

Summer 2026 newsletter

Hello from David O'Toole, CEO



David at Much Wenlock Primary's Careers Day

What a year it has been! As we reach the end of another busy and purposeful school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been achieved, and to say a very sincere thank you to everyone who has made it possible.

We have much to celebrate. Both Much Wenlock Primary School and Lakelands Academy received Ofsted inspections this term, and showed us, and the wider world, what our schools are capable of when communities pull together. I am pleased to say that both schools are reflected positively under the new Ofsted framework. These are outcomes to be proud of and will help collectively as we work through future inspections.

This term we formally welcomed Lakelands Academy into the heart of our Trust community, following months of collaboration with the school and our Trust team. Each school that joins us brings its own identity, its own story, and its own community, and we are richer for it.

As we look ahead, we do so with real clarity and purpose. Our commitment to inclusion and belonging remains at the heart of everything we do, and our three strategic priorities give every school in our community a shared direction – relationships, belonging and culture; attendance, inclusion and equity; and quality of education and outcomes. These are not abstract ambitions. They are the practical expression of what we believe every child in our schools deserves.

None of what we achieve is possible without the daily commitment of our headteachers, staff, governors and parents. Your dedication to the children and communities you serve is what makes The 3-18 Education Trust what it is.

Thank you and have a wonderful summer.

David O'Toole
CEO
The 3-18 Education Trust

In this term's newsletter

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News from our Trust

Welcome to Lakelands Academy

We are delighted to welcome Lakelands Academy as the eleventh school to join our Trust. Lakelands is a thriving secondary school at the heart of Ellesmere, where it has served its local community for generations. With over 580 students, the school is recognised for its strong pastoral care, broad and balanced curriculum, and extensive enrichment opportunities, including Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

[Welcome to Lakelands](#)



Armed Forces Covenant signed at RAF Shawbury

Staff and students from across The 3-18 Education Trust visited RAF Shawbury in June to sign the Armed Forces Covenant, marking our formal commitment to supporting Forces personnel, children and families across our Shropshire schools. The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise by the nation ensuring that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, and their families, including the bereaved, are treated fairly.

[Forces Covenant signing](#)

Much Wenlock Primary's Ofsted inspection

Much Wenlock Primary School and Nursery's recent Ofsted inspection saw the school achieving 'strong' and 'expected' standards across all areas. The report praises a "highly welcoming culture, where all pupils thrive and feel a sense of belonging" and "every child gets off to a flying start."

[Much Wenlock's inspection](#)



Lakelands Academy's Ofsted inspection

Lakelands Academy's Ofsted inspection saw the school achieve 'expected standard' across the majority of areas under the new framework. The report praised the school's leadership noting that they "want the best for all pupils and have developed an inclusive culture in the school" and that leaders "consistently make decisions that put pupils' needs first."

[Lakelands' inspection](#)

News from our Trust

New nursery for Hodnet Primary School

A new nursery will open at Hodnet Primary School in September 2026. The nursery will welcome children aged 2 – 4 years, offering wraparound care and strong links to Hodnet's Reception class. This expansion is an exciting development to the high-quality Early Years provision that is already on offer at Hodnet.

[Hodnet's new nursery](#)



Celebrating Attenborough's 100th birthday

Students from across our Trust schools marked Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday in May by collaborating on a joint artwork celebrating care for the natural world and hope for the future. The finished artwork will be installed at The 3-18 Education Trust's central office in Shrewsbury for staff and visitors to enjoy.

[Student collaboration](#)

New running track at William Brookes School

The Wenlock Olympian Society has announced the return of athletics to the historic Wenlock Olympian Games this summer, following the completion of a brand-new track at William Brookes School. The 3-18 Education Trust announced a £164,000 investment to resurface the school's athletics track in February.

[New running track](#)



Free Halo Leisure membership for Trust staff

All Trust staff can now benefit from free Halo Leisure membership at [Bridgnorth Endowed Leisure Centre](#) and [Much Wenlock Leisure Centre](#). The free membership offer includes gym, swim, group exercise classes and online workouts via the Halo@Home app.

[Halo Leisure centres](#)

News from our schools



Bowbrook Primary School

Events such as BowFest brought the whole school community together through music, performance and celebration this term, helping pupils develop confidence, creativity and a sense of belonging. We tackled the hot weather by having a Water Fight Day which provided a fun and memorable way to celebrate the end of the academic year while promoting teamwork, resilience and positive relationships. International Day enabled pupils to explore and celebrate different cultures, traditions and languages.

[News from Bowbrook](#)

Bridgnorth Endowed School

Building work is now underway as part of two major projects designed to enhance facilities, broaden inclusion and strengthen support for students. The investment includes the refurbishment of a separate school building, creating modern learning spaces, a new teaching kitchen and dedicated Alternative Provision facilities as part of the Trust's Revive initiative. In addition, a new Specialist Resourced Provision will provide tailored support for pupils with special needs and further strengthen Bridgnorth Endowed's commitment to ensuring every child can belong, achieve and thrive.

[News from Bridgnorth Endowed](#)



Coleham Primary School

Coleham Primary School is proud to play an active role in Belle Vue Arts Festival, with every child contributing artwork and visiting the exhibition to see their creativity celebrated within the local community. Experiences like these help children see themselves as artists, build confidence and inspire imagination. The festival is a wonderful reminder of the power of creativity to bring people together, strengthen community connections and enrich children's learning beyond the classroom. Everyone at Coleham is an artist!

[News from Coleham](#)



News from our schools



Hodnet Primary School

Hodnet Primary School's Young Achiever of the Year award was presented to Lucas in Year 6. Lucas has achieved great success with motocross this year, having trials for GB and winning multiple high-level events. Lucas has shared and celebrated his awards and trophies in school and should feel very proud of these achievements. Lucas has also demonstrated extreme resilience through recent challenging family circumstances. Lucas is an exceptional young person and thoroughly deserving of this award.

[News from Hodnet](#)

John Wilkinson Primary School and Nursery

This term pupils enjoyed a wide range of exciting experiences both in and beyond the classroom. Children took part in educational visits, residential activities, swimming lessons, sporting events and transition opportunities, including trips to museums, farms and RAF Cosford. The term also featured Sports Day, as well as the Primary Dance Festival and special celebrations for our Nursery and Year 6 leavers. These valuable experiences helped to develop confidence, teamwork, and lasting memories for all our children.

[News from John Wilkinson](#)



Lakelands Academy

We are absolutely delighted to have achieved the Bronze Inclusive Attendance Award that is designed to build knowledge and skills for all staff to promote inclusive attendance practices throughout Lakelands Academy. We look forward to achieving the silver award next year! Also this term, a group of Year 10 and 11 students from our Kettlemere Centre completed the Talk for Work programme and workshop with potential employers, focusing on developing communication skills for the workplace.

[News from Lakelands](#)

News from our schools



Much Wenlock Primary School and Nursery

Our recent Careers Day featured inspiring workshops from a game developer, an exotic animal expert, as well as Tom Larkham, Headteacher at Coleham Primary School, speaking about being a zoologist, and David O'Toole, talking about his role as Trust CEO. In other exciting news, work has now started on our new inclusion base. We were also incredibly proud to receive feedback on the recent moderation of our Year 6 writing, which the moderator said was some of the greatest writing she had ever seen!

[News from Much Wenlock](#)

St Martins School

St Martins School is delighted to announce that our Combined Cadet Force (CCF) has once again been awarded Best Contingent and has won the prestigious Gun Run competition, marking an incredible third consecutive year of success. Congratulations to all involved on this fantastic achievement and thank you to the staff volunteers whose support and guidance helped make the experience such a success. This is a truly remarkable accomplishment that the whole school community can celebrate.

[News from St Martins](#)



The Priory School

Priory have had a busy half term, with a wonderful Year 8 trip to London during the hottest week of the year and an incredibly successful House Athletics day, with Attenborough House taking the trophy overall. Year 11 completed their exams and enjoyed a wonderful prom to celebrate their time at Priory; we look forward to welcoming them back in August to collect their results. Year 10 sat their exams in sweltering conditions and were absolutely brilliant, insisting on wearing their new black jumpers regardless of the heat!

[News from Priory](#)

News from our schools



Thomas Adams School and Sixth Form

A highlight of the term was celebrating Abi Tomlinson in Year 9 receiving her England Cap, recognising her outstanding achievement in football. Abi's success is the result of exceptional commitment, combined with the unwavering support of her teachers at Thomas Adams School, especially our dedicated PE staff. We are incredibly proud of Abi and wish her every success as she continues her sporting journey.

[News from Thomas Adams](#)

William Brookes School

Our City & Guilds students have been working hard to create a school garden which opened to visitors as part of this year's Much Wenlock Open Gardens Trail, an annual event which raises money for local charities. Our students created spaces including a formal border; an amphitheatre seating area; a wildlife walk; and a pond. The school also welcomed Jackfield Brass Band to play music during the event alongside our own student musicians. Events such as these are so positive, encouraging involvement from our local community and generating huge enthusiasm within our school community.



[News from William Brookes](#)



3-18 Inspiring Futures Train to Teach

Congratulations to our Associate Teachers who have successfully completed their Secondary PGCE and been recommended for Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). Their hard work, resilience and commitment have been outstanding. They will join schools as Early Career Teachers (ECTs) in September, and we wish them every success during their statutory two-year ECT induction and beyond. We also look forward to welcoming a new cohort this autumn beginning their own journey into the teaching profession.

[Train to Teach with us](#)

From our Trustees

We are delighted to welcome the Lakelands Governors, who officially joined our Trust on 1st June. Over recent weeks, Trustees have been introducing the new governance structure at Local Governing Committee meetings, with implementation scheduled for September. This marks an exciting milestone in the continued growth and development of our Trust, strengthening collaboration and supporting our shared vision for the future.

The Trustees would like to express their sincere thanks to everyone for their dedication, hard work, and commitment throughout the year. We wish all staff, governors, pupils, and families a safe, enjoyable, and well-deserved summer break.

We look forward to another successful year ahead.

Gary Turner
Chair of Trustees

Recognising our staff

Congratulations to our colleagues who are retiring at the end of this school year.

On behalf of all at The 3-18 Education Trust, thank you for your dedication and commitment to supporting students, families and colleagues in your schools.

We wish you all the very best for the future!

- Barbara Cole, TA Level 3 Reading Mentor/King's Trust Lead at Lakelands Academy
- Emma Davis, EYFS Teacher at Bowbrook Primary School
- Helen Jasper, Administrator at Coleham Primary School
- Louise Francis, Languages Teacher at William Brookes School
- Maria Moore, Administrator at Coleham Primary School

Coming up next term



September

- Trust CPD: Lessons from recent Ofsted inspections 3rd September
- Trust CPD: Improving Attendance: A whole school responsibility 10th September
- Trust CPD: RADY: Embedding primary provision 16th September
- Trust CPD: RADY: Embedding secondary provision 23rd September
- Trust CPD: An introduction to neurodiversity 24th September
- Trust CPD: Adaptive Teaching and EEF 5-a-day principles 30th September



October

- Trust CPD: Improving Attendance: A whole school responsibility 15th October
- Secondary school application deadline 31st October



November

- Trust staff conference 2nd November
- Trust CPD: Strong Foundations: Securing foundational knowledge for every pupil (primary) 10th November
- Trust CPD: Improving Attendance: A whole school responsibility 12th November
- Trust CPD: Strong Foundations at Transition: Foundational knowledge, Year 7 baselines and intervention that works 17th November



December

- Trust CPD: Improving Attendance: A whole school responsibility 10th December

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



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