

CEO LETTER Spring 1 2026

All staff have returned this January raring to go and leaders have admirably managed the inclement weather conditions—balancing the decision of opening for an education and enabling parents to go to work and closing due to safety - all balancing risk in their community. So many positive things have taken place from enrichment including children across 7 schools

singing at the NEC, to successful Teams around the School - Curriculum and Business meetings which now have their groove, Directors' and Headteachers' strategic away days and Governors' meetings have all been held, what a vibrant term. Thank you to all the staff, children and families for making it safe and full of learning!

Meeting with Tim Coulson



On Friday 23rd January we were pleased to welcome Dr. Tim Coulson (Director General and former Chief Executive of Unity Schools Partnership, a large multi-academy Trust, 40 schools) to Anson. The visit provided a critical opportunity to showcase our operational model and high standards directly to a figure with significant influence within the Department for Education. Accompanied by Nicky Jarrett and Joe Davis, Dr. Coulson spent time in classrooms and held a strategic roundtable covering:

- * Trust-Wide School Improvement: We detailed our "Champions" movement and the successful transition of staff across the Trust to ensure pedagogical consistency.
- * Curriculum & Standards: Demonstrating that our academic outcomes remain robust despite the complexities of the current educational landscape.
- * Operational Viability: A core focus was proving the sustainability of small schools.

All Staff and children were fantastic and Nicky and Joe spoke brilliantly showcasing their school and cross Trust working. Dr. Coulson explicitly noted that our settings serve as a "proof of concept" for the Department for Education—showing that small schools are viable and high-performing when under connected, strategic leadership. A portion of the visit was dedicated to the "sharp end" of school leadership. We were candid regarding 'The SEND & Funding Gap'. Dr. Coulson confirmed he will be feeding back his observations to the Secretary of State, Bridget Phillipson. We hope this visit successfully placed Anson and our Trust "in the lens" of the DfE. By demonstrating our success in community and family working alongside high academic standards, we have reinforced our reputation as a Trust that delivers excellence in challenging contexts. We will continue to use these high-level engagements to advocate for fairer funding while maintaining our current trajectory of improvement.



We are thrilled to announce that Mr Kev. Borg, our previous Co-Chair of the Board of Directors has offered a 10 week chaplaincy service for our Trust schools. Each school will have sent out the timetable and opportunity to book slots for staff, families and our year 6 children.



What a wonderful opportunity for our whole Trust, all seven schools attended the young voices event, the BP pulse arena tonight, it was exceptional, and we are really proud of everyone and grateful to our staff for such a wonderful evening. Thank you for a super time for our children.



Trust worship was held at The Howard this half term and we look forward to Anson's after half term. The Howard led worship in the value of justice, it was excellently planned and delivered, so clear and well organised, thank you to Mr Wynn for leading and the children for a great worship.



It was exciting to be at The Howard at the same time as Steel from Gladiators and we launched our TSSMAT Travelling tales project at The Howard Class 1 which was delivered onto Mary Howard by class 1 and year 6 children and will travel around all 7 EYFS classes between now and July. 'The Traveling Tales is an exciting collaborative literacy project uniting all seven of our Trust's early-years classes. It centers around a single storybook and accompanying activity kit that will journey from school to school. Each class will read the book,

complete the shared activities, and document their work *within* the book, building a shared record of learning. The project culminates in a special handover every few weeks, where Ralph and I transport a group of children from the current school to the next to personally share their contributions, creating a powerful sense of community and shared literary experience across our Trust. This project aims to foster a shared reading culture, enhance collaboration, and create a strong sense of community across all seven schools in the Trust'.



Announcement: We've developed our socials!



We are thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new Facebook page: **The Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust (TSSMAT)**.

While our individual schools do incredible things on Instagram (and some on Facebook), this new page is where we bring our whole community together. It's a space to celebrate and to showcase the collective success of our seven wonderful schools.

Why your follow matters:

- **Visibility:** A strong following helps us reach new families looking for the right school and talented professionals looking for their next career move.
- **Community:** It's the best way to stay updated on Trust-wide events, news, and the "big picture" of how we are enabling our children to flourish.
- **Support:** Every like, comment, and share boosts our reach, ensuring the "Staffordshire Schools" name is synonymous with excellence across the county.

Please give us a 'Like' and share our first post to help us grow our digital community from day one! And if you can do this on Instagram too for all our schools, that would be fantastic! Thank you.

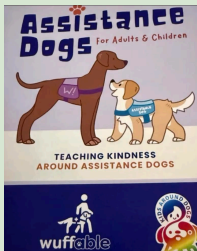


<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/blog/the-importance-of-continuous-provision-in-the-early-years>



Showcasing fabulous work

We are thrilled to see examples of Mrs Anna Coleman Harris' provision, our EYFS leader from St Mary's Primary, in print!



A new outfit - bespoke to each school

Ralph says: "I am such a lucky boy! A lovely family at St Marys gifted me the most wonderful harness set to show I am a very important school dog. I've got a little Velcro tags for each school I visit! It's so comfortable and I love it! Thank you. <https://www.wuffable.com/>" Yes, my mum has declared it as a gift, and a wonderful gift which all the schools, and Ralph, can enjoy.



We wish you a safe and happy February half term, that you manage to have family time juggling working across this period and we hope staff are able to have a rest and look forward to their preparation for a wonderful Spring 2 term to come

Regards, Charlene Gethin, our Central Team. Shanie Cole - Finance Manager
Jacqui Bowman - Business Operations Manager
Nic Saint - Project Manager and Clerk to Governors
and *Ralph*

