

ne Trust



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Welcome from our CEO, Richard Gill



It only seems like a couple of weeks since I was writing to wish everyone a merry Christmas yet, here we are, already at the end of the first half term of 2024!

I would like to start by wishing everyone a very happy new year and I hope that 2024 brings happiness to you and your families both at work and home.

It was a pleasure to welcome our new starters to the Partnership at the recent induction at Anna Seward and share with them our People Vision, which shows the esteem in which we hold our staff, as well as highlighting how we all continue to put children at the heart of everything we do.

I know all of you will help our new additions settle into life here and be that helping hand or listening ear that all of us need from time to time.

As many of you will be aware of, our learning family is set to grow again this year, with Deykin Avenue and Paget primary schools due to come on board.

It is testament to the hard work and dedication of each and every one of you that schools and the Department for Education see the ATLP as the ideal fit for these schools. When they join our ranks, they will prosper from the huge array of benefits we provide for students and staff, both inside and outside the classroom.

As you will see in this newsletter, we have some incredibly talented people working incredibly hard to achieve the best possible outcomes for the young people and communities that we serve and, for that, I thank you all.

Richard Gill CBE - CEO
The Arthur Terry
Learning Partnership





Teachers collaborate to master ‘Intentional Monitoring’

Teaching staff at Curdworth and William MacGregor have been working together to implement a specialist educationalist theory designed to enhance teaching and learning.

The schools are piloting intentional monitoring, which originates from Doug Lemov’s renowned book ‘Teach Like A Champion’.

For the past 12 months, teachers have been developing their understanding of intentional monitoring and applying their knowledge into classroom practice. They are now at the stage of refining their practice so it becomes embedded.

Intentional monitoring is a collective of five techniques (see diagram below) to use in teaching to ensure all children receive regular feedback to check their understanding, consolidate and then re-teach and stretch and challenge.

Initially in the spring and summer terms of 2023, key staff coached colleagues in fortnightly sessions in which groups were determined by teaching experience. Their focus started with maths as both schools use the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM) and were confident in the quality of the planning materials.

Teachers used lesson preparation to identify the powerful knowledge needed, possible misconceptions, tricky topics, deliberate practice and the teacher exemplar.

Working collaboratively on this has been a vital to the early success of the pilot as staff in half-form and one-form entry schools rarely have opportunity to discuss these key questions with a colleague.

The coaching groups have now evolved into the year groups the



staff teach in and the high-quality discussion is taking lessons to the next level of detail and focus for each child.

Curdworth and William MacGregor Heads of School Jas Kang and Natalie Jones are delighted with the progress of intentional monitoring. The schools will use the remainder of this academic year to fully embed the process into their maths teaching before introducing it into other curriculum areas in the 2024/25 school year.



Monitoring Pathway

A pre-determined pathway allowing teachers to check in with identified children to evaluate their depth of understanding.



Lesson Preparation

Preparing an opportunity for deliberate practice that enables the teacher to evaluate depth of learning.



Lapping

While the children are learning independently, the teacher laps the classroom to check the children’s learning for compliance and understanding.



Pause Point

At a timely point in a lesson (i.e. if a common misconception has been identified), the teacher pauses the lesson to direct teach.



Upgrade

Following the pause point, the teachers give the children time to reflect on their misconceptions.

Renowned education leader to review equality, diversity and inclusion across Partnership



Ava Sturridge-Packer CBE is relishing her role with the ATLP.

One of the UK's most highly-respected education leaders says she is 'very excited' to work with the Partnership to help define our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) strategy.

Ava Sturridge-Packer CBE will work with leaders and staff to help build a robust and effective EDI policy, while also engaging with individual schools and supporting communication and resolution in specific cases.

A teacher of huge experience, at a variety of contexts in the West Midlands and beyond, Ava was appointed a National Leader of Education and her school achieved a Teaching School designation. Ava was head at St Mary's CE Primary in Handsworth for 22 years and led it from special

measures to Ofsted outstanding. Over the years she was seconded from St Mary's as executive headteacher to a number of schools, where she made a significant difference to children and families. In January 2000, she was awarded a CBE for Services to Education.

"I'm very excited to be helping ATLP on its journey to improve the Partnership's EDI strategy," she said.

"I'm looking forward to supporting the Partnership

strategically with EDI, as well as helping individual schools to understand how to better apply policy in a practical way. I will also be meeting parents as well, when they have views that they want to share.

"It's an opportunity to help one of the most respected educational trusts shape an important policy, so I'm very excited about it!"

As part of her work, Ava also hopes to have input into shaping our recruitment policy.

She previously worked for the DfE on a two-year Recruitment and Retention project and worked with a group of Birmingham-based senior professionals who were funded by the National College to support diverse leaders on their pathways to success.

She explained: "By looking at recruitment and the retention of staff, we can create pathways for people who are from diverse backgrounds, to promote a more representative mix, which is very important.

"In a sense, it's about opening the doors a little bit wider for people. We should make sure that there aren't barriers that stop people from going up the ladder and accessing opportunities that will benefit the Partnership, children and families."

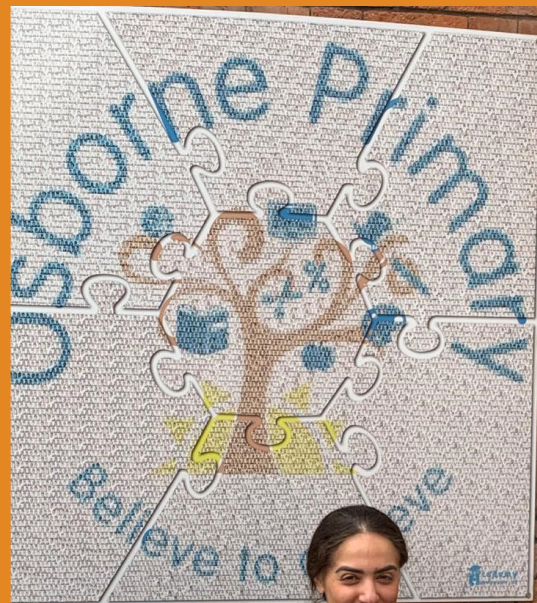
ATLP CEO Richard Gill CBE said: "Ava's background, experience and considerable achievements make her the ideal person to guide us as we engage with these very important issues."

[Read more about Ava's journey](#)

Lottery delight for lucky winners



Karen Bridgwater and Nedime Enver savour their lottery success.



Four lucky staff enjoyed the perfect pre-Christmas boost when they became the first winners of the exciting new ATLP Lottery.

Thanks to extremely generous support and sponsorship from our friends at Zest Education, one employee per month will receive £125 following a random draw in which every employee on our payroll is allocated a number in alphabetical order.

The first draw was made on December 18 and backdated to the start of the school year in September, which meant £500 was on offer to be split among four winners.

The numbers came up for Paulette Tulloch (John Willmott), Karen Bridgwater (Slade), Nedime Enver (Osborne) and Lucy Stevenson (Coton Green).

A delighted Karen said: "I was shocked but over the moon

to find out I was one of the winners of the ATLP lottery. It came at the right time at Christmas and I could treat my family and myself.

"I have to admit though, at first I thought I had opened a scam email! I had to check with a few members of staff to confirm I had won, as I was a bit hesitant about opening the email!"

"A massive thank you! I really appreciate the chance to be a part of it."

Nedime commented: "I was delighted and honoured to have won. This contributed towards my amazing trip to Dubai over the Christmas holidays.

"It was funny because Lisa (Dodd, Headteacher) asked if I'd checked my emails and initially

I thought I was in trouble, but thankfully not!"

Paulette added: "I was delighted to win the lottery as I have never won anything until now! It was wonderful news and I will be treating myself to a spa day."

Nether Stowe's Katie Hoar was the first winner of 2024 when she triumphed in January's draw.

She said: "I was so pleased to receive the email to say I had won the January lottery. It's these extra things that the ATLP does for its employees that shows it cares."

The next draw takes place week beginning February 19. Remember, you've got to be in it to win it!

Extracurricular sessions inspire Slade pupils



The extracurricular activities are broadening children's horizons.

To ensure children receive the very best curriculum offer, Slade places great emphasis on extracurricular opportunities which are accessible to all.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of staff and pupils, fantastic progress has been made as more children enjoy the activities on offer.

Opportunities range from lunchtime and after-school clubs to trips to enhance the curriculum and provide children with a broad range of experiences.

This year, Slade has focused on the in-school experiences for pupils, including the wellbeing club which was originally created post-Covid and open to all children to support them with their wellbeing upon their return to school life.

Since then, it has flourished and is now oversubscribed with children

who benefit from the warm and inviting environment filled with laughter and fun!

Head of School Danny Jones explained: "Teachers nominate children who they feel would most benefit from a range of arts and crafts, colouring, reading and games, as well as being outdoors and completing gardening projects as the weather changes.

"Teachers have researched activities that best support children's wellbeing and provide them with a safe, nurturing space to decompress."



“I was always a very shy person at school, before music brought me out of myself”

Pop star Jessika’s return captivates students

Jessika was thrilled to return and work alongside Arthur Terry students.

A rising pop star inspired young people at her old school when she took to the stage to perform – backed by a band made up of current students.

Singer-songwriter Jessika - real name Jessica Sweetman - is making a big noise in the USA, after signing a contract with New York-based recording company BMG.

The talented singer, who grew up in Sutton Coldfield, made headlines last year after the famous recording company’s boss discovered she had been secretly sleeping in their studios - and rewarded her dedication and talent with a contract offer.

Jessika recently got to tell her inspirational story when she returned to Arthur Terry School. She said:

“It was amazing being back at Arthur Terry. As soon as I walked in, I just stood there for a minute and thought ‘wow’!

“The school has completely changed since I was here but there are parts that haven’t - and one of those parts is the backstage area. When I went back there it was like being transported back - I thought ‘yes, this is the same’!

“This school has been amazing to me. I studied drama here and was in Jesus Christ Superstar and Les Misérables. However, when I look back, I realise I was a very shy person at school, before music brought me out of myself.”

Jessika performed two short sets of her own material, including songs with a live backing band made up of students Astrid Wilson on guitar, drummer Maria Pitsillidis, bass player Joe Boyle and Sophie Powell on keyboard. The young musicians only had a short time to learn Jessika’s songs but were so impressive that she told the audience she wished she could take them back to America with her.

Jessika, whose influences include Stevie Nicks and Lana Del Rey, then sat down to answer questions about how she had made her way in the music industry.

She said: “I really like to talk about the word ‘persistence’ because my journey has been long - and I’m still on it - but I think it’s really important to set your mind to something, like I did when I was 15 to go out and do it. That’s what I hope the students got from my visit.”

Jessika was still a student at Arthur Terry when she made her first steps towards a career in music, by plucking up the courage to perform in public for the first time.

She explained: “When I was 16, I went into Pizza Express in Sutton Coldfield one lunchtime with my little cassette player and said to the manager ‘I would love to do a jazz night here, so can I just sing one song to you’?

“I stood there and sang Let There Be Love, by Nat King Cole, and she gave me a gig every single Wednesday night for £60 and a free pizza!”

[Read more about Jessika’s journey](#)

[Watch Jessika perform with students here](#)

High praise for phonics progress



Phonics is thriving at Hill West.

Pupils and staff at Hill West are all smiles after being placed in the top five per cent of all primary schools in the country for phonics achievements and outcomes.

Ninety-five per cent of pupils in Year 1 at the Four Oaks school met the expected standard in the 2023 Phonics Screening Check and the school was praised in a letter sent by Minister for Schools Damian Hinds MP.

In the letter addressed to Headteacher Dr Beth Clarke, Mr Hinds said: "Your particular success in teaching phonics and early reading so effectively means your pupils are developing a firm foundation, from which they can become increasingly fluent and develop a lifelong love of reading."

Hill West's Early Years Lead and Phonics and Early Reading Lead Sophie Roberts said: "I was thrilled to receive the letter in celebration of our fantastic phonics screening

results in 2023. I am immensely proud of the outstanding progress our children have made in phonics through the support of the Little Wandle Programme.

"Our team of highly-trained and exceptional teaching staff are dedicated to ensuring all children are confident, fluent readers with a true love of reading."

Headteacher Dr Beth Clarke said: "At Hill West we are committed to the teaching of early phonics and reading. We know and understand the ability to read unlocks access to all other curriculum areas for children and leads to academic success and a genuine love of reading and learning."





Ofsted report is 'pivotal moment' in John Willmott's reinvention



Headteacher Nicola Gould and John Willmott students are all smiles.

Headteacher Nicola Gould says John Willmott's first ever good Ofsted report proves that hard work and dedication is paying off in the school's journey to the next level.

Mrs Gould pointed to a carefully planned and ambitious curriculum, teachers having a strong understanding of their subjects and staff knowing students well as key reasons behind the school's historic achievement.

During the past 12 months, John Willmott has embarked on a series of improvements as it reinvents itself, ranging from a new, rewritten curriculum and readopted motto to a redesigned uniform and even a name change to the Royal Sutton School later this year.

Mrs Gould said: "I am delighted by this report and very proud of our children, who have really demonstrated excellence

throughout and shared the journey they have been on and the pride they have in their school. I'm so proud of our whole school community pulling together to help produce this result, which I think is at a pivotal moment for the school.

"The report praises our teachers' subject knowledge, which is important as it enables students to make clear links between a range of subjects, allowing them to move on in their learning. That links to the work we have done rewriting the whole curriculum at the school - so teachers have a really comprehensive understanding of what's being taught, the students' journey and the component parts."

The culture of the school was also praised, including the set of innovative 'moral virtues' that have helped transform student aspirations and instil pride.

The report said:

"Pupils enjoy a wide range of opportunities for personal development. Character lessons, assemblies and form times are designed to help them understand the school's 'moral virtues'.

"Pupils learn about topics in an age-appropriate way in their weekly lessons and during form time. For example, they discuss consent, fundamental British values and mental health in ways which help them beyond school."

[Read more about the John Willmott transformation here](#)

There's no limits to writing, says renowned author



Stockland
Green
School



Author Lauren James with Stockland Green students.

Stockland Green students had their imaginations sparked when a talented author visited to discuss the magic of writing fiction.

Lauren James is the author of many Young Adult novels and has sold more than 200,000 copies in seven languages globally. Originally a chemistry and physics student at the University of Nottingham, she turned her interest in science into crafting gripping sci-fi tales, as well as contributing to Netflix series Heartstopper.

Her infectious enthusiasm for writing gripped Year 7, 8 and 9 students who enjoyed workshops and gathered writing and editing tips, as well as sharing their own ideas for stories.

Lauren said: "The students were amazing. They were so curious, asked so many questions and had some really interesting ideas too. What I try to do is present them with my own real enthusiasm, because the thing that made me apply to study science and then to write was that I loved it and I was curious about it.

"Take science - when you talk about science it's so hard to bring the joy of the subject out - but the fact is that the world is so weird and interesting. Teachers never get to talk about that because they have to work within the curriculum, but the things that make science exciting are how weird life is when you think about it.

"So, I try to get the students thinking about subjects like evolution, about how humans have evolved, what we could evolve into next - things to get their imagination going.

"Anyone can be a writer or an author. You just need to have a good story and something interesting to say."

The visit was part of Stockland Green's efforts to encourage students to engage with reading and writing beyond the classroom. Every Year 7 and 8 student was gifted a book of their choice on the final day of term before Christmas.

William MacGregor children put others first

Pupils at William MacGregor spread Christmas cheer in the Tamworth community by providing gifts to residents at a nearby care home.

School Council wanted to put a smile on the faces of others so invited all pupils to purchase or make a small gift for residents at Sunningdale Care Home.

Class teacher Daisy Douglas said: "The response was overwhelming and all residents received at least two gifts. They were overjoyed to receive them on Christmas Day and we definitely accomplished our initial wish!"



Zoe Tuton (left) and Daisy Douglas (right) delivered the gifts to a grateful care home.

"Our school choir also visited the residents the week before Christmas to sing Christmas carols and this was also greatly appreciated. We are looking forward to doing it again this year!"

Choir leads by example



The talented choir performed superbly.

St Michael's children showed their compassionate nature as they brought smiles to the faces of visitors at the memory cafe at Lichfield Methodist Church.

The city primary's Year 2 and 3 choir, led by Jon Walters, performed for users of the cafe, which provides a social get-together for people and their carers living with dementia.

Mr Walters is the school's specialist music teacher who runs the St Michael's school choir and guitar ensemble. St Michael's pupils make termly visits to the café.



The award-winning Christmas tree.

There was another proud achievement for St Michael's over the festive period when the school won first place in the Lichfield Cathedral Christmas Tree Festival.

Marvellous Maddie supports others

St Michael's Year 3 pupil Maddie showed fantastic generosity to raise £270 for Lichfield Foodbank as part of earning a badge for Brownies.

This marvellous achievement is a great demonstration of kindness and dedication outside the classroom. Well done Maddie!



Fundraising star Maddie.

Tracy Phillips – Contracts and Procurement Manager



“I do love a spreadsheet!”

Those are the words of our Contracts and Procurement Manager Tracy Phillips who is relishing the challenge of ensuring the Partnership gains full value for money when contracts are established and renewed.

Now spreadsheets may not be everyone’s cup of tea, but they are right up Tracy’s street as she continues to thrive in putting the pieces of the jigsaw together to consolidate contracts in cost-efficient fashion.

Tracy’s ATLP journey began when she became Exams Officer at Arthur Terry School in 2010 before six years later taking on the role of School Business Manager at the same school. Tracy then moved on to become Operations and Estates Manager in 2018 following the initial centralisation of support services.

“After a review of central support services in 2022, I applied for

my current position, which has been and continues to be an exhilarating and at times steep learning curve,” said Tracy.

“The move created a whole new department to consolidate contracts and subscriptions Partnership-wide and it’s very rewarding bringing about outcomes which provide stability and the best possible value for money.

“I really enjoy getting to grips with the finer details in helping to align our contracts and I do love getting the information on to spreadsheets with data produced from a Trust-wide database and chipping away at it all!”

Tracy, who has worked in education since 1994 including nine years in further education and seven in higher education, explained: “I am budget holder for annual contracts, primarily Estates contracts, as well as supporting and advising on Partnership-wide contracts and subscriptions, both renewals and new.

“This is a relatively new role and department and is an exciting opportunity to develop the area to provide the best support to the Operations & Estates team as well as wider stakeholders.

“I enjoy building relationships and working through the complexities of reviewing and understanding what contracts the Partnership has in place to successfully secure procurement discounts

and savings upon consolidating multiple standalone contracts to a Partnership contract.

“Having dedicated service areas to support the Partnership gives us the opportunity of developing a strategic direction in reviewing contracts for the best service, as well as effective future planning, with consideration for sustainability and financial security.

“This allows educational teams to focus on teaching and learning to provide the best possible outcome for our children.”

Tracy’s first full Partnership-wide tender is for printing and photocopying – the contract for which will start in September this year.

When she is not tying up contracts, Tracy loves reading and developing new craft skills which are evidenced at one of our schools!

She said: “I currently enjoy playing with a vinyl cutting machine, although at present only to about 30 per cent of its capability, so there’s room for improvement. However, my children have been delighted with the various signage I’ve produced for weddings, baby showers and a christening!

“You can even see some of my vinyl in the Arthur Terry School kitchen. I also enjoy knitting and card-making, although I am finding as a grandma to four wonderful grandchildren ranging in age from two to 24 months that I haven’t very much free time, but I love being a grandparent!

“I hope to travel more with my husband in the future and of course have chance to devote time to crafting.”



Contracts and Procurement
Manager Tracy Phillips.

Welcome to our new arrivals!



CEO Richard Gill greets our newest staff.

Dozens of new starters enjoyed a warm welcome from senior leaders at the latest ATLP induction at Anna Seward Primary School.

In what was a fantastic start to the term, CEO Richard Gill welcomed new staff and spoke of our One Trust vision.

An overview of central services was provided by Chief Finance and Operations Officer Simon Smith and the huge impact made by Learning Futures was highlighted by Digital Transformation Lead Richard Anderton.

We wish all of our new additions to the learning family a hugely successful career within the Partnership. Welcome on board!

New Starters



The Arthur Terry School

Luke Taylor
Technician

Diana Squivee-Lawrence
Foreign Language Assistant

Gary Hayles
Teacher of Music

Karen Swain
Teacher of Chemistry

Emily Smith
Teacher of Art / Art Textiles

Mair O'Regan-Harding
Teacher of Physics

Perveen Zaman
Teacher of Science

ATLP - Central Team

Genna Pilling
Catering Assistant

Amanda Turner
Catering Assistant

Hannah Ryan
Catering Supervisor

Wing Sze Yeung
Catering Assistant

Marie Smith
SENDCo - Primary Hub

Jay Smith
Site Manager

Deborah Smith
Cover Teacher (Primary)

Angela Whitehouse
Primary ECT Lead

The Coleshill School

Ellie Parker
Family Support Worker

Harry Garvey
Teacher of Science

Daniel Truby
Head of Physics

John Willmott School

Sabahat Naseer
Cover and Timetable Manager

Martin Denver
Head of Year (non-teaching)

Hayley Galbraith
Second in Science

Osborne Primary School

Lindsey Lawson
Assistant Headteacher

Nelcita Akram
Lunchtime Supervisor

Jan Hamilton
Lunchtime Supervisor

Joanne Griffiths
Lunchtime Supervisor

Latoya Gayle
Learning Mentor

Mafija Harun
Teaching Assistant

Kayleigh Funnell
Teacher

Tracy Thistlethwaite
Assistant Headteacher



New Starters (continued)

West Coventry Academy

Kate Smith
Attendance Administration Assistant

Larisa Goga
Lunchtime Supervisor

Rimsha Baig
Lunchtime Supervisor

Matthew Smith
Head of Design Technology

Hill West Primary School

Claire Shipp
Learning Mentor

Nether Stowe School

Harriet Jones
Head of MFL

Elizabeth Norman
Assistant Headteacher

Dunstall Park Primary School

Natalie Harris
Head of School

Two Gates Primary School

Abbie Louise Walker
Teacher

Slade Primary School

Hannah Lampitt
Teaching Assistant

Emily Barton
Administration Assistant

Sharansheel Chauhan
Administration Assistant

Coton Green Primary School

Amy Louise Stephens
Office Manager

Stockland Green School

Lauren Armitage
Academic Mentor

Rita Kalia
Pastoral Leader

Joanne Kandola
Head of Creative Arts

St Michael's Primary School

Pamela Sharkey
Lunchtime Advisor



Internal Promotions

John Willmott School

Stewart Wilson
Key Stage 3 Co-ordinator

The Arthur Terry Learning Partnership

Joseph Gavin
Deputy Director of Teaching School Hub

The Coleshill School

Jonathan Simmons
Assistant Headteacher

St Chad's Primary School

Andrew Jones
Deputy Headteacher

What did you think of issue eight 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