

CEO LETTER Autumn 1 2023

It's been the most fantastic Autumn 1 half term and Ralph and I have been blessed to be part of something so wonderful - a vibrant term of learning and fun.



Congratulations to St Marys @ Colton for their **Outstanding Ofsted** outcome. We are so proud to have such a fantastic, passionate team where everyone strives for the best for all our

children across the Trust. Our gratitude goes to Mr Wynn and his team for securing such a successful outcome and to the other leaders across the trust who have ensured challenge and support, consistency and care to enable all our schools to succeed - together. Well done St Marys. Have a good read, its wonderful!

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/142097>



It was wonderful to see all schools launch their year with a project around Flower Power, a book for children everywhere –

the child of today, the child within us and for anyone who has responsibility for the care and nurture of children. They are beautiful texts and resources, led by a charity which provides educational resources to improve children's emotional health and wellbeing. It was a super start to the year and all 6 schools engaged with the resources and visiting author – Caroline Wedd. <https://www.flowerpowerbook.co.uk/>



The harvest celebrations across the Trust were lovely and whilst we couldn't make them all, we enjoyed those we did. The work children shared, paintings and readings, poetry and writing were tremendous and showed the example of high quality work of our children's learning.

It was so lovely to attend all schools and deliver the initial assembly/worship – with Ralph, leading on our new Trust Vision and the value of the half term – responsibility. Children were hugely responsive and it was another opportunity to later the information to staff post the INSET.



I was also thrilled to attend all of our schools on a good number of occasions across this half term and in particular to conduct both a SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development) and a Metacognition with a focus on Feedback review in order to ensure that these important areas of school life and pedagogy (the theory and practice of learning) are as good as they can be. The outcomes were fantastic with just a few pointers for our next steps of our



development journey. Pupil voice is an important part of monitoring and your children spoke excellently with wonderful behaviour, vocabulary and passion.

Pride as school given 'Outstanding' rating



St Mary's CE Primary pupils helped it achieve an 'Outstanding' grade

A primary school near Rugeley has been rated 'Outstanding' by the education watchdogs Ofsted.

St Mary's CE Primary, on Bellamour Way, Colton, was graded 'Outstanding' in all areas.

Lead inspector Sultanat Yunus said: "The school has created and developed an excellent and broad curriculum. It is underpinned by the national curriculum, shaped by pupils' interests and imbued with the school's core Christian

values of love, respect and friendship." The rating marks an improvement on a short inspection held in 2018, where the school retained a 'good' rating, with minor improvements to quality of teaching and teaching outcomes for those who are disadvantaged.

The report said: "All pupils grow and thrive academically, socially and emotionally. They keenly and enthusiastically take part in all that the school has to offer."



Our TSSMAT football tournament, held at Rugeley Leisure centre was tremendous. It was wonderful to welcome the Mease Federation team made up of Mary Howard and St Andrews – they won! Well done. Huge thanks goes to Mr Challinor for organising the event, all the staff who helped and parents and families who attended, it was a gorgeous autumnal day and the children had fantastic spirit and team work. Well done.



The Howards held two, Saturday open days which were successes and saw lots of families, new and current, enjoy the activities presented. They were beautiful days to perfectly show off such a fantastic setting. Thanks to the staff, PTA, Governors and Directors who attended to make these vibrant and successful mornings.

Ralph enjoyed a little art club with children at Richard Crosse (to paint an ornament for their school garden) and a Bath at Anson too.



Our INSET day/s led by the Trust were well received. It was great to see our Member, Simon Davis, some Directors and LGC members from across the trust attending too. Staff feedback about feeling valued and heard and the opportunity to focus on their wellbeing was nice to hear. We also reviewed the new trust vision and explored the 'daily lived' love in our schools through 1 Corinthians 13 4-8. We looked at Trust priorities and the leadership structure for our curriculum development too. The rest of the week was spent reviewing safeguarding, health and safety, GDPR and curriculum development.



Attendance

Attendance is an important drive both nationally and for our Trust. This letter as well as communications from your Executive Headteacher / Headteachers outlines changes to our attendance policy which is important for you to note. Currently our policy states that you must have had 10 sessions (5 days) absence for us to issue a penalty notice. Directors have agreed that this needs changing in the light of national expectations and changes to the Local authority code of conduct and it has become apparent that we can issue a penalty notice for **any** unauthorised leave of absence. A full and explanatory letter has been included with this letter.

	Overall end Spring 1	National Overall	Persistent Absence	National PA
Richard Crosse	97.08%	July 21 st 2023 Attendance rate was 94%	10.5%	(In the same period in 2021/2022 it was 18.2%. July 21 st 2023 in primary schools it was 17.2% 20.9% was overall PA across Autumn 2022
The Howard	96.35%		6.67%	
Anson	96.11%		2.94%	
St Marys	94.68%		7.06%	

Attainment

Whilst the education of our children and preparedness for the next stage of their education and lives is wider than data, we wanted to share with you the phenomenal outcomes of our schools. *Please remember cohorts can be tiny so for example, if there are just 4 children then they are 25% each. Our classes have ranged from this to between 15-20 children. Additionally, there may be children who joined our school in the year of SATS and didn't have a journey with us as well as a range of needs within a cohort such as Special Educational Needs where the child makes tremendous progress but doesn't necessarily achieve national expectations - please be mindful of the numbers. We also look forward to progress measures which show how children have improved from their starting points rather than just attainment.*

Reading, Writing & Maths Combined				
Percentage of Pupils achieving expected standard or higher (NA 59%)				
Anson	The Richard Crosse	St Mary's Primary	The Howard Primary	TSSMAT
77%	81.25%	84%	90%	83%
National Average 59%				
Percentage of Pupils achieving higher standard (%)				
12.5%	40%	31%	15%	24.6%
National Average GDS to be released in November				

Percentage of KS2 Pupils achieving expected standard or higher					
	Anson	The Richard Crosse	St Mary's CE	The Howard	TSSMAT
Reading NA 72%	77%	81.2%	84%	90%	87.5%
Writing NA 71%	77%	87.5%	84%	100%	87.12%
Maths NA 73%	77%	93.75%	84%	100%	88.68%
EPGS NA	77%	87.5%	84%	100%	87.12%
Percentage of Pupils achieving the higher standard					
Reading NA %	38%	37.5%	23%	40%	34.6%
Writing NA %	38%	31.25%	30%	40%	34.8%
Maths NA %	38%	43%	38%	40%	39.75%
EPGS NA	54%	31.25%	23%	80%	47.6%

I think you will agree, this is fantastic data and outcomes.

Vision and Values

As you are aware I have worked with our full range of stakeholders to develop our new scripture, motto and vision statement, the final detail is as follows.

The Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust Mission, Vision and Values Statement

The Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust is governed by a team of dedicated professionals who are passionate and care about the children and staff they serve ensuring high quality governance and support.

Motto: Flying the banner of love, wisdom and excellence.

Scripture: 'His banner over us is love.' Song of Solomon 2:4.

Values: Our three core values are love, respect and friendship

Mission: To ensure that all children and staff are enabled to flourish as confident, happy, healthy citizens, growing and achieving academically, socially, spiritually, culturally, physically and mentally in our aspirational and nurturing schools.

Please go to <https://www.tssmat.staffs.sch.uk/about-us/ethos-aims-vision> for the full vision statement.



Environmental Health

It's great to notify you that all of our kitchens now have grade 5 environmental health hygiene certification. St Marys have just received their newest grading.



Trust and school improvement

I am sure your Executive Headteachers / Headteachers have shared the school development plan direction for your schools and this is a pictorial representation to help staff remember and to communicate with parents, our key areas for improvement. Strategic and action plans sit behind the developments.

Changes to our Board.

I wanted to express gratitude from our Members, Director and all our schools to Mrs Heather Bowman who has now stood down as Chair of the Board of Directors. Fortunately for us she has become a Member and we are thrilled to keep Mrs Heather Bowman and all her expertise and knowledge in the family.

Mrs Heather Bowman has truly embodied exceptional leadership, strength, and inspiration throughout her tenure as Chair, her unwavering dedication and remarkable composure has been an asset to our team. Her experience as a former Headteacher enabled a profound understanding of the education landscape, and under her guidance, our original schools who were a Federation, have transformed into a successful multi-academy trust. In moments of uncertainty and turmoil, she has been a source of reassurance and tranquillity. Mrs Bowman’s personal connection as a grandparent with a stake in one of our schools has given her a deep appreciation for nurturing young minds and creating an environment where children can thrive. It is her profound passion for education that has fuelled her tireless efforts to ensure that our schools offer the very best opportunities, extending beyond mere outstanding data and statistics. She has helped us gracefully navigated the ever-changing landscape of education, weathering the storms of Ofsted and SIAMS inspections, as well as external challenges, her steadfast leadership has been instrumental in our triumphs. We are profoundly honoured to have had the privilege of working alongside Mrs Heather Bowman, witnessing first hand her unwavering commitment to our school family and communities. The extraordinary time and effort she has invested in our multi-academy trust has yielded remarkable dividends, leaving an indelible mark on all those you have touched. While she is leaving her position as Chair, we take solace in knowing that her wisdom and guidance will still be accessible to us as a valued Member. As we bid her farewell, we extend our deepest thanks for everything she has done. Thank you, Heather!



Mr K. Borg

Mr. P. Halifax

We are thrilled that Mr Peter Halifax and Mr Kev Borg, current members of the board, have agreed to Co-Chair the Board for us.

Wishing you all a family filled, restful, safe and happy half term. If you are celebrating the autumnal, Halloween and bonfire festivities please stay safe.

Kind Regards,

CS Gethin

Mrs Charlene Gethin (CEO) and Ralph.