed a sponsored challenge to raise funds specifically for Corley, such is the strength of the partnership.

With mixed age groups taking part, from first-timers to pupils returning for their second year, the event was a brilliant celebration of teamwork, engineering and ambition.

Mark White said: "STEM on Track is one of the highlights of our year. To see our pupils build something with their own hands and then race it is just brilliant. Stellantis have been outstanding partners to us and we are enormously grateful for everything they do."

Exciting News on the Horizon for Baginton Fields Academy

It has been quite a term at **Baginton Fields Academy**, and there is still more to come.

The school community has been working incredibly hard over the past eighteen months on something that means a great deal to pupils, staff and families alike. Rights, belonging, voice and inclusion sit at the heart of everything Baginton Fields does, and that commitment has not gone unnoticed.

We are delighted to share that the school has been recommended for a prestigious national accreditation that recognises just how deeply those values are embedded across every corner of school life, from the classroom to the staffroom, from assemblies to policies, from the most able pupils to those with the most complex needs. Every single member of the Baginton Fields community has played a part.

We cannot quite share the full details just yet, but we are incredibly proud and cannot wait to make a proper celebration of it in the autumn term. And watch this space, because Baginton Fields may not be the only school in the Thrive family with exciting news to share before long. In the meantime, well done to everyone at Baginton Fields. You know who you are, and you know what you have achieved.



Bringing the Trust Together - Calthorpe's Multi-School Sports



For the first time, **Calthorpe Academy** threw open the doors of its annual Sports Day to schools across the Thrive family, welcoming pupils from across the trust to **The Grange** in Solihull for three days of sport, celebration and community.

Around 200 pupils took part across the three days, with events carefully tailored to every ability and pathway. More able pupils enjoyed a full **Olympic-style athletics** experience at The Grange, while pupils with more complex needs and those on the **Foundation for Life** pathway enjoyed bespoke sensory sports experiences, including visits to a trampoline park, ensuring that every young person had a Sports Day that was right for them.

Parents were invited along too, providing a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the year together and see first-hand what their children are capable of when given the right environment and support.

For Calthorpe, the event was about more than sport. With the largest PE team in the trust, the school was keen to share fifteen years of Sports Day expertise with colleagues across Thrive, from managing large venues with SEND pupils to designing inclusive activities that work for every learner.

From Strength to Strength - Braydon's Journey at The Warwickshire Academy

When **Braydon** joined The **Warwickshire Academy** in year eight, he had already experienced a rocky road through mainstream education. His early time at the school was challenging, but somewhere between year nine and year ten something shifted. He grew taller, grew calmer, and grew into himself.

Today, Braydon is one of the school's proudest success stories. Having **completed his GCSEs** this term, the first cohort at TWA ever to sit formal examinations, he is now applying for apprenticeships, including with **Coventry City Council**, with his sights firmly set on his future.

Headteacher **Paul Hostead** said: "Braydon has been on an incredible journey. To see him now, focused, motivated and ready for the next chapter, is everything this school exists for. He surprised himself along the way, and that is the most rewarding thing of all."





Building Skills for Life at Kingsbury Academy

At **Kingsbury Academy**, the focus this term has been on something fundamental - preparing young people for life beyond the school gates.

The school has been deeply embedding its approach to foundational learning and **skills for independence**, ensuring that every pupil develops the building blocks they need to thrive in the community. Listening, sequencing, communication, self-assessment and independence are not just words at Kingsbury, they are woven into every lesson, every interaction and every moment of the school day.

The results speak for themselves. In one recent food skills session, a pupil who had learned the school's sequencing system used it to go beyond the set menu and create his own food item, applying what he had learned in a way that was entirely his own. It is a small moment that tells a much bigger story about what these young people are capable of when given the right foundations.

For Kingsbury, this is not just about academic achievement. It is about giving every pupil the tools to be as independent as possible, to communicate their needs, to navigate the world and to flourish in whatever comes next.

Amjid Zaman, Headteacher of Kingsbury Academy, said: "Everything we do here is about preparing our young people for life. The skills they are building at Kingsbury are the skills that will stay with them forever, and seeing them apply those skills with confidence and independence is the most rewarding thing in the world."

Levi - The Dog Making Mondays Better at Kitts Green Academy

For some pupils at **Kitts Green Academy**, Monday mornings can feel like a mountain to climb. But since **Levi** arrived, that mountain has got a little smaller.

Levi is a **black labrador** belonging to Bella, a member of staff at the school, and he has been working his quiet magic on pupils since joining the Kitts Green community earlier this year. What began as **Friday afternoon visits** has grown into **Monday morning sessions** too, timed perfectly to help pupils who find the transition back into school after the weekend particularly difficult.

The difference he makes is simple but profound. Pupils look forward to seeing him, they light up when he arrives, and for some, the promise of Levi waiting for them is the thing that gets them through the door. One pupil who previously struggled to come in on Mondays now arrives knowing that Levi will run across to meet him, and that moment of connection is enough to ease the anxiety and set the tone for the day.

Even members of staff who were once wary of dogs have been completely won over. **Kate Fischer**, Headteacher of Kitts Green Academy, said: "Levi has made a quite remarkable difference to so many of our pupils. It is hard to put into words what it means to see a young person walk through the door because of a dog, but that is exactly what is happening, and it is wonderful."



Giving Young People a Voice: Mary Elliot Academy's Exciting NHS Partnership

Mary Elliot Academy has entered into a ground-breaking new partnership with **Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust** and The **Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust**, through an innovative programme called SEND Voices.

The programme, which builds on the NHS's successful **Little Voices initiative**, is designed to ensure that children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities are meaningfully involved in shaping NHS services. At its heart is a simple but powerful idea: that the young people who use NHS services are best placed to help improve them.

Pupils from Mary Elliot will visit NHS settings, carry out supported observations and work alongside the NHS team to adapt existing patient experience tools, making them accessible for SEND learners through symbols, visuals and a range of communication methods. Their feedback and insights will then be used to influence real improvements to care environments and patient experience across both trusts.

The partnership was developed with **Gary Perry DL**, Associate Director of Patient Voice and Experience at both Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust and The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, and former Mayor and former leader of Walsall Council, who visited the school and was struck by the range of communication approaches used across its different departments.

For **Rebecca Davies**, the partnership is about something bigger than a project. It is about building bridges between the school and the wider community, and showing the world what Mary Elliot's pupils are capable of.

Rebecca Davies said: "We want our pupils to be part of the community, not just learning about it from a distance. This partnership gives them the chance to contribute something genuinely valuable, to help make the NHS better for everyone. That is something to be incredibly proud of."

