



A TERM OF CELEBRATIONS AND SUCCESSES!

Welcome to the summer edition of our Trust newsletter and a chance to reflect on the many successes and achievements of the past term.

We've had a number of fantastic firsts, starting with our first ever Trust Awards. This was a really special event, bringing together staff, pupils, parents and volunteers from all of our schools to reward some of the amazing work you do and to honour our unsung heroes. With some incredible performances from our pupils, I hope you'll agree it was a wonderful way to celebrate what makes this Trust and our schools so unique.

Secondly, we also held our first Festival of Sport, which saw primary pupils from six of our schools compete in a range of sporting activities over three days. It was a great way to encourage some good-natured competition and well done to the winning teams from Stimpson Avenue, Orchard and Castle.

As you prepare for the summer break, I'd like to say a massive thank you to all of our teachers, support staff and volunteers who have worked so hard this academic year. Enjoy your summer and I look forward to welcoming you all back in September!

Joshua Coleman
Chief executive

WORK BEGINS ON SHEPHERDSWELL IMPROVEMENTS

Building work has started at Shepherdswell Academy to improve its facilities for pupils with special educational needs.

An extension is being built at the school to enable it to better meet the needs of children with social communication difficulties such as autism, and to increase its capacity from six to eight pupils.

The improvement work means the school can provide support to even more SEN pupils.

Headteacher Jonathan Cursley said: “We

have a team of staff with specialist training and knowledge who work with the children to develop their social communication skills.

“We’ve been highly rated for the specialist teaching we offer at Shepherdswell and these improvement and extension works will enable even more children to benefit from the support available here.”

The improvement works are due to be completed for the start of the new school year in September.

PUPILS CELEBRATE COMPLETION OF NEW BUILDING AT ORCHARD ACADEMY

A school extension creating places for an additional 180 pupils has been completed at Orchard Academy in Springfield.

The single-storey building, funded by Milton Keynes Council, features eight new classrooms, an art and technology room and communal areas and is already being enjoyed by children and staff.

The building project means the junior school, which is part of the East Midlands Academy Trust, could increase its capacity from 360 places to 480 places as demand grows for local school places.

Principal Callum Brown said: “The children and staff have been really excited seeing the building work progress and we’re really excited to be benefiting now from the new facilities.”



The school has also added a new multi-use games area, providing an additional fenced, hard-surface sport and play area on the field for use in PE lessons and at break and lunch.



SPECIAL CELEBRATION AT FIRST EVER TRUST AWARDS

A special night of celebration saw the achievements of pupils, staff and volunteers from our schools recognised with our first ever Trust Awards ceremony.

More than 250 people attended the special event, which included fantastic dance and musical performances by pupils.

The awards were given out by East Midlands Academy Trust chief executive Joshua Coleman.

He said: “It was a really incredible event which was a real celebration of the amazing achievements of our pupils, teachers, support staff and volunteers.

“It brought our schools together and was a great way for the Trust to recognise those people who go above and beyond to support our children. Now I can’t wait for next year’s event!”



TIME CAPSULE BURIED TO MARK OFFICIAL OPENING OF NIA BUILDING



Pupils at Northampton International Academy have buried a time capsule to be opened in 50 years’ time to mark the official opening of their school.

The time capsule contains letters written by current pupils to their future selves, a newspaper from the day, a school tie and house badges.

A special plaque marks the spot where it has been placed and gives the date – 24th June 2069 – when the time capsule should be dug up and opened.

Headteacher Tim Mars-ton said: “This building offers a fantastic space for innovative and creative teaching and learning, and our pupils and staff love being here.”

NEW HOBBIT HOLES AT CASTLE ACADEMY PROVIDE A QUIET HAVEN FOR BREAKTIMES

Five new ‘hobbit holes’ have been unveiled at Castle Academy to offer pupils a quieter place to spend their break-times.

Each of the hobbit holes feature a different coloured door to represent the different activities inside—art, reading, a chill area, maths teasers and writing.

The huts are aimed at children who are a little more sensitive to robust lunchtimes and playtimes to enable them to enjoy more peaceful activities.

The hobbit holes will also be used as additional teaching spaces for small groups.



STAFF BENEFIT FROM ONGOING TRAINING AND SUPPORT

Our school improvement and development team has delivered a whole host of training and support sessions over the past 12 months.

The team of academy improvement partners work closely with headteachers and school staff across the Trust, providing a programme of professional development for teachers, middle leaders and senior leaders.

Working groups have been held to support phonics, maths, reading and other topics.

In addition, staff have taken part in a number of Continual Professional Development days on subjects including wellbeing and safeguarding.

A CPD day was also held on middle leader development for staff at Northampton International Academy and Prince William School.



WELCOME TO THE TRUST TO ALL OF OUR NEW STARTERS

East Midlands Academy Trust is welcoming around 80 new teaching and support staff across our schools ready for the new academic year.

This includes more than 40 new teachers joining the team at Northampton International Academy as the school takes on three new year groups in September—reception, Year 7 and a new sixth form.

Chief executive Joshua Coleman said: “It’s a real pleasure to welcome so many new staff to the Trust and our family of schools.

“As a Trust, we pride ourselves on supporting and developing our staff in the best way possible and I very much hope that our new starters, including our newly-qualified teachers, will thrive here.”

All staff within the Trust can access dedicated expert HR support and advice, including a newly-launched Employee Assistance Programme available to all staff and their immediate family.

It features face-to-face counselling, a 24-hour confidential telephone helpline and an online live chat service via your mobile app.

For more information, visit www.healthassuredeap.com.

SAFE SPACE NOW OPEN FOR PUPILS STRUGGLING WITH MENTAL HEALTH

Students at Prince William School in Oundle have unveiled a new Safe Space room to offer support to fellow pupils affected by mental health issues.

The room has been created by the students themselves and will provide peer mentoring.

Year 10 student Elise Lewis, who is one of the peer mentors, said: “Our aim was to create a safe space for students to come to when they are feeling very stressed or they just need somewhere to relax.

“This Safe Space will be one of a kind as it will work through peer mentoring – students helping students. It will be a vital room in our battle against bullying and mental health issues.”



HARDINGSTONE GOES GLOBAL WITH AWARD!

Hardingstone Academy has secured the prestigious International School Award in recognition of its efforts to teach pupils about global issues and other cultures.

The award is from the British Council and it rewards schools that do outstanding work with children to enhance their understanding of other countries and cultures.

Pupils at Hardingstone Academy took part in a range of global-themed activities, including a Year 6 topic on Mexico and an all-school Chinese New Year celebration.

The children also regularly learn about food and religions from other countries.

Class 1 teacher Sophie Coleman, who led the



work towards the International School Award, said: "This has really made an impact on the children's understanding of other countries as many of them have never been abroad before."

NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT IS A HIT WITH PUPILS AT STIMPSON AVENUE

Pupils at Stimpson Avenue Academy can now enjoy play-time even more with the installation of new play equipment.

The play apparatus was funded by the school's Helping Hands, a charitable group run by staff and parents from the school.

Year 3 pupil Zanele Lukhele said: "I like the new play equipment because it's fun!"



PUPILS GET ON THEIR MARKS FOR INAUGURAL FESTIVAL OF SPORT



More than 300 primary school pupils took part in the first ever East Midlands Academy Trust Festival of Sport.

Children from six schools within the Trust – Orchard Academy, Shepherdswell Academy, Hardingstone Academy, Stimpson Avenue Academy, Castle Academy and Northampton International Academy – competed in seven different sports over three days, with a shield up for grabs for the winner of each day’s competition.

The activities included field athletics, indoor athletics, yoga, Go Ride cycling, crick-

et, dancing and netball.

Luke Bartishel, assistant vice principal at Orchard Academy, said: “The children absolutely loved taking part in the different activities and there was a fantastic atmosphere of

sportsmanship throughout the three-day event with everyone cheering each other on.

“It was a huge success and I’m already looking forward to next year’s event.”



MEET THE TEAM: SAM JAMES, SAFEGUARDING AND INCLUSION LEAD AT ORCHARD ACADEMY



Sam James was one of the winners in the Support Staff Member of the Year category at the Trust Awards.

Here she explains more about her role.

"I love my role, it's very rewarding."

"Every day is a different day and that means I need to be ready to wear my different 'hats' at a moments notice depending on the person's

needs which could be to keep them safe, to support their emotions or helping them with their mental health.

"I love the relationships I build with the children and their families but the most rewarding thing about my role is to see the people that I have helped become successful and managing independently which ultimately leads to their happiness and improves their future."

FORMER PWS PUPILS HIT THE BIG SCREEN

Two former pupils from Prince William School are making a name for themselves in Hollywood with roles in two films out this summer.

Himesh Patel, who has also appeared in EastEnders, takes the lead role in the film Yesterday. It tells the story of a musician who, after an accident, finds himself as the only person who remembers The Beatles and becomes famous taking credit for writing and performing their songs.

Also hitting the big screen is Anson Boon, who left Prince William School in 2016. He stars in the upcoming film Crawl about a family trapped in

a flooding house who must fight for their lives against predatory alligators.

