

Newsletter



Summer Term 2025

I am very pleased to welcome you all to the termly newsletter for parents and carers across our Active Learning Trust schools.

A combination of the usual end of term excitement and the recent incredibly warm weather will, I'm sure, make the arrival of the summer holidays next week especially welcome for you and the children this year!

This term's newsletter is, as always, a fantastic reminder of the wide range of exciting activities and achievements we have enjoyed in our schools this term. From World Records to Pride celebrations and some prestigious awards it really has been a term to remember.

We have also seen great resilience and commitment from the pupils who have sat assessments and exams this term – we're very proud of them all! We would also like to thank you for the help and support you have provided to them at home during this period.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible once we return to school in September and wish you all a very well-deserved and relaxing summer break.

Lynsey Holzer
Chief Executive Officer



Join our team!

We have a number of exciting opportunities for Support Staff roles currently available in our schools, including Teaching Assistants, Site Team and Administration.

Joining our friendly and supportive team at a school near you offers lots of benefits including...

- a people-focused approach to career development
- access to our Employee Assistance Programme, including online GP appointments
- a wide range of discounts and lifestyle benefits, including gym memberships, family days out and savings at high street stores and online retailers

[Search our current vacancies here!](#)





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The Active Learning Trust



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ActiveLearningTrustCareers



Update: Sustainability

In the Estates Team, we are progressing several exciting projects across our schools as part of our sustainability strategy, which supports our carbon reduction targets.

Our achievements this year include:



LED Lighting: we've invested over £800k this year upgrading lighting to LED at our secondary schools. This will save over 105 tonnes of carbon per year as well as reducing running costs.



Solar Panels: over the past 2 years we have installed solar panels at most Active Learning Trust schools and we are starting to see the benefit of the self-generated power. 45% of electricity consumption so far in 2025 has been from solar, rather than the grid, across our schools.



Environmental Benefits

CO2 Emission Saved

51,349.9 kg

Equivalent Trees Planted

3,107



EV Chargers: we made use of the workplace charging scheme for schools to install chargers at our three secondary schools, which can be used by members of the public outside of school hours at a rate of 65p per kWh. You will find the charging points at Chantry Academy in Ipswich, Neale-Wade Academy in March and Cromwell Community College in Chatteris.



Climate Action Plans: we are working with Let's Go Zero to develop Climate Action Plans at each of our schools to focus on biodiversity, climate education and decarbonisation activities linked to the trust's sustainability strategy. [You can find out more about Let's Go Zero here](#), and look out for further developments to take place next academic year!





At **Albert Pye and Ravensmere**, we took part in a sponsored skip, raising money for two community defibrillators. Pupils came to school in their PE kits ready for the challenge and they even got the headteacher, teachers and teaching assistants to join in! We hope the defibrillators will be installed locally and may, one day, save a life.

Earlier this term we also put on an amazing performance of *The Wizard of Oz*!



Chantry Academy students in years 7-10 took part in a colour run raising money for royal Papworth Hospital and in memory of our student Vivica.

This year's musical 'Be More Chill' was another sell out show, displaying the musical theatre talent we have at our school.



There has been no shortage of energy or enthusiasm at **Chesterton Primary School** this term, with plenty of events taking place across the school. A highlight of the term was World Music Day where our children dressed up as famous rockstars and performed their favourite songs throughout the day! We learnt about music from around the world and enjoyed celebrating different cultures. It was fantastic to see everyone getting involved and having such a great time.



Cromwell Community College's Primary and Secondary phases took part in 'Jamie's Guinness World Record Attempt' to hold the largest cooking class ever! We joined around 21,000 others online to make a delicious homemade pasta dish. Year 3 and 4 also dazzled audiences with their outstanding performance of *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Their confidence and charisma had families and staff beaming with pride.



Secondary phase students were invited to the Houses of Parliament to present their findings on reducing carbon emissions. We were one of just six schools selected out of 1,200 to attend this prestigious event.

Our Year 9 artists took part in painting decorative panels for Chatteris in Bloom. This vibrant community initiative gave students the chance to show their talents and be part of the town's summer celebrations.



Congratulations to our Sixth Form students who have achieved the following:

James Webb, Football Scholarship in America

Katie-Rae Neil, a Degree Apprenticeship with Astra-Zeneca

Evan Harte, a Degree Apprenticeship with Whiting and Partners



The School Council at **Earith** asked pupils' views about school trips. In addition to their class trips, our pupils were really keen to go on a whole school trip. The beach beat the zoo as our favourite – so we went!

We kicked off Healthy Week 2025 with a visit to Old Hunstanton. Digging holes, scaling the dunes, building sandcastles and dipping our toes. We were quite literally jumping for joy! Thanks to all the staff and the many volunteers for their support, and of course, our pupils' voice for driving this forward.



At **Grove Primary School** we were delighted with our recent Inclusion Quality Mark Award which we received alongside retaining our Excellence Status for the third year running.

A big thank you goes to the No Outsiders Champions, helped by Mrs Rough, who organised our Pride Month event and stood up in assembly to explain why we celebrated Pride. Well done everyone!

This term, our colleague Mrs Lynn Heard completed 25 years working at **Gusford Primary School**. What an achievement! She has seen a lot of changes in the office and taken everything in her stride with a smile and a cheery word. She was delighted to receive surprise to mark the occasion; a lovely letter and some flowers from the Active Learning Trust. A big well done and thank you to Lynn!



A group of pupils with profound learning and physical disabilities from **Highfield Ely** enjoyed a transformative five-day residential on the Norfolk Broads. They took part in sailing and kayaking, embracing activities they might never normally access. They also built vital independence skills that will support them into adulthood.

Our partnership with the Active Learning Trust and our Friends and Parents Association has brought wonderful improvements to our playground. A wheelchair friendly swing and roundabout have been installed, so that all our learners can play, laugh and connect with friends. The joy on pupils' faces has been truly heart-warming. Our annual Film Awards event was a spectacular success, filling the school hall twice over and creating a cinema-like buzz—complete with popcorn!

Meanwhile, a group of students embraced a day of muddy fun at The Playground in Waterbeach. Through water, mud and obstacle courses, they experienced PE in a thrilling, sensory-rich way that perfectly reflects our flexible approach to physical education.





We hosted our very own Key Stage 4 Junior Bake Off at **Highfield Littleport**! The students were given a task of designing a tasty treat and were given a budget to work within using their thinking skills. They got creative with some fantastic designs and worked skilfully as a team to make their ideas come to life. All of the student groups worked independently which demonstrated amazing steps towards preparation for adulthood. The senior leadership team had the pleasure of judging the students' creations – it was a very difficult choice but the strawberry drip cake came out top!



Last week, children in Year 6 from **Hillside Primary School** enjoyed a residential trip to Hilltop in Norfolk. They showed resilience and determination as they mastered new experiences including: high ropes, climbing and caving, team tasks, archery and the big zipper. It was a wonderful trip and it was amazing to see the children develop our values of Be Kind, Be Brave and Be Safe throughout the activities. The difference in these areas from the start of the trip was inspiring and we are very proud of the children! What a fantastic learning opportunity for them, and it was a real pleasure for the staff to be part of this too.



Our Year 6s at **Kingsfield Primary School** had a really valuable opportunity to learn some key first aid skills this term. Nigel from the British Red Cross visited and taught the children what to do if someone was unconscious and breathing, unconscious and not breathing, had a burn or they were bleeding heavily. The children were able to practise putting each other in the recovery position and practise chest compressions on a special dummy.



Neale-Wade Academy celebrated the legacy of former teacher George Lockwood in a ceremony to unveil the sports field dug outs purchased with money he generously donated to the school in his will. At the ceremony we were joined by members of Mr Lockwood's family and we saw the new dugouts in use for the first time. This is an ideal addition to the growing football provisions at Neale-Wade and the dugouts will support a wide range of activity, including regular use by the school's sports teams.

We were also delighted to take part in the World Record "Largest Cookery Lesson". 30 of our Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students made an amazing pasta dish during this really exciting lesson.





Year 6 at **Pakefield Primary School** had an excellent workshop with the Rogue Shanty Boys this term, learning a shanty to perform at the First Light Festival. The children had great fun and even got to help write a verse for the shanty.

They went on to treat everyone to an amazing performance with the band on stage at the festival!



At **Red Oak Primary School** we are delighted to have received our Excellence in Safeguarding Award - Platinum Plus, the highest possible level. Huge thanks to all our staff who are extremely committed to ensuring the safety of all the children.

This term we also enjoyed an amazing Dance Festival. The children were very confident performing to the large audiences.



Children at **Reydon Primary School** enjoyed spending time with their parents and carers at our Sports Day. Bouncy hoppers, javelins, sack races and hockey skills were among the carousel of activities. House teams and families cheered on at the sidelines as the races took place - a wonderfully happy day for the school community!

A group of year 3 and 4 children from **Sidegate Primary School** were invited to take part in a football festival on the main pitch at Ipswich Town Football Club! It was a great morning for the children, who performed and represented the school brilliantly, showing good teamwork and sportsmanship throughout!

Thank you to the Ipswich Town Foundation for inviting us and organising the festival.



Westwood Primary School is delighted to be named a Centre of Excellence, after receiving the prestigious Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) for the third year in a row.

This term we also had a special ceremony for Mrs Aldous as she moves on from Westwood and Grove to the role of Director of Primary at our Trust.





A big thank you to Mrs Branson who organised World Music Day at **Isle of Ely Primary School**! The children enjoyed some fantastic musical workshops and looked fabulous dressed up... as did the staff!

The children took part in dress-up day, Rainbow Friday, when children they wore rainbow colours or just their favourite colours.

Following a recent Incyte Safeguarding review, we are very pleased and proud to have been awarded the Platinum Incyte International Excellence in Safeguarding Award. It was pleasing that our excellent approach to safeguarding was recognised.

Lastly, we ended the term with great results across the board and our best ever SAT results. It has been a fabulous year and we look forward to a rest over the summer and then doing it all again in September.



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