



# ne Trust



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**Together we are stronger**  
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# A warm welcome from CEO Richard Gill



## Dear friends and colleagues,

Welcome to the second edition of the 'One Trust' digital newsletter, which is designed to keep you in touch with the latest news, activities and achievements from across the Partnership.



Feedback following the launch edition has been most encouraging, so many thanks to those of you who have taken the time to let us know your thoughts and suggestions. Please do keep these coming!

It's been another busy half-term for our schools, with so much to celebrate. Highlights include the continued rollout of iPads across the Partnership and a number of prominent visitors, which you can read about in this publication.

**“Thank you all for ensuring our children have access to rich and varied learning that extends beyond the classroom.” - Richard Gill**

We are making excellent progress with our two newest schools, both in Lichfield. Anna Seward Primary School is another step closer to opening its doors in September and I am also looking forward to officially welcoming The Bridge School to our learning family. Please do look out for updates over the coming months.

Congratulations to our Partnership on making the shortlist for the 'Large Business of the Year' at the Sutton Coldfield, Lichfield & Tamworth and Cannock Chase Chambers of Commerce's annual awards. It is a privilege to be among so many worthy organisations who work together to support our communities, including the children who attend our schools.

I do not underestimate the impact that extra-curricular enrichment opportunities have on students. This edition of 'One Trust' will focus on this core theme and showcase some of the excellent work that we deliver in this area, including the Children's University.

Thank you all for ensuring our children have access to rich and varied learning that extends beyond the classroom. Our priority will always be to ensure the very best for our children, their families and their communities and, thanks to your dedication, hard work and collaboration, we can achieve this.

Please enjoy a relaxing and enjoyable half-term break and I will catch up with you again soon.

Best wishes,

**Richard Gill CBE - CEO  
The Arthur Terry  
Learning Partnership**

# Meet Kat Lee

## The Partnership's Enrichment Trust Lead

Developing the Partnership's enrichment offer is a key objective and the driving force behind it is Kat Lee, who started her role as Enrichment Trust Lead in September last year.



**Kat, Associate Assistant Headteacher at Stockland Green, said: "Following the pandemic, a holistic approach to education was needed."**

"We have seen vulnerable and disadvantaged children in particular suffer and we needed to act, so we had to ask ourselves what opportunities can we provide via our enrichment offer?"

"We looked at the best way of fitting these opportunities into one package and lots of collaboration and planning has gone into this. We have considered many things, such as creating exciting challenges for children, celebrating achievements and using awards as an incentive and end point."

"Setting clear goals for children is important as it provides them with a vision and that's why the Children's University has proved so popular because it celebrates achievements, provides milestones and allows all of our schools to feel part of the 'One Trust' family."

"We want all children to feel included at all times – in both their own school and across the wider ATLP family. Good examples of this would be getting our children to show ambition in the sports industry and becoming excited about moving from primary to secondary school by getting involved with events which involve transitioning and working with pupils of different ages."

During the summer our children will have the opportunity to showcase their talents when they enjoy the inaugural Primary Sports Days which take place across three hubs. Student Sports Leaders at the three secondary schools involved will have the chance to enhance their facilitation skills and demonstrate their leadership competencies when they help run the events.

Similarly, the primary school children taking part in the sporting fun will get to work with older children which provides great experience for them and feeds into their wider transition of preparing to move to secondary level.

Youngsters from William MacGregor, Hill West, Curdworth, Coton Green and Two Gates will be at Arthur Terry on June 29, before Stockland Green welcomes Brookvale, Mere Green, Slade and Osborne pupils on June 30. The sports days conclude at Nether Stowe on July 5 when excited children from St Chad's, St Michael's, Greysbrooke and Scotch Orchard take centre stage.

Kat also revealed that the Partnership will be trialling a Key Stage 1 and 2 careers programme, with planning for the initiative currently taking place.

She said: "We've looked at the models of other primary schools which have launched careers programmes and we are looking at partnering with the Skills Builder Partnership which aims to help children master the essential

skills to make the most of their time in school and thrive in their wider lives."

**"We will be offering a careers provision - both within the curriculum and extra-curricular – to open doors for our young people. This will help children with low ambitions to aim higher and break down stereotypes."**

"It's a really important objective of ours to provide access to employers who tackle misconceptions, for example increasing the opportunities for men to work in the arts industry and working to bring more women into roles linked to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects."

"We are also placing a big emphasis on what our parent body can offer by way of extra-curricular opportunities."

"A lot of the work going on is still in its infancy, but we have people working extremely hard to ensure that our children are given every opportunity to flourish both inside and outside the classroom."

# Owl-Bert and pupils flying high as Children's University flourishes



**A key feature of the Partnership's 'One Trust' enrichment offer is the Children's University initiative spearheaded by Natasha Blunt.**

At the end of January, a hugely impressive 7,800 of our pupils were registered to the project and had 'logged' a combined 26,720 hours across 430 enrichment activities in our schools.

Inspired by Children's University mascot 'Owl-Bert', pupils complete activities both inside and outside the classroom to earn stamps for their children's university digital passports as they build up the hours to earn qualification for awards.

Natasha, the Partnership's Children's University Lead and Head of Sixth Form and Associate Assistant Head at The Coleshill School, explained how Owl-Bert has been out and about in our schools flying the flag for this exciting scheme.

Natasha said: "Since September, Owl-Bert has been flying around our Partnership encouraging all our students to take part in Children's University.

"It's fantastic to have nearly 8,000 children on board and to see so many young people and teachers enjoying the extra-curricular activities provided.

"We have already got 105 external community clubs involved in supporting Children's University and providing extra platforms for our pupils to showcase their talent.

"Local Scouts groups, Boldmere Swimming Club and Veseyans Rugby Club have all signed up to support our students in gaining Children's University hours through the Partnership's enrichment programme.

"The initiative has been a huge success and has really taken off across our communities. It has linked school enrichment

and local clubs to support the learning of our children and brought with it a huge contribution in terms of developing pupils' social skills."

**"It's fantastic to have nearly 8,000 children on board and to see so many young people and teachers enjoying the extra-curricular activities provided."**

**- Natasha Blunt**

Natasha is thrilled at the impact the project is having in motivating pupils to strive to bring the best out of themselves and work together as One Trust.

**Story continued >**



Greysbrooke Primary School's year 3 pupil Phoebe took first place in the Christmas card competition.



Owl-Bert has been out and about inspiring pupils.

**Story continued >**

She added: “We have launched two competitions and four newsletters which are sent to all our schools every half term to encourage our students to gain additional Children’s University hours.

“Our Gold Graduation to celebrate all students who achieve more than 100 hours will be taking place at the University of Birmingham on Wednesday, June 28.

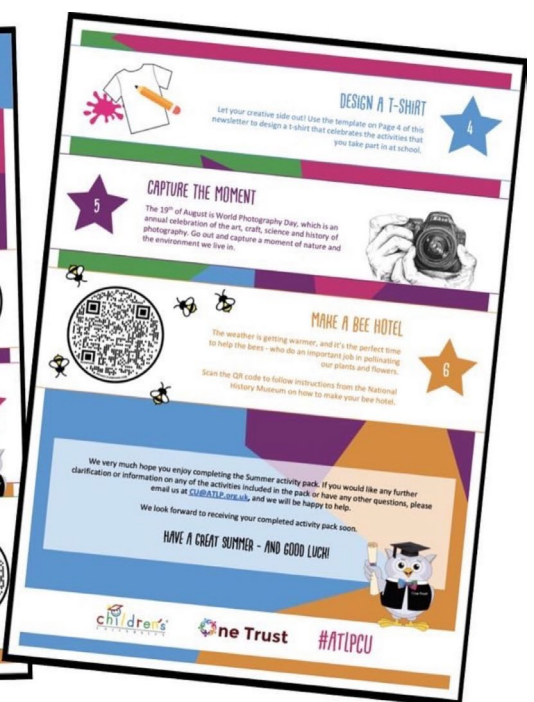
“Owl-Bert our mascot is now in many of our schools as many staff and sixth form students have knitted Owl-Berts for their own schools. It has been fantastic to see so many students getting involved and earning their 30-hour Bronze awards and Owl pin badges in recent award assemblies across the Partnership.

“The Partnership’s Children’s University Christmas Card competition was a huge success, with Greysbrooke Primary

School’s Phoebe in year 3 taking first place. Her Christmas card design was turned into a digital design that was sent across our schools.

“Our latest RPSB Big Garden Watch attracted a record number of student entries and Children’s University codes being awarded to their digital passports.”

Kat Lee, the Partnership’s Personal Development Trust Lead and Associate Assistant Headteacher at Stockland Green School, said: “Natasha has done a phenomenal job of launching Children’s University. It’s heart-warming to see and hear of our children being active and creative with their families and the wider community.”





# Excited children getting to grips with new iPads as Learning Futures project gathers pace

**Pupils at four more of our schools are now fully equipped for learning on site and at home after each received a brand-new iPad as the Partnership's digital revolution continues.**

Pupils at Coton Green primary and Nether Stowe, Coleshill and Arthur Terry secondaries are the latest of our 20 schools to enjoy the 'unboxing' experience' of iPads as part of the Learning Futures scheme.

By September this year, all of our 10,000-plus pupils and in excess of 1,000 child-facing staff will have received devices to enhance teaching and learning both in and out of school.

Coton Green Headteacher Richard Osborne said: "There was a real buzz around the school after the iPads arrived. The children were very happy to receive them and the staff can already see how it will open up all kinds of new ways to enhance lessons and learning.

"We held a special assembly to explain what was happening before we gave out the devices, which will make sure all of our students have access to the latest technology."

Richard Anderton, the Partnership's Digital Transformation Lead, said the children had been tremendously excited by the arrival of the iPads.

He said: "We have an 'unboxing' experience when the children get to be the first person to take the new iPad out of the box, before putting the protective case on the device themselves and getting to understand how they work."

Pupils take the iPads home every night and are responsible for bringing them into school, fully charged and ready to be used, every morning. The devices also provide a way for parents to understand what their children are learning about and see what they get up to during the school day.

**Story continued >**



Richard Anderton, the Partnership's Digital Transformation Lead, with Coton Green children and their new iPads.



Nether Stowe students with their new iPads pose in front of the oldest blackboard in the Lichfield school, where education is being transformed by the introduction of the high-tech devices.

### Continued Story

Staff are being given training on how to get the most out of the project and action plans are being developed to support children with special needs and pupils with English as an additional language.

**“The children really value it as it personalises their learning.”**  
- Steve Peace

Mr Anderton explained: “There are a multitude of ways that the children can use these devices but it’s also really important to remember that the idea is not to replace writing and reading and books, it’s to form part of a wider learning experience.

“The pandemic really highlighted the difference between children who had access to technology and those who didn’t, so being able to provide children with technology, without parents

having to fund it, became very important to us.

“Learning Futures is a real game-changer that will reduce the digital divide between students and help them develop the skills they will all need growing up in a digital world.”

Pupils and teachers are finding the devices are already transforming their approach to education.

Nether Stowe Assistant Headteacher Steve Peace said: “We have been working on this since last July - issuing the devices to teachers first so they could begin to use them in lessons.

“The rollout means we are now what is referred to as a one-to-one school and 85 per cent of our teachers are Apple Teacher-qualified as well, which is a huge help.

“The children really value it as it personalises their learning. The devices provide access to resources and provide a dynamic and inclusive way of learning.

“Even simple things like everything being in colour, as opposed to being photocopied in black and white, makes a real difference to their learning experience.

**“Equity is really important with this. It means everybody has the same access to quality technology. It’s a level playing field for everybody.”**

“It has been transformative, but to be honest we don’t know the full potential of this at the moment. They are amazing devices that can tap into the creativity of teenagers and give them the opportunity to prepare for living in the digital world.”



## Trust Board makes a valuable addition

The Partnership has appointed a highly regarded and experienced educationalist to its Trust Board.

David Watson OBE, who is CEO of the Venturers Trust, joins as a Trustee.

David's eminent career has included headships in both Birmingham and Manchester. Alongside this he has held leader and director-level positions for national and regional educational bodies, as well as being an Ofsted inspector.

His strong track record of success delivering positive impact at school, system, local, regional and national level resulted in him being awarded an OBE in the 2019 New Year's Honours List for services to education.

Before joining Venturers Trust in 2020, David was the CEO and Executive Principal of Changing Lives in Collaboration Trust, based in Manchester.

## Introducing the ATLP Support Services logo

The eye-catching logo recognises the various departments which make up the Partnership's Support Services team.

The logo has been created to emphasise the work of our vital support staff – both as an entirety and as individual teams.

The design features people coming together and supporting each other, which illustrates the holistic approach our Support Services team undertakes.

Each 'person' on the logo has its own recognisable colour-coded icon – for example red represents Estates.

This important branding provides recognition for Support Services and follows the logos created for the ATLP and Learning Futures.

## CEO Richard Gill recognised with university honour

The Partnership's CEO Richard Gill CBE was all smiles after being awarded a Birmingham City University honorary doctorate for his outstanding service and dedication to the sector.

The highly-respected education leader, who is also chairman of the Teaching School Hubs Council, received his honorary doctorate during a graduation ceremony for education and social work students at Birmingham's Symphony Hall early this year.

Richard began his career as a teacher in Staffordshire and in 2010 was appointed headteacher of Arthur Terry School, which under his leadership became one of the first 100 teaching schools to provide initial teacher training.

In 2014 he was appointed as National Leader of Education by the Secretary of State for Education, for whom he uses his expertise to engage with Ministers and senior officials to help shape the national education agenda.

In 2020, Richard was awarded a Commander of the British Empire in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for his outstanding services to education.

## Building for the future

Construction work is progressing rapidly at the site of Lichfield's Anna Seward Primary School, which will welcome its first children through the doors in September.

Providing the best resources and facilities possible to help grow school communities is a constant Partnership objective and, thanks to external investment, several of

our schools are now undergoing or awaiting building works which will provide pupils with new, modern and energy-efficient classrooms and facilities.

As part of the Government's School Rebuilding Programme, West Coventry Academy is undergoing a £38.4m complete rebuild including a brand new, state-of-the-art sports hall to also serve the local community, whilst Hill West Primary and Coleshill School will also enjoy rebuilds which will ensure new buildings and classrooms are winter-resilient and net-zero in operation.



Anna Seward Primary School.





## 'Tremendous' effort hailed after successful Ofsted inspection

Partnership CEO Richard Gill CBE and Arthur Terry School headteacher Samantha Kibble have praised staff, Trust Board members and advocates for their hard work, support and dedication following a rewarding Ofsted inspection.

Arthur Terry School's inspection - the first under a rigorous new framework - resulted in 'Outstanding' judgements awarded in four out of five areas and 'Good' in the other.

Inspectors described Arthur Terry as a 'very well-run school' with a 'culture of high ambitions and aspirations for every pupil and student'. They commended the school in a number of areas by referencing strong pupil behaviour; teachers who are experts in their subjects; exceptional leadership; and the impact of the support, care and guidance available to pupils.

Samantha said: "It is pleasing that inspectors recognised our high standards and high achievement across the school, along with the quality of care and support our children receive."

Richard added: "This was the first inspection for many staff at the school and under a new inspection framework that is more stringent than previously - and they were tremendous.

"I am extremely proud of how Arthur Terry has performed and wish the school every success as we continue to put children at the heart of everything we do."



West Coventry Academy pupils were thrilled to see manufacturing and engineering in action at close quarters.

## West Coventry Academy pupils show off their manufacturing skills

Year 10 construction pupils at West Coventry Academy enhanced their skill set when they enjoyed a valuable enrichment activity in the city.

A group of pupils were invited to attend a practical day at the Lloyds Bank Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre (MTC) on Ansty Business Park courtesy of engineering trainer and former apprentice Nigel Bailey.

The visit included a tour of the research and development building to see some of the larger equipment in action, as well as witnessing computer numerical control, remote robotics and metrology put to use.

The tour of the Academy area was led by some of the apprentices at the MTC who demonstrated how to dismantle and reconstruct an engine.

The afternoon was taken up by a practical session, during which the guests were shown how to solder connectors to eventually make a circuit for a light-activated switch.

**“Enrichment activities such as this are a great way to showcase the talent of our pupils and broaden their thinking about potential careers.”**

West Coventry Academy spokesman

## Thousands raised in festive fundraisers



Rudolph visits Slade Primary School.

ATLP pupils raised thousands for hospices by taking part in charity Rudolph Runs.

Pupils at Slade, William MacGregor and St Michael's donned festive antlers to raise cash. Slade youngsters supported John Taylor Hospice, whilst William MacGregor pupils raised a fantastic £3,208 for St Giles Hospice.

# Beyond the classroom:

## Thank you to our teachers for creating a lifetime of skills and memories

Our schools understand the importance of taking pupils outside their comfort zone, encouraging them to make decisions and contributing to the wider world perspective.

This term alone, there have been a multitude of visits for our primary school pupils to savour and some of the excitement is captured here.

**These life-changing experiences are only possible thanks to the commitment and enthusiasm of our dedicated staff.**

Among the trips have been Hill West year 2 pupils visiting the Black Country Living Museum where highlights included a ride

on a canal boat and travelling through the limestone tunnels. The school's year 4s took part in various adventure activities including abseiling and raft-building during their residential at Whitemoor Lakes.

Other residential have included year 5 St Chad's pupils building fires and exploring caves at Laches Wood and caving also thrilled year 6 children from St Michael's during their stay at Standon Bowers Outdoor Education Centre. Elsewhere, pupils from Slade developed survival skills during their trip to Willersley Castle.

Theatre trips remain a highlight for our pupils, exemplified by Brookvale children watching Dick Whittington at Birmingham Hippodrome, William MacGregor youngsters relishing being part of the Young Voices concert and Scotch Orchard year 4s fully embracing an artistic experience of dance, music and drama at Ingestre Hall.



St Michael's children exploring caves.



Scotch Orchard youngsters were head over heels with their dance workshops.



Hill West pupils prepare to test the rafts they built.

## Stockland Green School's community engagement earns high praise from MP

**Erdington's MP has declared Stockland Green School at the 'heart of its community' after visiting to meet pupils and look around the site.**

Paulette Hamilton was given a tour of the facilities and dropped into lessons to speak to excited children and staff.

The Member of Parliament listened in on a hard-hitting presentation by reformed criminal Gary Williams, of the Precious Lives project, which warned of the dangers of crime and knives.

She sat down in the school library to be grilled by Stockland Green's student leaders, who asked her about life as an MP, her background as a nurse, her family and the importance of education.

Mrs Hamilton said: "I thought the student leaders were fantastic. Their questions were researched well, they presented themselves well and the subjects they asked me about were quite hard-hitting, so I couldn't just give a one-word answer!"

"I think Stockland Green School is a perfect example of that community spirit, because the school doesn't just care about what happens inside the classrooms, it cares about what happens in the children's homes too. It's a school that's right at the heart of the community and I saw that during my visit."



Stockland Green pupils with MP, Paulette Hamilton.



# Meet Lisa Nelson

## The Partnership's Trust Vulnerable Children Lead



**Lisa Nelson may only be in the second term of her new role at the Partnership, but she is already seeing the fruits of her labour pay dividends.**

Lisa, who began working in this vital position in early September, made the switch from her previous position as a head of service in children's social care.

Therefore, her passion for helping to ensure that vulnerable children are given the support and care they require has long been there in abundance.

However, there are specific ambitions in her desire to increase happiness in young lives which means her appointment as Trust Vulnerable Children Lead is the ideal fit.

Lisa explained: "I am passionate about improving the lives of the most vulnerable children and, having seen the long-term impact of trauma and abuse on children for many years in social work, I really wanted to start to focus on earlier intervention.

"This can avoid escalation and make a difference for all our children. Our schools are the perfect place for this, as most children spend so much time there.

"As the Trust Vulnerable Children Lead, I have received a warm welcome through my first term and enjoyed visiting all our schools. Children being at the heart of everything we do shines through during visits and makes

me excited about how we can pull together the experience and expertise across the Partnership to learn from each other and continue to develop for the benefit of the children."

As mentioned above, building strong working relationships and increasing knowledge of areas which may require attention is vital to helping to ensure the safety of our children. Lisa has relished getting to grips with key aspects of her role.

**"I am passionate about improving the lives of the most vulnerable children."**  
- Lisa Nelson

She said: "I have been working on the priorities for vulnerable children, with a focus on attendance and trauma-informed, attachment-aware practice, which I know is a 'One Trust' priority.

"It's been great to learn that some schools have been developing this way of working for some time and others are keen to start the journey of learning and development.

"We have a group of peers who are doing additional training, so that they can share that knowledge further in our schools and hubs.

"I have enjoyed meeting a

network of people who are responsible for vulnerable children in schools. We enjoyed a launch event, where we spoke about our priorities and the impact of trauma on children's ability to access learning.

"During further networking meetings we will be sharing best practice and resources to help each other when facing challenging situations and develop our priority areas as we work together to develop as 'One Trust'.

"I look forward to bringing in professionals in the field to help us to understand the impact of trauma and attachment more in the coming months and years."

Lisa is distinctly aware of the importance of spending quality time with family and friends and revealed some of her favourite pastimes.

She added: "I am married with two grown-up daughters - one who recently got married and one who is starting university this year.

"I live with my husband and youngest daughter in Cannock and we enjoy spending time with our three dogs, taking them on camping holidays and mini breaks or lovely walks in the local area.

"I also love to read. As a self-confessed introvert, you will often find me curled up with my dogs reading a favourite novel.

"I am thrilled to be part of the ATLP family and look forward to many years of collaboration, development and learning together with you all."

# John Willmott's new headteacher proud to take the reins

**The new headteacher of John Willmott says she feels 'honoured' to be given the opportunity to lead the Sutton Coldfield school.**

Nicola Gould was appointed headteacher in December after running the school in an acting role for a year. She says she is now determined to make John Willmott a 'school of choice' for more pupils each year.

The married mum-of-three said: "I feel very privileged to be at John Willmott. There is so much potential in this school and it's an honour to be able to work with this community.

"We want John Willmott to be the school of choice and we're working to raise the aspirations of children who come here, through our motto 'Potential into Reality'. "That means going back to basics in valuing simple standards and thinking about the skills children need to be really successful."

The school recently launched eight 'virtues' that pupils are being encouraged to adopt. These are self-discipline, integrity, kindness, gratitude, courage, respect, commitment and service and all are a key part of Mrs Gould's vision for John Willmott.

She explained: "These values form the bedrock of how the students can reach their potential, because by explicitly teaching these virtues they'll become motivated to want to be successful.

"The result is children who aspire to be successful. Through the virtues they'll develop the personal skills they need to succeed and we'll teach them the academic knowledge they need too.

**"We want our children to make a positive contribution to the wider community. We're building these children to be citizens for the future, with strong moral and civic values. We want everyone to feel proud that they come here and we're already seeing a response to the virtues."**

Nicola began her career as a geography teacher and worked at Bournville School for 23 years before joining the Partnership.

She said: "I'm a geography teacher, which is really important to me, as geographers are analytical people who ask questions about the world around us. I think that approach has given me a strong grounding for school improvement."



Those skills were put to use after Nicola joined the Partnership. After spending a year as acting headteacher of Stockland Green School, she joined our School Improvement Team and helped to raise standards.

She added: "I really enjoyed my work in school improvement. I did a lot of ATLP outreach work, supporting schools that needed help, such as King Solomon in Aston. It also gave me an opportunity to work with all of ATLP's schools, both primary and secondary, so I have a lot of knowledge of them and our local feeder schools too.

"Being part of ATLP is wonderful because of the enrichment offer for continuous professional development and commitment to learning and improving teaching, through access to training courses and also through in-house support. John Willmott hugely benefits from being a member of that larger family."

Nicola is particularly relishing working with the John Willmott School community of pupils, parents and staff.

**Story continued >**



**Continued Story**

She said: "John Willmott has nearly 1,000 students and it's a very mixed group. It's a diverse community which I believe is a real strength because it reflects the make-up of Birmingham and modern Britain.

"I'm also lucky to have brilliant staff, who have really bought into what we are doing here. I feel very fortunate to be able to work with them. I've got great teachers, who are subject specialists, which really makes a difference too. It means we can drive our standards up and work around the eight virtues backed by a strong academic body.

"The challenge we have is about persuading more parents to pick our school as a first choice, but I think we're in a different place already, even after a year. The pace of change has been quite quick and I think people are realising the school has changed."

The facilities at John Willmott are also being improved. Building work over the summer included a new reception area being constructed, along with improvements to the school's décor - and there is more to come.

Nicola explained: "We've revamped our library and will be opening a brand-new facility in the next couple of months. We've also got some renovation work for our grounds in the pipeline.

"I think it's very important that we involve the students in improvements like this and get their input into what they would like to see. Everything we do is driven by the students. Again, that's about developing their pride in the school and building a sense of community here."

Partnership CEO Richard Gill CBE said: "Nicola has played an important role in improving education at so many schools since she joined ATLP and now John Willmott is seeing the benefit of her experience and drive.

**OUR MORAL Virtues**

**Commitment**  
Determination, dedication and perseverance to achieve a goal.

**Integrity**  
The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles.

**Respect**  
Due regard for someone's feelings and rights.

**Courage**  
Facing up to things that are scary, difficult or dangerous.

**Kindness**  
The quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate.

**Gratitude**  
Feeling and expressing thanks and appreciation.

**Service**  
Showing goodwill of one, thought and work.

**Self-Discipline**  
The ability to control one's feelings and actions and avoid self-indulgence.

**"Potential into reality."**

"As headteacher she is already making a difference at John Willmott and I'm looking forward to seeing how her energy and determination continues to build the school's character - both in the student body and among the talented staff they have there."

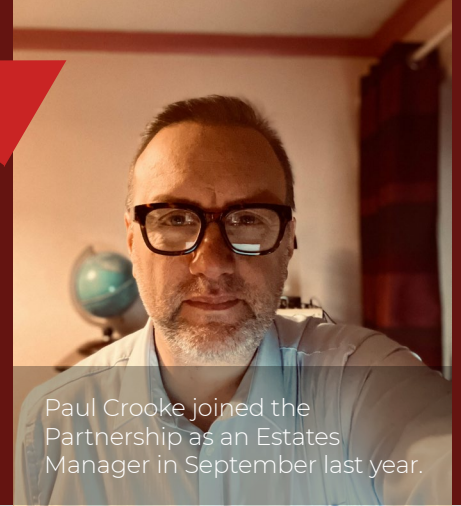


**"I think it's very important that we involve the students in improvements like this and get their input into what they would like to see".**  
- Nicola Gould



# Meet Paul Crooke

## New Estates Manager relishing the challenge



Paul Crooke joined the Partnership as an Estates Manager in September last year.

**“Every day is a school day and I know more than I did yesterday”.**

That is what makes the role of Estates Manager (South) so rewarding for Paul Crooke, who joined the Partnership at the start of the current academic year.

Charismatic Paul has become a hugely valued member of the Operations & Estates team which strives day in, day out to keep learning environments safe and secure for our children.

Paul said: “There are four things I have to ensure. That is to keep our children in warm, dry, safe and sustainable facilities. If the team and myself are doing that, then it means we are doing a good job.

“There is a new challenge every day and I love tackling these.” Paul leads on Estates management across our southern schools and ensures the safe and efficient management and operational development of buildings, grounds and resources within the Partnership.

Whether it is a large-scale project such as car park resurfacing or roof replacement, a boiler replacement or general maintenance, there is always something on the agenda for Paul.

He revealed how preparation and planning is the key to achieving success within the department, which strives to maximise cost-effectiveness and quality to leave working legacies.

A great example of this is the work currently taking place to install automatic entry gates in our single-entry primary schools

by the end of this academic year. The new gates will enable access to the schools - for example for community use - when site teams are not present, which saves time and improves the value of the site and its security.

Paul said: “You’re always thinking of the bigger picture. Things that I work on today could be in operation in 30 years so you can’t cut corners. The team and I are always working closely together to pool our knowledge and come up with the best course of action.

“The key part of my role is managing the statutory requirements of buildings and estates and within this it’s vital to analyse policies and data. Condition data reports show the issues which each of our schools are facing and forms the basis for the upkeep of buildings and estates, which marries with the Project Request Forms which schools complete each year.

“We then assess the importance and priority of these requests within the budget.

**“This cyclical annual process outlined in the financial security strategic objective is a very effective way of working because it allows us to review progress quickly in schools.**

“In my previous roles we have not worked as effectively as this and it’s a real example of how operating as One Trust brings benefits to our schools when it comes to decision-making and working strategically to achieve best practice.”

There is plenty going on for Paul and his Estates colleagues who are currently undertaking energy audits across the Partnership. The results are awaited and will be implemented to improve sustainability, which is a huge priority of the Operations & Estates team.

Prior to joining the Partnership, Paul was a site manager at a Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) school in Walsall and his other previous roles include working in site facilities management for an agency and estates manager for a training and conference centre.

Paul, who also worked in the events industry for 20 years, added: “I was looking for a new challenge. With the roles I have worked in during my career, it feels like I’ve been on an apprenticeship to becoming an estate manager. My experience is standing me in good stead.”

Paul, who lives in Aldridge with his wife and teenage children Genevieve, 16, and Freddie, 14, is another “long-suffering” Birmingham City fan.

As well as football, he enjoys cooking, spending time with family and doing many of the things people put on their CV to make them seem more interesting. He also likes comedy.

# New Starters

We have been delighted to welcome many new faces to the Partnership this term. We wish all of our new colleagues all the very best in their roles.



## Arthur Terry School

**Hannah Storrar**  
Attendance Administration Assistant

**Nicola Oke**  
Teacher of Design Technology

**Maria Jones**  
Student Support Officer



Coton Green  
Primary School

## Coton Green Primary

**Miriam McDonagh**  
Teacher



## Hill West Primary

**Karen Cliff**  
Receptionist

**Katie Fletcher**  
Teaching Assistant



## John Willmott School

**Joshua Boyce**  
Maths Tutor

**Claudine White**  
Second in English



## Mere Green Primary

**Amelia Parsons**  
Before and After School Club Playworker

**Katie Williams**  
Teaching Assistant



## Nether Stowe School

**Nicola Watts**  
Teaching Assistant



## St Chad's Primary

**Sarah Smith**  
Teaching Assistant 1:1 SEN

**Nathan Briley**  
Teacher



## Stockland Green School

**Murad Zaman**  
Cover Supervisor



## ATLP

**Iain Hamilton**  
Site Assistant

**Jay Rowley**  
Estates Manager

**Jennifer Walsh**  
Recruitment Assistant

**Rheo Winters**  
Estates Administrator

**Aimee Hutchinson**  
Finance Manager



## The Coleshill School

**Kyra Ostojic**  
Teaching Assistant



## West Coventry Academy

**Josephine Summers**  
Assistant Headteacher

**Kya O'Harrow**  
Attendance Administration Assistant

# Internal promotions

We are excited to announce a number of promotions within the Partnership this term. Good luck to all in their roles.



## Curdworth Primary School

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**Kaye Gibbs**  
Associate Assistant Headteacher



## The Coleshill School

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**Lynne Fellowes**  
Lead DSL & Strategic Lead for Vulnerable Students

**Charlotte Painter**  
Sixth Form Administrator



## John Willmott School

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**Katrena Aucott**  
Strategic Lead for Culture



## West Coventry Academy

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**Sophie Martin**  
Second in English

**Claire Franklin**  
Lead DSL & Strategic Lead for Attendance



## Stockland Green School

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**Steven Beeston**  
Lead DSL & Strategic Lead for Attendance



## William MacGregor Primary School

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**Laura Marsh**  
Associate Assistant Headteacher



# What did you think of issue two of 'One Trust'?

If your school has a great story to share, or there is a teacher or member of support staff who is championing our One Trust ethos, then please get in touch about potential coverage in a forthcoming issue.

Share your thoughts and feedback with Communications Officer Liam Moakes by emailing [liam.moakes@atlp.org.uk](mailto:liam.moakes@atlp.org.uk).



Coton Green Primary School



Together we are stronger