



ne Trust



4 Meet our Times Tables Rock Stars

8 Selfless students set fine examples

7 Cosying up in reading corners

12 A fond farewell to Alison



Together we are stronger



Welcome from our CEO, Richard Gill



We know the autumn term is by far the longest in the cycle of the school year, or at least it always feels like it. Yet here we are, already coming to the end of what has been a very busy but productive period.

It would be remiss of me not to thank you for all you have done to support your own school or central team which, in turn, has impacted on numerous children, their families and the communities we serve. You will all have heard me say that children lie at the heart of everything we do. In order to do this, we have to have the very best people working for us. Yes, this means you. Thank you, sincerely, for being amazing.

It has been an important few weeks in terms of actions following the 'Your Voice' staff survey. We have introduced two new packages to help and support each and every one of you with your wellbeing:

My Lifestyle is a new benefits and discount scheme that includes childcare vouchers, access to cycle to work schemes and more. You can make the most of hundreds of discounts on your everyday shopping, holidays and leisure to save more than £1,000 a year on your annual shopping bill.

Medicash focuses on health and wellbeing. Benefits include access to a virtual GP, 24/7 employee support service,

counselling, health screening and it also allows you to claim money back for optical, dental and other treatments. This not only covers you, but also your children up to the age of 24 if they are in full-time education.

Please look out for more details about these schemes in the upcoming HR newsletter, which you will receive soon.

I recently wrote to you to launch the ATLP Staff lottery. The first draw was made on December 18 and was backdated to include winners for September, October, November and December. Our thanks once again to our friends at Zest Education whose generous donation has made this possible.

It was lovely to hear from so many of you in response to my email. Not everyone can be a winner, but you've got to be in it to win it.

We want our ATLP family of schools to be the happiest place to work. We want to create that sense of belonging that ensures everyone feels valued, loved, cared for and appreciated. The information above is just a small part of the package being put together to help and support all of you.

Flourishing staff means flourishing children and this sits at the heart of our new People Vision.

I wish everyone happy holidays, yet we know that for some of our ATLP family, this time of year can be particularly hard. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of our ATLP community. Now more than ever, it is important that we are kind to ourselves and to each other.

Richard Gill CBE - CEO
The Arthur Terry
Learning Partnership



Primary leaders share their wisdom

Primary curriculum leaders got their heads together to focus on their strengths and next steps.

Using learning from Emma Turner's two books - *Simplicitus* and *Simplicitus Altus* - leaders used the 'five fingerprints of curriculum overview' and 'best kept models' to review and further improve their curriculums.

Executive Headteacher Helen Hastilow and Primary Strategic Lead Suzie Norton were hugely impressed with the depth of conversations between leaders, which evidenced their strengths, collective best practice and ideas for development.

Assistant Headteacher Jayne Tanner presented Coton Green's introduction of curriculum faculties. Jayne decided to introduce this model of curriculum leadership and development after hearing from Greysbrooke Headteacher Ellie Ballinger at the summer term's curriculum leadership day.

Jayne's rationale for implementing the faculties model was very different to Ellie's and it demonstrated that this approach can be applicable to various school sizes and circumstances. Jayne highlighted the impact of this model in just one term, including a sense of togetherness in teams working collectively on their

subjects, increased knowledge of the curriculum across all staff and faster rate of development for middle leaders.

Curriculum leaders also had the opportunity to work with Design Technology Lead Lucy Tongue. They were able to review and discuss the DT primary curriculum and resources and it was hugely beneficial to have Lucy available to answer questions, clarify misconceptions and gain feedback.

Newly-appointed Science Lead Anna Haslam also gave a written update on actions since starting her role in September working with primary science leaders to review and develop the ATLP curriculum.





The sums added up at schools across the Partnership.



Rockin' all over our schools

Maths Week in November brought with it the launch of the ATLP Rock Wrangle which has been taking classrooms by storm!

Students have been grabbing their iPads and logging on to the Times Tables Rock Stars app which allows them to create a rock star persona and challenges their recall of multiplication facts, which are so important in their maths knowledge and confidence going forward.

Thirteen of our schools participated over the course of a school week and, astonishingly, 3.5 million correct answers were given to times table questions in that short amount of time. In fact, one student alone correctly

answered more than 57,000 questions in just five days.

An assembly was sent to all schools from world-renowned rock god 'Vince Savage' to not only praise our young people for their progress but, more importantly, the effort they put in.

Vince, 'cousin' of Trust Mathematics Lead Tom Manners, sang a mix of his hits which were all about the importance of effort... and the crowds went wild!

Congratulations to all schools for their participation. A phenomenal amount of maths was completed in such a short amount of time. Rock On!



Students delve into construction industry



Some of the industry experts with students from ATLP schools.

Students from ten ATLP schools learned how the world of the future is being built - and the career opportunities it presents - at an ambitious event.

The Careers Sector Spotlight event held at John Willmott focused on 'The Built Environment'. Coleshill, West Coventry Academy, Arthur Terry, Coton Green, William MacGregor, Mere Green, Slade, Brookvale and Osborne students joined peers from the host school.

Hundreds of students heard from four leading employers in the built environment space - Arcadis, Mott MacDonald, Wates Group and Align Architecture. Arcadis' Tom Newton shared his uniquely 'squiggly' personal career journey, including his claim to fame having personally hand-coloured all the digital motorway overhead signage!

Mott MacDonald's Jack Egan discussed the exciting 2024 opening of Smethwick's Midland Metropolitan University Hospital, which is being constructed using a significant proportion of recycled materials, with all components being 100 per cent recyclable over the course of its lifetime.

Dale Powell and Michael Martin of Wates Group talked about overcoming the many challenges of modernising Birmingham's historic law courts - the foundation stone of which was laid in 1887 by Queen Victoria herself.

The event was one in a series of termly Careers Sector Spotlights offered to ATLP students who have a specific interest in that particular industry.

Organiser Alex Zarifeh, Trust Lead for Personal Development, Careers said: "Research consistently demonstrates that young people meeting professionals from the world of work, who look and sound like them, in the sectors that they are most interested in, is a terrific way to inspire future career exploration."

Nether Stowe is set to host the third Career Sector Spotlight - 'The Creative Industries' - on February 27, before Stockland Green stages a 'Jobs of the future' event during the summer term.

Hitting the heights with Arcadis visit

Fifteen Slade pupils enjoyed a visit to Arcadis' 16th-floor Colmore Row offices as a follow-up to 'The Built Environment' event.

Accompanied by Teaching Assistant Mo Minhas, the Year 6 pupils were fascinated by the 103 Colmore Row building which is one of the most sought-after office spaces in Birmingham.

The venue provides 360-degree views of the city's skyline and even boasts AI-powered lifts!

The intention of the trip was proved by pupils' audible intakes of air as they were inspired by the possibilities of working for a leading professional services organisation.

In addition to touring the offices, they heard from Kathryn Hooley and Teo Golemdzhiyska - two female early careers professional role models in the construction sector - before tackling a bridge-building challenge.

Thanks go to Associate Social Value Director, Shazad Ahmad, for making the visit possible.



Slade pupils rose to the challenge.



The winning Arthur Terry team.

Maths comes to life for quick-thinking students

Mathematics is a lot more than just hard calculations – that was the message from the inaugural ATLP Big Maths Quiz featuring Year 10 students from across the Partnership.

The event, staged at Stockland Green and spearheaded by Maths Trust Lead Tomas Alley, was staged across rounds which tested skills including lateral thinking, problem-solving, teamwork and research.

Mr Alley, also the Maths Lead Practitioner at Stockland Green, said: “It was a thoroughly enjoyable day to host and the students were an absolute credit to their schools. Mathematics

is a wonderful subject but is not always viewed in the most positive light.

“We wanted to bring together some of the amazingly talented mathematicians in Year 10 and the vision was to celebrate some of our fantastic mathematics students but also to show that mathematics is more than just hard calculations.”

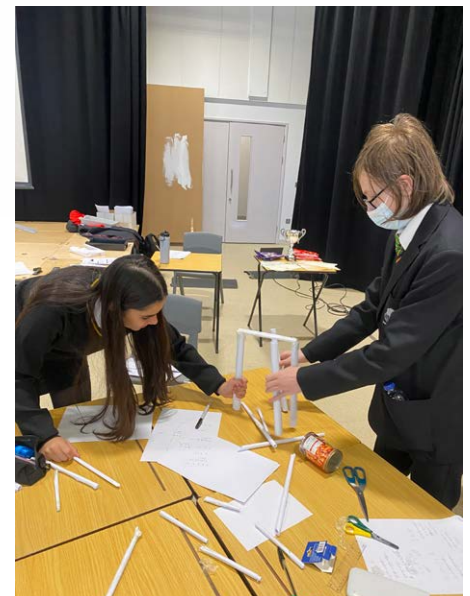
“This was the first time we have had some of our best mathematicians in one room and the most impressive thing was

the teamwork and perseverance of all students, even when they were faced with difficult problems.

“After much swapping around and a dramatic tower-building competition, Arthur Terry managed to secure the shiny silver cup as winners. The second Arthur Terry team followed closely behind as runners-up, with Nether Stowe third.”

A similar Key Stage 3 event is now being planned to take place in the new year.

Below Images: The ATLP Big Maths Quiz captivated students.



Brilliant reading corners bring books to life



The love of reading is celebrated across the Partnership – not least at St Chad's where teachers have been busy revamping their reading areas.

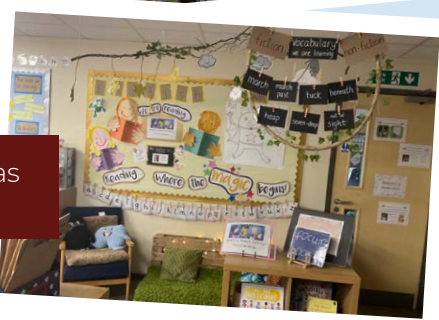
To make things a little more interesting, a competition was held throughout the Lichfield school to brighten up reading corners and the entries did not disappoint!

Emily Cornwell and her 'Glastonbooks' Festival won the Key Stage 2 contest and Gill Nugent and Hannah Prime with their immersive reading garden won for EYFS and Key Stage 1.

Head of School Jennifer Aitken said: "Parents enjoyed being invited in for story time on the last day before the half term break to see the wonderful effort that the teachers have put in."

Meanwhile, St Chad's is appealing for donations of fur coats of all sizes to be used in the new library as part of a Narnia theme.

Anyone who can help should email Jennifer at j.aitken@st-chads-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk and postage or collection will be arranged.



The wonderfully creative reading areas are inspiring children's love of books.

Budding poets show their talents

A trio of St Chad's pupils are celebrating after triumphing in Stafford Grammar School's poetry competition for all schools across Staffordshire.

All children in Key Stage 2 at St Chad's entered and Clifford (Year 3), Izzy (Year 4) and Ana (Year 6) all won a prize for their fantastic poems.

As a reward, they were invited to a special awards ceremony where poet and wellbeing champion 'Pep the Poet' presented them with certificates. The winners read their poems to a large audience and did so with confidence.

St Chad's Head of School Jennifer Aitken said: "They were so grateful to be part of the special event and everybody at St Chad's is extremely proud of them."



The award-winning young poets represented St Chad's superbly.



Outstanding fundraiser Alfie Keating.

Alfie takes the plunge for charity

Determined Arthur Terry student Alfie Keating has raised a fantastic sum for a cause close to his heart.

Alfie, in Year 9, swam 10km in aid of Dementia Support, which has helped his nan Pauline who has Alzheimer's.

Alfie's mum Siobhan said: "We are a very close family and my mum's diagnosis has floored the whole family.

"Alfie was happy to help. He loves Formula One, golf and swimming, so this was the best challenge we could come up with to raise money.

"We are so proud of Alfie for raising £1,415.25. It's a fantastic effort and achievement which shows his dedication and perseverance."

Selfless Lola brings Christmas cheer

Dedicated Lola Battista has continued her amazing efforts with more fantastic fundraising events.

The Coleshill School Year 8 student, who has long been a supporter of great causes and taken part in charity fundraisers, has been busy again in the build-up to the festive period.

Lola was up at 5am on a Saturday to compete in her Scouts group's Operation Chameleon event – a huge game of hide and seek in the middle of nowhere! Participants are dropped off in an unknown location and have to find checkpoints and collect codes by using maps and compasses.

It was 9.30pm before Lola returned home having raised £100 in sponsorship for Scouts.

The following day Lola was again up bright and early for her charity food drive at Morrisons in Sheldon, where she spent 8.5 hours collecting food donations from customers on behalf of her school's Father Hudson's Care Christmas hampers appeal.

Ahead of her biggest fundraiser to date, Lola had met with Morrisons' Community Champion. They agreed for Lola to make mini shopping lists from which customers were invited to donate an item.



Kind-hearted Lola Battista.

Morrisons hailed Lola's wonderful efforts and kindly donated to her Christmas toy collection for Birmingham City Mission, which has since gratefully received the gifts.

Lola is also donating toys to a grotto set up for terminally ill children from a local hospice.

Brilliant Brandon takes centre stage

St Michael's Year 6 pupil Brandon Westaway performed as the lead in Oliver at the Prince of Wales Theatre in Cannock earlier this month.

Brandon, a Music Ambassador at the Lichfield school, produced a series of phenomenal performances. Congratulations Brandon!



Acting and music star Brandon.



Sutton Coldfield MP Andrew Mitchell and Councillor Richard Parkin with Headteacher Nicola Gould and students.

MP backs John Willmott name change plans

Sutton Coldfield MP Andrew Mitchell has thrown his full support behind John Willmott School's proposal to adopt the town's Royal name in its title.

During a visit to meet staff and students, who showcased the 'Moral Virtues' aimed at raising aspirations, transforming the culture and building spirit with the school, Mr Mitchell also viewed plans to rename JWS as the 'Royal Sutton School'.

The MP, who was joined by Councillor Richard Parkin, said: "I was hugely impressed by my visit to John Willmott School, which is on something of a journey of transformation at the moment.

"The school has readopted its historic motto of 'Potential into Reality', which dates back to its time as a grammar school, and there is a very impressive system of Moral Virtues which is encouraging students to develop important life skills and values.

"There really is a new energy to the place and Headteacher Nicola Gould and her team should be congratulated. There is real excitement about the school adopting Sutton Coldfield's 'Royal' moniker, which is seen as a big step in its rebirth. The plans are very exciting."



A consultation into the name change - which will also mean a new badge and redesigned uniform - received nearly 500 responses, which were overwhelmingly supportive of the changes. Jenny Loynton, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands, has also expressed her support.

Mrs Gould said: "Andrew Mitchell was very interested in everything we are doing and has offered to support us where he can, including backing any applications we make to rebuild the school.

"John Willmott is on a journey and we are making real progress in shaping a positive inclusive culture at the school, by engaging with the community and inspiring our students to grow as individuals."

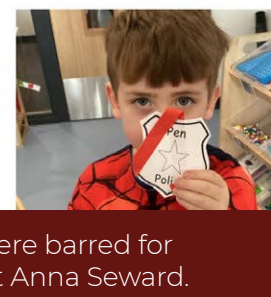


It's good to talk

An innovative 'No Pens Day' helped develop speech and language skills among Anna Seward pupils.

As part of the event, children at the Lichfield school took part in a huge show and tell in which they relished talking about items they had brought in from home.

Teaching Assistant Stephanie Little's pet African Snail Pearl was a special guest and proved to be a big hit among children.



Pens were barred for a day at Anna Seward.



Students urged to become 'global citizens'

Students at Stockland Green discovered what makes a global citizen as part of a Wellbeing Week that also focused on sustainability and how they can make a difference in their own community.

The school holds three Wellbeing Weeks each year to give staff and students the opportunity to explore a wider curriculum and extra pastoral topics.

The latest event centred on global citizenship and the UN's sustainability goals and encouraged students to think about their place in the world. There were lessons on sustainability and they took part in activities including writing campaigning letters to their MP on topics close to their heart.

An innovative pen pal system is also being set up so students can exchange letters with children in less well-off parts of the world.

Assistant Headteacher Kat Lee said: "This Wellbeing Week was really about raising the students' aspirations and encouraging them to see how they can make a difference in the local community and in the world in general.

"It was also an opportunity to celebrate diversity in our own community and get them to think about what it is to be good citizens, who make a real difference."



Wellbeing Week focused minds at Stockland Green.



STEM workshop inspires young minds

In a world increasingly driven by technology and innovation, nurturing young minds in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) has never been more critical.

At a recent workshop for Year 6 Hill West pupils, this idea was brought to life in an engaging and hands-on manner as they embarked on a fascinating journey to explore the power of triangular shapes in building bridges.

The workshop started with an exploration of the fundamental geometry of triangles. Pupils learned about the unique properties of triangles, such as their stability and versatility in creating strong structures. Using only small sticks and rubber bands, the budding engineers began their journey into the world of geometry and engineering.

The first step in their adventure was to create individual triangular shapes and, once the individual triangles were perfected, pupils formed groups and joined forces to construct large, free-standing structures.



A constructive time: Children enjoyed building for the future.

Collaboration and teamwork became essential as each group faced the challenge of designing and building a bridge using their triangular structures. This experience fostered not only creativity but also problem-solving skills as they encountered obstacles and setbacks along the way.

Year 6 Class Teacher Ryan Horne said: "The workshop was a huge success. It not only instilled a love for geometry and engineering in the young minds, but also imparted essential life skills such as collaboration, problem-solving and creativity.

"Pupils left with a sense of accomplishment and the belief that, with the right foundation and teamwork, they can construct bridges to a brighter future."



Respects paid to Coleshill's 'old boys'

Schools and communities across the Partnership paid their respects to the fallen during Remembrance week, when there was a very moving ceremony at The Coleshill School.

The school used its annual Remembrance Service to commemorate former students who lost their lives in active service.

Sixth-formers read out the names of 27 Coleshill 'old boys' from World War One, nine from World War Two and James Munday who was killed in Afghanistan in 2008. A packed hall of students and visitors then heard The Last Post which was followed by a two-minute silence.

Headteacher Ian Smith-Childs said: "At this time of war and suffering for so many people around the world, it is so important for the school community to come together. I would like to thank all our students, staff and visitors including Councillor Sue Wallace, Deputy Mayor of Coleshill, and John Hoyle, former Deputy Headteacher, for attending our Remembrance ceremony.

"I am proud of the number of students who voluntarily attended and were so respectful to commemorate our lost boys."

Sixth-formers Will, Evie and Evan, Headteacher Ian Smith-Childs, Deputy Mayor Sue Wallace, former Deputy Headteacher John Hoyle and Head of School Rebecca Brindley.



Alison Daly – Senior Finance Manager

The sums have added up to retirement for long-serving Alison Daly, who is leaving the Partnership after 20 years.

Senior Finance Manager Alison is calling time on her full-time working days to move to the countryside near the Peak District, where she hopes to mix a local part-time job with walking in glorious surroundings with a potential new dog.

Alison, a hugely popular figure across the company, began as a finance assistant in the old building at Arthur Terry in 2003, when she worked ten hours a week “counting cash” during term time.

“It’s all very different now!”, says Alison, who has played a key role in helping the Partnership grow and put it on a sound financial footing.

“When I first started working at Arthur Terry in administration and finance, there were no emails. All telephone messages were written down on paper and added to pigeon holes or we ran around school delivering more urgent notes to teachers!”

“I’ve been involved in the implementation of many changes over the years as the Partnership has steadily grown and evolved. I have introduced new features to adapt to the changing business model and increased volumes due to the growth of the Partnership.

“I have worked with many wonderful and supportive colleagues over the years and it’s

been a privilege to build empathy with and provide support for new schools as they’ve come on board.

“I’m an approachable and calm person who has taken great pleasure in supporting staff and pupils and that’s always been the priority. I’m proud of how I’ve helped joining schools transition to new methods and assisted staff with their finance training and I’d like to think I have enabled office managers to adapt and streamline their thinking towards finance practices.”

Alison has been Senior Finance Manager since September 2022, having spent the previous 12 years as Finance Manager. However, her finance journey goes back right to the early formation of ATLP when the building blocks were first being put in place.

Alison worked one day a week at Hill West before the hard federation with Stockland Green was formed and worked at Mere Green, Brookvale, Slade and Stockland Green once the Partnership was established in 2012.

She has long had an eye for finance having previously spent a 20-year career at Barclays bank as a cashier, personal banker and loans officer, but now it’s time to unwind!

Alison added: “I began working at Arthur Terry as it supported my personal life and looking after my two boys. As they grew, I was able



FINANCE

to grow my Arthur Terry/ATLP role too. I’ve met so many lovely people during my time here, our paths crossed as work colleagues, but many have become great friends. I’m leaving with many fond memories.”

Head of Finance Ria Farrell said: “I’m sure I speak for everyone on behalf of the ATLP when I say we all wish Alison a wonderful retirement. She’s been a fantastic person to work with and has made a massive contribution to the Partnership from day one.

“It’s very hard to find people with the dedication, commitment and talent that Alison possesses and our schools, staff and students are lucky to have benefited from her expertise for so long. We all wish you well Alison. Good luck!”



Introducing Natalie Harris – Dunstall Park Primary Head of School



Incoming Dunstall Park Head of School, Natalie Harris, aims to bring the ‘Walmley magic’ with her as she takes the reins at our new Tamworth primary school.

Natalie, who is leaving Walmley Junior School at the end of this term after 24 successful years, says the time is right to take on her first headship role and she cannot wait to get started.

She said: “I have worked under three excellent heads who have helped me develop and grow as a leader and I will be bringing these skills with me to Dunstall Park.

“The new school is going to be the beating heart of the community and that’s what motivates me so much, because it’s exactly what’s been built at Walmley.

“I have taught current pupils’ parents who have wanted to bring their children to the same school because of the big part it plays in the community and because of how well the staff know the families. It will be fantastic to be working in brand-new buildings but it still

remains the people that truly make a school successful and that’s what will be the focus when we recruit for the new school.”

Natalie boasts a wealth of teaching experience having started her career in Stechford before spending 24 years at her current school, firstly as a class teacher before becoming assistant headteacher and then spending nine years as deputy headteacher.

She added: “I’ve spent lots of time in both classroom and leadership roles and have still been in and out of the classroom in recent times, so I’ve seen most things!

“I’m very proud of what we’ve achieved at Walmley, including two outstanding Ofsteds, but it’s time for a new challenge now and I’m honoured to have been given this opportunity. I’ve been made to feel so welcome and have received great support from the ATLP family already, so I’m really looking forward to familiarising myself further from January.”

When she’s not steering schools to success, Natalie can be found standing on the side of a rugby pitch cheering on her teenage son or teaching her teenage daughter to drive. In her free time, she enjoys walking her dog and yoga.



ATLP CEO Richard Gill CBE, Head of School Natalie Harris and Primary Strategic Lead Suzie Norton were among the excited visitors at the Dunstall Park Primary groundbreaking ceremony.

Dunstall Park Primary Head of School Natalie Harris.

New Starters



Anna Seward Primary

Charlotte Edwards
Lunchtime Supervisor &
Administration Assistant

Arthur Terry Learning Partnership

Fiona Bishop
HR Advisor

Patcharaporn Gale
Catering Assistant

Asiya Parveen
Catering Assistant

Arthur Terry School

Jane Carney
Lunchtime Supervisor

Kar Kar Juliana Lee
Lunchtime Supervisor

Sam Rockett
Lunchtime Supervisor

The Bridge Academy

Hannah Dolan
Administration Assistant

Cheryl Lloyd
Teacher

The Coleshill School

Claire Brewster
Learning Resource
Manager

Coton Green Primary

Abigayle Whiffin
Teaching Assistant

John Willmott School

Lindsay Hines
PA to Headteacher

Jodie-Marie Hollies
Strategic Lead for
Attendance

Mere Green Primary

Christina Hands
Before and Afterschool
Club Manager

Scotch Orchard Primary

Amberley-Rose Mahoney
Teaching Assistant

Hanna Andriushchenko
Lunchtime Supervisor

West Coventry Academy

Samantha Digger
PA to Headteacher



What did you think of issue seven 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.



Together we are stronger