

CEO Letter Summer 2 2025



As we close our academic year of 2024/2025 I have reflected on the CEO letters across the year and realise just how vibrant and special it has been. Seeing All Saints join us in September, seeing all they've done and achieved and shared, it's like they have always been with us and are an amazing addition to our Trust. The Mease have now been with us for well over a year and similarly, we feel part of one big family together and are grateful for their involvement and tremendous contributions. What a team!

Since my last message at the end of summer 1 so much has happened and even more than I am able to reflect on so please do look at school webpages for their blogs,, there are so many events that I don't get to see such as summer fetes, the residential at The Mease (mention of Borth at the end), best kept gardens, visits and visitors - so much wonderful learning and opportunities in our schools.

It feels like ages ago now but It was so special to see all classes across the Trust engaging with the worship led by Anson. They delivered an excellent worship on the theme of thankfulness. This letter shows that there is so much to be thankful for. I was able to join online this time and focus on all the schools on screen, how wonderful!



Goodness! Miss Mills and her team at The Mease have had 2 OFSTEDs in the last few weeks! One each at St Andrews and Mary Howad. We are thrilled to share both schools' superb reports as solidly good schools. Well done and what a journey. Have a read!

St Andrews <https://st-andrews-cliftoncampville.staffs.sch.uk/our-school/ofsted>

Mary Howard [https://drive.google.com/file/d/11v0sjZiAC0XX6wjWYeJudGY2Rbb7Lktq/view?usp=drive link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/11v0sjZiAC0XX6wjWYeJudGY2Rbb7Lktq/view?usp=drive_link)

| | St Andrews | Mary Howard |
|---------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Quality of Education | Good | Good |
| Behaviour and Attitudes | Good | Outstanding |
| Personal Development | Good | Good |
| Leadership and Management | Good | Good |



We are so grateful to everyone for engaging in school reviews this summer in the areas of SEND and EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage)). They were brilliantly positive with some slight even better ifs. We are so proud of our schools. Thanks to Kathryn Powels, EYFS lead and all the EYFS teams who were able to be released from their schools to take part and to Gemma Duffy (SENDSCO) for her ability to attend them all and conduct such a thorough and supportive review. It's been wonderful.



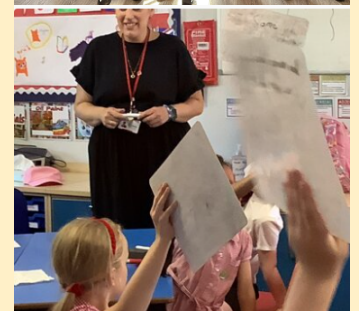
GreenPower was an exceptional day for children from Anson, St Marys, Richard Crosse and the Howard where children raced e-cars that they had designed, built and written portfolios for. We are grateful to all staff and are especially grateful to Dr Allen for his dedication and commitment - we have decided that this isn't the end of an era and we can take part next year too, with all of our schools!



Cross Country was a tremendous success, what a wonderful event. We are so grateful to Mr Stuart Challinor for organising and leading this opportunity (among all the other things he leads too!). We are very lucky. Richard Crosse's team were thrilled to win! Well done.

Our first 'hubbed' spelling Bee was fabulous. Mary Howard, St Andrews, Richard Crosse and The Howard held their KS1 and KS2 competitions first. Mary Howard

won both events! In our second hubbed Spelling Bee which took place between St Marys, All Saints and Anson, All Saints took the trophies for both KS1 and KS2, Thanks to all the staff who made this happen spearheaded and organised so well by Miss Mills. Thank you.



The Mease (St Andrews and Mary Howard) took part in the 'Kaleidoscope of Dreams' held in Tamworth castle during a recent Saturday. Miss Mills was on the steering group and it was a massive event across Tamworth with artwork, dancing and singing and a whole range of activities, stalls and entertainment. What a day - the children danced Bhangra brilliantly and enjoyed singing in the ensemble. Well done.

I have been blessed to see the plays at Anson (An Inspector Calls , St Mary's (Robin Hood), The Howard (Peter Pan) and the beginning of the play at Richard Crosse! (Super Stan)





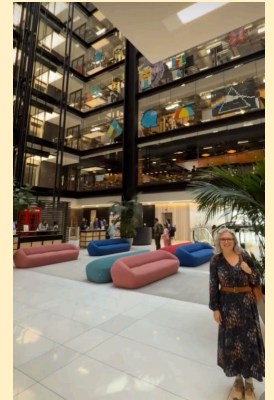
I am also blessed to be able to attend the forthcoming sports day and colour run at All Saints and Richard Crosse's final church service (both after this message goes out). Do



look at our Instagram account for updates - [thestaffordshireschoolsmat](https://www.instagram.com/thestaffordshireschoolsmat).

In other news, Nic Saint, our Clerk to Governors and project manager got to meet Kier Starmer and Ed Miliband recently. Off camera she chatted to him about school funding. She hopes to have secured visits to parliament for some of our older children across our Trust.

As we continue to develop as a Google Trust and expand our strategy, I was the last of the leadership team to attend 'Google's leaders in education conferences'. We look forward to our **INSET day on Monday 3rd November** where we review our use of AI and all of our school and trust development plans include Google for teaching, learning and administration, IT infrastructure and cyber security.



In September schools and our Trust will share our development plans for 2025/2026.



As I write this the children are at Borth - half way through! We are sure that the Borth residential will be as fantastic as ever and am grateful to all the staff for giving their time for such an amazing opportunity, especially Mr Wynn for organising such a mammoth event with a large amount of logistics and risk assessments!

Some Goodbyes

Before I close, we are saying a sad goodbye to Anna Hylton, Megan Cox and Julie Smith at Richard Crosse, and Melissa Rackham from Anson. On behalf of the entire school trust and your collective colleagues, we extend our deepest gratitude and heartfelt farewell to an exceptional group of staff. With unwavering dedication, innovative passion, and a profound impact on our children, as cherished colleagues in our collaborative spirit and shared commitment, we wish you all the very best for your next roles! Additionally, a temporary goodbye goes to Harriet Jennings at The Howard who will be leaving us on maternity leave - we wish you love and happiness and we can't wait to hear all about your new arrival.

Additionally, our Co Chair of Directors, Kev Borg and Mrs Anna Freeman, the Chair of Anson's Governing committee are leaving us. Here are a few words of gratitude for their tireless volunteering positions. Thank you.

Kev Borg

It is with a great deal of sadness that we say goodbye to our Co Chair of Directors, Mr Kev Borg.



It is with a profound sense of gratitude that we mark Kev's departure from the Trust. In his role as Director of Christian Distinctiveness and Trust Leadership and Strategy, he has been so much more than a title; he has been our anchor.

His unwavering presence across our family of schools set a standard for what true involvement looks like, a constant, reassuring figure standing with us in the eye of every SIAMS and OFSTED storm. In those high-pressure moments, he had an unparalleled gift for finding the right words – a calming influence that was never passive, but always purposeful and vocal when it mattered most. His ability to lead us in impromptu prayer, grounding us in our shared mission, was a quiet but powerful testament to his faith and leadership.

While his strategic insight will be a significant loss to our leadership discussions, it is perhaps the more earthly contributions we will also miss: his well-documented appreciation for a good croissant with jam, and a belief in the restorative power of a bacon butty, brought a wonderful humanity to our work.

We offer our thanks to Kev for his immense dedication, wisdom, kindness, and time freely given. We wish him every blessing, happiness, and success in his next chapter in Chaplaincy.

Anna Freeman - On behalf of the entire governing board, we want to extend our sincerest gratitude to Anna as she steps down from her role as Chair of Governors.

Anna's tenure has been defined by her unwavering dedication and hard work. Her calm and measured approach has been a source of strength for us all, providing invaluable support and guidance through every challenge and success. Stoic and supportive, she created an environment where considered decisions could be made for the benefit of our students and staff.

Her exceptional ability to grasp the detail of policy and papers was crucial in steering the school forward. Anna skillfully managed the team, holding meetings together with purpose and clarity. She not only led our board but also represented Anson at the wider Chair of Governors meetings, generously sharing the highs of our Ofsted and SIAMS successes and navigating challenges with other leaders. Above all, Anna has been a true champion for the work of our school and the trust. Her passion and commitment have left a lasting mark on our community.

We thank her for everything and wish her the very best for the future. She will be greatly missed.

I do hope you all enjoy any final events and thank you to all the staff who have made these opportunities and continued excellent learning possible. It just leaves me to say a huge thank you for a tremendous 2024/2025 to our staff, children, families and friends and wish you the summer you would like whether it be peaceful and restful or full of family filled energy (or a bit of both) and I hope it is safe and loving. We

wish all of our Year 6s and any leavers from our schools a bright, happy and healthy future and we look forward to seeing everyone else again in the new academic year ready for 2025/2026! Thank you.

Kind regards,

Charlene Gethin and *Ralph*.

