



WELCOME TO

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

People · Passion · Performance



WELCOME

DAN THOMAS, CEO, THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

It is my pleasure to welcome you to The Learning Partnership. Formed of two local trusts, The Learning Alliance and The Learning for Life Partnership, we are a diverse new multi-academy trust delivering excellent educational provision for pupils in primary and secondary schools across the North West. We are ambitious about the future, and passionate about ensuring young people have access to the very best opportunities and life chances. We believe we have the knowledge and skills to influence the education system to make this a reality for all pupils.

We have 14 schools across the North West and each school is strengthened by the additional support we can provide as a larger multi-academy trust. This is because by working together, we have more resources to effect greater change for our pupils and the wider communities we serve. We are looking forward to embarking on this journey and working together to deliver on our promises to pupils, staff, and the wider region.

Our vision and values underpin everything we do at The Learning Partnership. People, Passion, and Performance are the core tenets of our ethos that help drive us to deliver the best education for our pupils, and the best possible opportunities for staff. These principles are at the forefront of everything we do, and they are reflected in the excellent education outcomes of our pupils and our warm and engaged school communities.

We are incredibly excited by this next step in our journey, and we wish to take you all with us as we move forward. We will begin by working hard to consolidate our place in the community as a provider of excellent education, and ensure we are providing high-quality support to every one of our schools to make sure the transition into the partnership is smooth. After building these important foundations, we will then be able to consider how best we can continue to pool resources to strengthen our provision and share best practice across the region.

DAVID WOOTTON, CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

I am extremely proud to be the Chair of Trustees of The Learning Partnership. This fantastic trust is at the heart of the local community in Cheshire East and North Staffordshire, providing an excellent education across 14 schools to thousands of children.

The last few years have been challenging for the education sector. The pandemic and subsequent lost learning has meant we have all had to adapt. Schools have increasingly had to provide more wrap-around care and have had to take on roles outside of the traditionally academic one. As the trustees of The Learning Partnership, we are acutely aware of our responsibility to every single pupil who attends one of our schools, not just for their academic progress, but for their social and emotional development and their wellbeing.

That is why we will endeavour to create an environment where we hold school leaders to account whilst also providing the support they need to create the very best schools that they can, and can thrive in an environment where they often face immense challenges.

The board of trustees is incredibly excited to support The Learning Partnership and assist in delivering the very best education to children and young people across Cheshire East and North Staffordshire.

With a supportive community and excellent educational provisions, we are proud to welcome you to The Learning Partnership



THE STORY SO FAR

The Learning Partnership's formation marks the culmination of an ongoing, strategic partnership between The Learning Alliance and The Learning for Life Partnership. The schools in both trusts are primarily based in CheshireEast, around the towns of Congleton, Knutsford and Crewe.

The Learning for Life Partnership was formed in 2014 and consisted of five primary schools. The Learning Alliance was formed in 2020 and had nine schools, six secondary and sixth form, and three primary.

We decided to merge our trusts because, at our foundation, we both have the same guiding principles and values built around the importance of delivering high-quality, inclusive education whilst building effective partnerships through shared experiences and best practice. With our shared localities and a shared ethos, we knew that merging our trusts would result in delivering an even better education to our pupils.

With this in mind, discussions began in the spring of 2022 about the potential opportunities of a merger and the positive outcomes that would come from pooling our resources and adding central capacity. In May 2023, the Regional Schools Commissioner approved the merger of our trusts, with a planned completion for September 2023 and the creation of The Learning Partnership. Our new trust of 14 schools will deliver education to 7,500 pupils and employ 900 people.

As one legal entity, The Learning Partnership will be able to streamline and drive efficiency which will increase the resources available to invest in school improvement. Additionally, we will be able to facilitate more effective collaborative work between our schools and create a more efficient trust structure, all of which will ensure that our focus is on delivering the very best education for our pupils.



14 schools

7,500 pupils



900



employees

PEOPLE, PASSION AND PERFORMANCE

At The Learning Partnership, we believe that there are three core facets of our mission – **people, passion, and performance**.

We are striving to build a community of the strongest **people**, inspiring a **passion** for education that galvanises these people to maximise their abilities, which supports all pupils to **perform** to the best of their abilities. We believe that these core principles will create a culture that helps all our schools to improve and ensures pupil outcomes are the very best they can be.



PEOPLE

We know that it is the people who make an organisation thrive. We want to attract and invest in the very best individuals who can deliver the best outcomes for our pupils. This means becoming the employer of choice in the region. To achieve this, we know that we need to invest in our people, provide excellent professional development, and nurture an environment that prioritises the wellbeing and mental health of our staff.

Career Development: The Learning Institute

We know that staff in the education sector highly value workplaces that provide them with continued professional development. That is why we have invested in our people to support their development and offer a range of professional qualifications and secondment opportunities through our continuous professional development arm: The Learning Institute.

These opportunities support our staff's development, whether they aspire to move into leadership roles or whether they want to develop and consolidate their skillset in order to maximise their output in the classroom and wish to do their job as effectively as possible. We know that keeping good teachers in the classroom is vitally important to ensuring our pupils succeed and that is why we place such high value on training and professional development.

Most of our training is delivered at our dedicated training suite based at Knutsford Academy. Here we deliver numerous programmes, including a range of National Professional Qualifications (NPQs).

We work through The Learning Institute to ensure greater collaboration across all our schools. This includes supporting colleagues through providing regular networking opportunities, sharing best practice across schools, and reducing workload by working collectively and collaboratively.

Health & Wellbeing

We are dedicated to promoting and improving the mental health and wellbeing of our staff through our commitment to the Education Staff Wellbeing Charter, effective performance management processes, and professional development opportunities available to staff across all trust schools.

We provide access to a suite of resources to empower our staff and we foster a culture that protects and enhances the wellbeing of our people, including an employee assistant programme, information services to support financial wellbeing, technology benefits, cycle2work schemes, as well as a range of discounts across the travel, hospitality and retail sectors.

We are proud to be a Disability Committed and Menopause Friendly employer. We value the diversity of our workforce, and we work hard to promote inclusivity throughout our organisation. We are also committed to supporting flexible working so that we can attract the best people.

PASSION

At The Learning Partnership, we are passionate about education, our staff and our communities. We know that passion for education is the key driving force behind good outcomes, happy children and a thriving school environment.

Our five core behaviours underpin our passion for education, staff and communities and help us to have a clear focus that allows us to deliver an excellent education to pupils across Cheshire East and North Staffordshire.

1. **Show and expect respect**
2. **Maintain self-awareness**
3. **Exhibit resilience**
4. **Ensure high quality communication**
5. **Prioritise making a wider contribution**

We believe that respect, self-awareness, resilience, communication, and making wider contributions facilitate an environment that fosters a passion for education, people, and communities.

PERFORMANCE

We know that across every school, the number one priority for parents and staff is to deliver the best outcomes for pupils. As part of this, we are dedicated to securing strong destinations of our pupils, setting them up for bright and fulfilling futures. To achieve this, we have developed a strong, sustainable and highly effective trust.

We believe that improvement is the key indicator of performance, which is why we have set out our approach to supporting schools to improve.

The first step is to **know** our schools. This is based on a holistic approach to understanding our schools in depth, including their historical context, current performance, and future aspirations.

The second step in our approach is to **challenge** schools. For schools to be able to improve, we must provide constructive feedback and critique that ensures they are clear which areas they need to develop.

The third step is to **support** in delivering school improvement priorities through the direction of school staff, facilitating collaboration across the trust and providing trust-led direction and guidance. We provide specialist services that are tailored to each school and is reflective of its needs and characteristics in detail.

SCHOOLS

The Learning Partnership is a trust comprised of 14 schools, 8 primary schools and 6 secondary schools.

Our primary schools



Black Firs Primary School

📍 Congleton

One and a half form entry

350 students

Headteacher - Anna Jones



Leighton Academy

📍 Crewe

Double form entry

480 students

Principal - Samantha Thompson



Castle Primary School

📍 Mow Cop

Single form entry

110 students

Headteacher - Jill Mason



Wheelock Primary School

Wheelock Primary School

📍 Wheelock, Sandbach

Double form entry

315 students

Principal - Sally Whitehead



Daven Primary School

Daven Primary School

📍 Congleton

Single form entry

160 students

Headteacher - Jenny Gosling



Wistaston Church Lane Academy

Wistaston Church Lane Academy

📍 Crewe

Double form entry

420 students

Principal - Cathy Elsley



Egerton Primary School

📍 Knutsford

Single form entry

205 students

Headteacher - Caroline Lowe



Shavington Primary School

Shavington Primary School

📍 Shavington, Crewe

Double form entry

420 students

Headteacher - Paul McDowell

Our secondary schools



Cheshire Studio School

📍 Knutsford

Studio School based on the Knutsford Academy site, for students aged 14 – 19

120 students

Headteacher - Karen Key



Knutsford Academy

📍 Knutsford

Secondary school with a Sixth Form

1,300 students

Headteacher - Karen Key



Congleton High School

📍 Congleton

Secondary school with a Sixth Form

1,327 students

Headteacher - Heidi Thurland



The Oaks Academy

📍 Crewe

Secondary school for students aged 11 – 16

629 students

Headteacher - Peter Kingdom



Crewe Engineering & Design UTC

Crewe Engineering & Design UTC

📍 Crewe

University Technical College for students aged 14 – 19

250 students

Principal - Will Chitty



Sir William Stanier School

📍 Crewe

Secondary school for students aged 11 – 16

748 students

Principal - Nicki Gregg

**BASED IN
CHESHIRE EAST**





People · Passion · Performance

