

Spring 2025 newsletter



Hello from David O'Toole, CEO

With the arrival of spring, we are delighted to share our latest newsletter from The 3-18 Education Trust and our family of schools.

Firstly, we are thrilled to welcome John Wilkinson Primary School and Nursery to our Trust. Their addition will further enrich our community and drive forward our shared goal of providing exceptional education and care to all our students.

We also extend our congratulations to the newly appointed headteachers at Much Wenlock Primary School and Nursery and William Brookes School. Rachel Howell-James at Much Wenlock and Ruth Shaw at William Brookes bring a wealth of experience and passion to their new roles. We are confident that their leadership will inspire and nurture the academic and personal growth of our students.

Our Trust remains committed to offering excellent CPD opportunities. We are particularly excited about our Summer CPD programme for all Trust staff and our Aspire Programme, both of which are designed to support the professional journey of our staff.

We are very excited about the development of our Trust Belonging framework which is being introduced across our schools in the summer term. This initiative aims to develop a culture of inclusion and belonging, ensuring that every member of our community feels valued and supported.

In this term's newsletter

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Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our broader school community, including staff, governors, trustees and parents/carers. Your ongoing commitment and dedication are instrumental in making our schools a great place to be. Together, we continue to create an environment where excellence in education thrives.

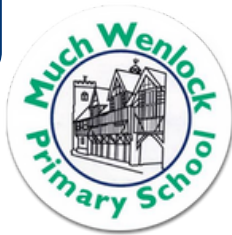
Thank you and happy reading!

News from our Trust

Welcome to our tenth Trust school

We are delighted to welcome John Wilkinson Primary School and Nursery as the tenth school to join our Trust. John Wilkinson is a vibrant, community-focused school situated in the heart of Broseley, with over 180 pupils. We look forward to working with Headteacher, Stephanie Beard, and the rest of the team!

[Find out more](#)



New leadership for Much Wenlock schools

A new chapter of school leadership started in January with the [appointment of former student](#), Ruth Shaw, as Headteacher at William Brookes School.

Early in February, [Rachel Howell-James was appointed](#) to lead Much Wenlock Primary School and Nursery as Headteacher. Congratulations to both Ruth and Rachel, and their school communities!

Summer CPD programme for all Trust staff

Our summer CPD programme runs from April to June with an exciting range of bitesize online sessions. From Canva and SEND to absence management and sessions focused on primary and secondary classrooms, there are a range of options to choose from to develop your skills and broaden your experience.

[Book your CPD now](#) (Staff access only)



Belonging at The 3-18 Education Trust

We strive for all our students, families and staff to develop and achieve a profound sense of belonging within our schools, Trust and wider communities. Across our schools next term, we are launching our Belonging framework and a student competition to answer the question—what is belonging?

We will be sharing more about this exciting initiative in our summer newsletter.

News from our schools



Bowbrook Primary School

Spring at the 'School of Opportunity' started off with Careers Week with visits from firefighters, a doctor, a nurse, artists, sports coaches, dancers and bricklayers—inspiring our children to find their own 'super strengths'. Our community events included our Spring Social; forest school stay and play; grandparents tea party; and a lunar banquet. We also had a visit from Julia Buckley, MP. We celebrated World Book Week with the voice of CBeebies and, during Science Week, our children even dissected a cow's heart and lungs!

[News from Bowbrook](#)

Bridgnorth Endowed School

With opening night for Bridgnorth Endowed's highly anticipated production of *Matilda The Musical JR.* just around the corner, excitement is running high. Over the weekend, the cast and crew's hard work and dedication paid off as they completed their final full-day rehearsal in the school's brand-new, Trust-funded drama studio. Meanwhile, set design and props are coming together beautifully, tickets are selling fast, and the buzz around school is palpable.



[News from Bridgnorth Endowed](#)

Coleham Primary School

Thanks to the guidance of our consultant John Murray, we have implemented minor yet impactful adjustments to our writing and reading programmes. These include picture book and novel studies, along with writing for an audience with a clear purpose, which have greatly enthused the staff. The team is now brimming with anticipation as we prepare to start, eager to see the positive effects these changes will add to our children's already enthusiastic approach to reading and writing at Coleham.



[News from Coleham](#)

News from our schools



Hodnet Primary School

This term the children of Hodnet's Eco Club have created eco animations, as part of their ongoing efforts to increase awareness of environmental issues. The children chose subjects that they felt particularly passionate about, including plastic waste and saving energy. Each group created their animations using an animation app. The animations will be presented to the whole school. Staff have been impressed with what the children have produced in such a short time and are considering starting a lunchtime animation club. Well done Hodnet Eco Club!

[News from Hodnet](#)

John Wilkinson Primary School and Nursery

Our school was transformed into Hogwarts for this year's World Book Day! On the day, our pupils enjoyed a sorting ceremony, flying lessons, owl and dragon making with Hagrid, mandrake planting, wand making, Quidditch, storywriting, quill writing and potion making. Our Nursery children were also busy with their own sorting ceremony, broomstick races and owl making. It was wonderful to watch all of the children embrace the Ministry of Magic and become fully engrossed in the Wizarding World of Harry Potter!



[News from John Wilkinson](#)



Much Wenlock Primary School and Nursery

Sustainability is a core value at Much Wenlock, and this term our brilliant Sustainability Ambassadors led a hugely successful 'Bags for Schools' campaign. With the support of our amazing community, we collected over half a tonne of clothing—more than double the average school collection. This initiative supported the circular economy, reduced waste, and raised valuable funds for school projects. A proud reflection of our values in action.

[News from Much Wenlock](#)

News from our schools



St Martins School

Excitement filled the air as the Duke of Edinburgh visited OsNosh, an inspiring community kitchen in Oswestry. OsNosh transforms surplus food into delicious, nutritious 'pay as you feel' meals, ensuring no good food goes to waste. To mark the occasion, 50 dedicated volunteers, including students from St Martins School, gathered for a special buffet lunch prepared by OsNosh founder Ben Wilson. OsNosh has built a strong partnership with the school, collaborating on various initiatives such as cooking masterclasses, educational visits to local organisations, and hands-on experience in their kitchen.

[News from St Martins](#)

The Priory School

Priory School have been praised for their innovative approach to building a thriving mathematical community by Axiom Maths. Sara Thompson, Mathematics Excellence Coordinator at Priory, has taken a holistic approach to identifying potential mathematicians, looking beyond test scores to find pupils with genuine mathematical curiosity and enthusiasm. Since September 2024, Sara has been running Maths Circles in school in partnership with Axiom Maths.



[News from Priory](#)

Thomas Adams School and Sixth Form

Thomas Adams School and Sixth Form shone at the 2025 Oswestry Youth Music Festival, showcasing exceptional talent across multiple categories including U13 Musical Theatre, U18 Pop Selection and U18 Musical Theatre and Operetta. Year 7 student Harry Lipson excelled in piano, securing multiple placements. With over 1,000 participants, from more than 40 schools, the festival celebrated young musicians' remarkable skills and achievements. We are incredibly proud of all students who took part for their dedication, talent, and outstanding performances.



[News from Thomas Adams](#)

News from our schools



William Brookes School

For the first time, our Year 9 students will have a choice of three pathways in Key Stage 4. Instead of a traditional one-size-fits-all model, a more bespoke approach has been designed by school leaders so that students, regardless of ability, can thrive. The three pathways include a triple science route, where students may take nine GCSEs; a core pathway, where students take an enrichment option alongside eight GCSEs and a vocational pathway where students can choose between three internal APs (construction, outdoor learning and upholstery) and will take seven GCSEs.

[News from William Brookes](#)

Salop Teaching Partnership

Want to find out more about training to become a secondary teacher? Our online Train to Teach information sessions are running throughout the summer term on:

- 6th and 20th May
- 3rd and 17th June

Book your place and find out more about our training opportunities on our website.

[Book your place](#)



From our Trustees

As part of John Wilkinson Primary School and Nursery joining The 3-18 Education Trust, we have welcomed five new local governors to our governance 'team'. The governors have local governance oversight of the school and nursery. A meeting was held in March to introduce them to the Trust's governance processes. Trustees and the Governance Support Team are looking forward to working with the local governors to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible.

Coming up next term



Business Leaders Professional Development summer term sessions

- 9th April, 15th May, 17th June, 16th July



National Offer Day for primary school places

- 16th April



Summer CPD - Canva Skills 1: Unlock creativity with Canva for education

- 29th April



Summer CPD - Canva Skills 2: Designing in Canva for educators

- 6th May



Summer CPD - SEND: The four broad areas of need

- 6th May



Governor and Trustee training: Exclusions support training

- 12th May



Summer CPD - Canva Skills 3: Capturing the student journey in Canva

- 13th May



Summer CPD - Checking for understanding in secondary classrooms

- 20th May



Summer CPD - Mastering Absence: Interactive webinar for Line Managers

- 3rd June



Governance training - Strategic vs. Operational

- 3rd June



Summer CPD - Effective assessment and feedback in the primary classroom

- 10th June



Aspire Leadership Programme - Day 3

- 25th June

Driven by our mission to ensure
'every individual is in a great school'.



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