

Autumn 2025 newsletter

Hello from David O'Toole, CEO



Our Trust is founded on strong charitable principles, with the aim of providing a broad and balanced curriculum for every child in our care. These guiding values ensure that each pupil receives an education tailored to their individual needs and aspirations.

We acknowledge that our achievements would not be possible without the close relationships we have built with the communities we serve. The bonds that have developed between our schools and staff, nurtured through ongoing collaboration and partnership, form the backbone of our success.

As a family of schools, we pride ourselves on our inclusive practices. This commitment has inspired remarkable innovation, particularly in the creation of alternative provision and adaptive teaching methods. These efforts ensure that every child has the opportunity to succeed and reach their full potential.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all staff and community partners for their unwavering dedication. Their commitment continually enriches the experiences of our children, enabling them to flourish in a supportive and positive environment.

Throughout the year, our schools and children participate in remarkable events and activities. These experiences are made possible by the hard work and commitment of the support network surrounding them. As we approach the Christmas break, we encourage everyone to pause, reflect, and appreciate the positive impact they have on the lives of young people.

Working in education is truly a privilege, and together we have the power to change lives.

In this term's newsletter

- [News from our Trust](#)
- [News from our schools](#)
- [From our Trustees](#)
- [Coming up next term](#)

We invite you to read on in our Trust newsletter to discover the many ways we are making a difference in our schools and communities.

David O'Toole
CEO
The 3-18 Education Trust

News from our Trust

Trust conference celebrates belonging

Our annual staff conference in November brought together over 570 colleagues from our schools and central team to celebrate the power of belonging. Inspiring keynotes from Major Scotty Mills, Royal Marines Commando and Simon Johnson from Tablet Academy set the tone, complemented by 20 expert CPD workshops and our inaugural Trust People Awards.



[Read our conference wrap-up](#)



Trust People Award winners announced

Our first Trust People Awards celebrated colleagues who truly embody our Trust values and priorities. With over 70 nominations, five winners were awarded in the categories of accomplished, belonging, compassion, resilience and rising star. Hosted at the annual conference, the awards highlighted the incredible contributions of staff across our schools.

[Meet our award winners](#)

Introducing 3-18 Inspiring Futures

At the start of the year, we launched **3-18 Inspiring Futures**, the new name for professional learning and development at The 3-18 Education Trust. From early career support and leadership programmes to teacher training and professional qualifications, 3-18 Inspiring Futures brings together our shared commitment to empowering our people at all stages of their career.



[Explore 3-18 Inspiring Futures](#)



New Head appointed at St Martins School

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Alison Pope as the new Headteacher of St Martins School. Alison commented: "Although the start to my time was far from the usual start to headship, it allowed me to develop a sense of how much the school means to its pupils, staff and wider community. I am honoured to take on the position."

[New Head appointment](#)

News from our Trust

What belonging means to our students

To mark the launch of The 3-18 Education Trust's [Belonging Framework](#), we invited students from across our schools to share what belonging means to them. Our students responded with remarkable creativity, from posters, poems and recipes to artwork, musical compositions and dance pieces.

[Explore the winning entries](#)



Trust students shine in dance spectacular

Over 100 students from across our primary and secondary schools came together in October for *A Night At The Musicals* - an inspiring evening of dance, music and performance, hosted at William Brookes School in Much Wenlock.

[Read our show review](#)

Trust music event unites young musicians

Thomas Adams School in Wem hosted our second Trust Music Event in September, welcoming instrumentalists from Hodnet Primary School and The Priory School to form a massed orchestra. The day featured lively rehearsals and a final performance uniting students from primary to sixth form.

[Read more](#)



Trust Governance Conference

The 3-18 Education Trust's fourth Governance Conference takes place on Saturday 24th January 2026 at Albright Hussey Manor Hotel. This annual event brings together trustees, governors and members to share best practice, strengthen collaboration and highlight strategies for effective governance.

SAMPeople - our new people management platform

Our new people management platform, SAMPeople, will be launched across our Trust in December. The new system will support staff with leave requests, managing absences and much more - all within one intuitive platform.

News from our schools



Bowbrook Primary School

Bowbrook has enjoyed a vibrant Autumn term, with children thriving through a range of opportunities. We are fully in the festive season and we have had our Christmas Lights Switch On, and are looking forward to rounding off a busy term with the nativity and a visit to watch the pantomime. A highlight for us was our little dancers performing at the Trust Dance Show. The youngest on the stage, but definitely the most attitude. We are so proud of you, Bowbrook!

[News from Bowbrook](#)

Bridgnorth Endowed School

This month, Bridgnorth Endowed had a double triumph at the 2025 Shropshire Cricket Board Awards: Mr Rory Noble was named Secondary School Teacher of the Year, and the school won Secondary School of the Year. The awards recognised the school's pioneering cricket programmes, student leadership, and community impact. Pupils supported primary competitions, managed teams and have grown in confidence under Mr Noble's guidance. Congratulations to Mr Noble and the school's talented young cricketers!

[News from Bridgnorth Endowed](#)



Coleham Primary School

Coleham School has had a fantastic start to the year! Huge thanks to School Business Manager, Tracy Othen, for transforming our outdoor spaces over the summer with new seating, a vibrant mural, improved surfaces, and standout signage. The school looks amazing! We also celebrate Chrissi Harris and Jess Melville for their brilliant starts as Deputy Head and EYFS Lead. Well done to everyone for making Coleham shine in our community!

[News from Coleham](#)



News from our schools

Hodnet Primary School

Our Careers and Aspiration Week was a great success! A big thank you to the Trust staff and wider community who came into school to speak to our pupils about their careers with the aim of inspiring our young people. It was an amazing week with high praise from our school community. Looking forward to the next one already!



[News from Hodnet](#)

John Wilkinson Primary School and Nursery

This autumn term at John Wilkinson School and Nursery has been truly wonderful, filled with exciting learning experiences that inspired curiosity and creativity across all year groups. Pupils engaged in enriching activities that celebrated achievement and teamwork. A highlight was our amazing new Christmas Fair, which brought together a huge number of children, parents, and members of the wider community. The event was a joyful success, fostering festive spirit and strengthening our school's community bonds.

[News from John Wilkinson](#)



Much Wenlock Primary School and Nursery

Belonging has been at the heart of Much Wenlock this term. Our new Golden Awards celebrate excellence in writing, art, and community leadership, and our Sorting Hat Ceremony launched our house groups with real excitement. School Council and Ambassador elections strengthened pupil voice across sustainability, arts, music, and wellbeing. We have also introduced inclusive attendance awards that recognise effort rather than 100%, with pupils opening the prize box to win a whole-class reward.



[News from Much Wenlock](#)

News from our schools



St Martins School

It has been a busy half term at St Martins getting pupils back to their teachers and building up to an exciting end of term. Instrumental lessons continue apace around keyboard, drums and woodwind, culminating with our secondary pupils end of term performance in a new location. Due to our recent fire, the village institute kindly agreed to host our Christmas concert on 10th December. Yet another example of our wonderful community spirit!

[News from St Martins](#)

The Priory School

Participation at The Priory School has been wonderful this term so far with a very successful charity quiz, incredible efforts in the House Run and huge numbers of students rehearsing for the Spring production of The Wizard of Oz. Furious competition for our House Music event is well under way and we look forward to welcoming Mr Penn as our celebrity judge this year!

[News from Priory](#)



Thomas Adams School and Sixth Form

Thomas Adams School has enjoyed a lively term! Highlights include a refreshed website, two successful open events, and we hosted our second trust music event with a mass orchestra. Students took part in Remembrance, Youth Awareness Day, Children in Need, and supported the Wrexham LTA W100 Tennis tournament as ball crew. Over 70 achieved Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Festivities continue with our Christmas Fayre, Variety Concert and the school and sixth form production of Oliver!

[News from Thomas Adams](#)



News from our schools



William Brookes School

William Brookes School has introduced City & Guilds qualifications in upholstery, outdoor learning, and construction for Key Stage 4 students. Partnering with Pave Aways, the program includes monthly site visits, bricklaying projects, and work experience opportunities, linking classroom learning with real-world practice. Headteacher Ruth Shaw says the initiative builds practical skills and confidence while creating clear pathways into apprenticeships and future careers.

[News from William Brookes](#)

3-18 Inspiring Futures Train to Teach

At the beginning of the school year, we welcomed 11 Secondary Associate Teachers to our PGCE programme. As well as developing their subject and pedagogical knowledge at The University of Chester, they have been learning about the importance of building relationships and embedding routine to support setting high expectations for pupils' achievement. The Associate Teachers have also been exploring Behaviour for Learning techniques with colleagues at Thomas Adams School.

[Explore Train to Teach](#)



From our Trustees

As we move towards the end of the autumn term, the activities of the Trustees and Local Governors continue to ensure our schools are working towards providing the best education for all our pupils. The Trustees are currently reviewing the Trust's governance structure to ensure, as the Trust grows, it continues to meet governance requirements. Also in the spring term is the Governance Conference on Saturday 24th January 2026, giving all Trustees and Local Governors the opportunity to meet, network and share best practice.

Thank you to all in the Trust community for your support during the autumn term and hope you all enjoy the festive season and New Year.

Coming up next term



Primary school application deadline

15th January 2026



CPD: Building Effective Adaptive Teaching Practices

20th January 2026



CPD: AI for Teachers

23rd January 2026



Trust Governance Conference

24th January 2026



CPD: Building Effective Adaptive Teaching Practices

3rd February 2026



CPD: Empowering Connections: The Impact of One-to-One Meetings

5th February 2026



CPD: Breaking down the label of dyslexia

10th February 2026



National secondary school offer day

2nd March 2026



CPD: Building Effective Adaptive Teaching Practices

3rd March 2026



CPD: Unlocking the power of reading: Building lifelong literacy in secondary schools

17th March 2026



National primary school offer day

16th April 2026

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



EDUCATION
TRUST

www.3-18education.co.uk