

## CEO LETTER Autumn 2 2025



Welcome to my final update of the calendar year for autumn 2!



It feels like such a long time ago now - our Staff enjoyed their INSET day early November spending the morning with their respective schools looking at school priorities and they spent the afternoon learning more about safe and exciting use of AI for teaching and learning and administration.

We thank all our schools for hosting our Chair of Members, Mr David Grever and our two new

Directors, Sophie Skelton and Jules Smith, across a whole day this half term. They had such a great time, were so complimentary about what they saw and experienced including school lunch! It put all of our discussions at Directors meetings into context.

Members of our Trust and Directors met for our annual AGM to look at the successes of the year, the challenges and our strategic plan going forward. We are grateful to these volunteers with amazing skill sets in their time and expertise to support our continual drive to improve.

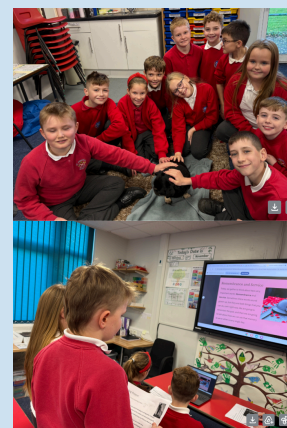
We're pleased to confirm that we have received positive feedback from the 24/25 financial audit with an unqualified audit opinion. There were a small number of internal control issues which have been rectified immediately. We are grateful to the team at Daines and our central team for their hard work.

Our whole Trust continues to provide an excellent education for our children whilst trying to make savings in ways which impact the least on our children. We have taken on sourcing contractors for compliance checks which has taken away the service level agreement fee. This has been a significant amount of work and we are sure that this process will run smoothly going forward, it provides just one example of cost savings identified.

Children in Oak class at St Andrew's Primary led a wonderful worship on the theme of 'service'. We were so grateful to them for their methodical, clear and confident delivery, offering time for questions and answers and reflection. Some super poems and scripture, thank you and well done.



Our choir sang at Lichfield Cathedral, it was a truly beautiful evening - the children sang 'The Carol of the Bells', such a challenging carol and the children sang it absolutely wonderfully.







Several Richard Crosse children won a poetry competition and were invited to Stafford Grammar school, with Pep the Poet, to read their poetry and receive an award. What a fabulous evening.

The nativities, lunches, fairs and services I have been able to attend have been wonderful and, after this letter has been sent to our offices, I have the pleasure of Anson's, St Andrew's and Mary Howard's nativities and lunch at St Marys and Richard Crosse too! How wonderful.



There have been so many Christmas services, events and experiences for our children as well as trips and visitors which you can see in your school newsletters, on the school blogs and social media - do have a look!



Wishing you and all your families a magical, restful, peaceful, and yet fun filled time this Christmas and a happy and healthy 2026!

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*

