

TOGETHER WE THRIVE

TRUST NEWSLETTER - COLLABORATION
SUMMER 2 2026



READING



Woodfield
Infant School



Wilfred Owen
Primary School



Greenacres
Primary School



Market Drayton
Infant & Nursery School



The Orchard
Rooted in care, growing in confidence



St Mary's
CE Primary & Nursery School



Shropshire
Primary Partnership



Market Drayton
Junior School



The Willows
Setting Foundations, Shaping Futures



St George's
Junior School



St Peter's
CE Primary & Nursery School



COLLABORATION

#buildingbrilliance

COLLABORATION IN ACTION

Collaboration was on full display at our recent Annual Awards Celebration Evening, which brought together 225 guests from across the Trust to celebrate the achievements of our staff and children. The evening was a chance to recognise the dedication, hard work and positive impact of individuals across our schools, while also highlighting the strong partnerships that make our Trust community so special. It was wonderful to see colleagues, families and supporters come together to celebrate success and share in the achievements of our award winners.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to our nine event sponsors, whose support helped make the evening such a memorable occasion. Their partnership demonstrates the value of working together to create opportunities and celebrate excellence across our Trust.

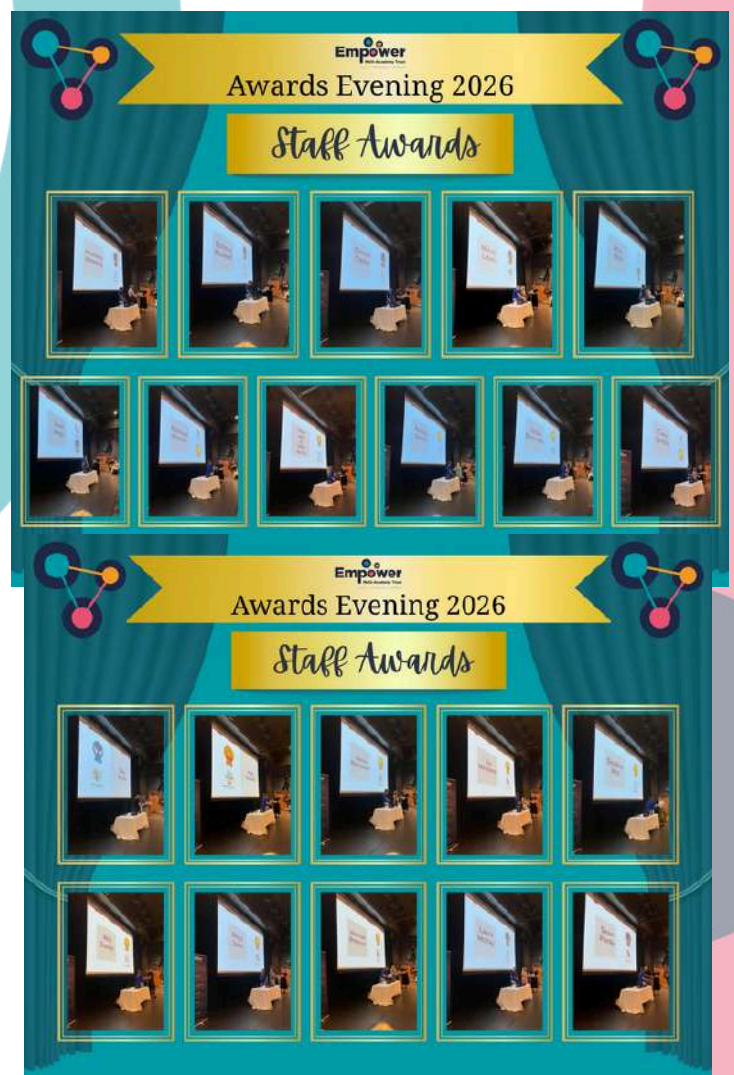
Congratulations to all our award winners, and thank you to everyone who contributed to making the event such a success. The evening was a wonderful reminder that we achieve more when we work together.



“Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much

Helen Keller

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Carla Whelan - CEO

Collaboration at Empower is a deliberate operating choice: it is how eight primary schools, become more than eight primary schools.

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At Empower our networks of professional learning and areas of expertise strengthen our offer, and we benefit from being in a trust because we can use each others knowledge, resources and genuinely care for ALL Empower children, irrespective of which school they are in . It means at our trust expertise is not a private asset held by one school; it is a shared trust asset.

Every Empower child

All schools understand that every Empower child matters. Not every child in my school. Every child in our trust.

Workload and efficacy

We collaborate to reduce workload and secure efficacy for all our staff. They say it takes a village...Our Trust is our village. Our children's horizons should not be set by their postcode. Partnership is the mechanism by which we widen them.

For us collaboration is not the soft edge of our strategy. It is the load-bearing wall. It is what makes inclusion affordable, what makes improvement sustainable, and what makes ambition credible in schools that could easily have been left to manage alone.

We are stronger together - that's not as a slogan, it has to be our plan.

Connect with us to explore how our offer can support your vision and goals.

- Collaborative Sharing
- Associate Membership
- Coaching
- School Improvement
- ITT
- Conferences/stalls

empowermat.co.uk

[@Carla Whelan](#)

[@EmpowerMAT](#)





Michelle Harrington
Director of People &
Culture

Collaboration is one of the values I bring to life every day in my role as Director of People & Culture. I'm fortunate to work with colleagues across our schools and central teams, building strong relationships, sharing expertise and supporting one another to overcome challenges and achieve our shared goals. Recently, this has included working alongside school leaders and Business Support Managers to provide additional support during periods of staffing absence.

By stepping in, sharing knowledge and working together on areas such as contracts, recruitment and workforce planning, we have ensured schools continue to operate smoothly and receive the support they need.

A great example of collaboration at scale has been the implementation of SAMpeople across the Trust. This project has brought together colleagues from schools and central services to streamline processes, improve data quality and create greater efficiencies. By working together and learning from one another, we are reducing administrative burden, improving accuracy and creating more time for colleagues to focus on supporting our staff and pupils.

For me, collaboration is about recognising that we are stronger together. When we share expertise, support one another and work towards a common purpose, we achieve far more than we could individually.



Rachel Butterfield
Trust SENDCo

As Trust SENDCo, I work collaboratively across our schools to build consistency, strengthen inclusive practice and ensure that no SENDCo is working in isolation.

By bringing colleagues together through regular network meetings, shared planning, joint problem solving and professional dialogue, we create opportunities to learn from one another's successes and challenges.

Effective strategies, resources and systems developed in one school are shared across the Trust, allowing best practice to spread quickly and reducing duplication of effort.

This collaborative approach helps to reduce workload for individual SENDCos by providing shared templates, policies, assessment tools and practical resources, rather than each school creating them independently. It also enables colleagues to access advice, coaching and peer support when faced with complex cases, increasing confidence and improving outcomes for our children with SEND.

By working collectively, we make better use of our expertise, develop leadership capacity across the Trust and ensure a more consistent, high quality experience for our children and families.



Ria Westwood
Director of Finance

Some of the Shared Services team had the opportunity to visit Anago in the Netherlands in June. The fully funded trip provided a valuable opportunity to collaborate with colleagues, share experiences and best practices, meet Dutch trusts, and visit Anago's headquarters in Den Bosch.

The visit strengthened relationships across teams and encouraged greater collaboration and knowledge-sharing between our organisations.

Quote from Stichting Biezonderwijs- 'What makes this visit special for us is the connection that arises when organisations are willing to share knowledge, experiences and working methods with each other. Because it is precisely by being open to each other and working together that we strengthen each other'.



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Stichting Biezonderwijs



**SAMEN LEREN,
OVER GRENZEN HEEN**





At St Mary's, collaboration is one of our greatest strengths and is woven through daily life in our school. The examples highlighted this term – from our successful 'Summer Fair' and the outstanding Year 6 Enterprise Project, to the work of our Radio Club and the Year 6 visit to London – demonstrate how much can be achieved when people work together towards a shared goal.

These are wonderful examples, but they represent only a small part of the collaborative culture that exists across our school every day. Collaboration begins in the classroom, where children learn alongside one another through discussion, partner talk and shared problem-solving. They listen carefully, build on each other's ideas and develop confidence through meaningful conversations. Beyond the classroom, collaboration continues on the playground, at lunchtime and during enrichment opportunities, where children learn important skills such as teamwork, compromise, empathy and leadership. Our lunchtime staff and Resilience Representatives play a vital role in creating opportunities for children to work and play together positively. Through organised games and activities, children learn how to include others, resolve challenges and celebrate success as part of a team. These experiences help to build strong relationships and a genuine sense of belonging within our school community.

This collaborative spirit is also evident in our sporting achievements. We are incredibly proud to have once again achieved the Gold School Games Mark, recognising our commitment to sport, physical activity and competition. This award is about much more than winning; it reflects the teamwork, determination, encouragement and sportsmanship shown by our pupils. Such success would not be possible without children supporting one another, demonstrating resilience when faced with challenges and showing positivity whether they are competing, officiating or cheering on their peers.

I am incredibly proud of the way our pupils, staff, families and wider community work together to make St Mary's a special place to learn and grow.

Summer Fair Brings Our Community Together

Our Summer Fair was a fantastic celebration of collaboration, bringing together pupils, families, staff, our fundraising group and the wider community. With plenty of activities, generous support from local businesses and lots of fun throughout the afternoon, the event was a great success.

Thank you to our fundraising group, volunteers, staff and families whose teamwork, enthusiasm and generosity made the day possible. Together, we not only raised valuable funds for the school but also strengthened the community spirit that makes our school so special.



Year 6 Enterprise Project Raises Over £500!

Our Year 6 pupils have demonstrated outstanding creativity, teamwork and entrepreneurial spirit through their recent enterprise project, raising an incredible £526.29 for the school community.

Throughout the project, the children worked enthusiastically to develop their ideas, organise their activities and deliver a successful fundraising initiative. Their dedication, hard work and collaborative approach were evident every step of the way, making this a fantastic achievement that they should all be extremely proud of.



Enrichment - Radio Club

Meet Your Radio Dream Team!

Our fantastic Radio Club children have been working incredibly hard to bring St Mary's Radio to life. Through excellent collaboration, teamwork and creativity, they have planned, recorded and edited their very own radio show, with support from Miss Styles.

Each child has contributed their own unique talents, working together to share ideas, solve problems and support one another throughout the project. Whether speaking behind the microphone, carrying out interviews, reporting on sports or managing the technical side of production, the children have shown great enthusiasm, responsibility and teamwork every step of the way.



Year 6 Visit to London

Our Year 6 pupils enjoyed a fantastic day in London, visiting the Natural History Museum and walking through the Royal Parks to the Palace of Westminster, passing Buckingham Palace and 10 Downing Street along the way.

A highlight of the trip was watching debates in both Houses of Parliament and taking part in a mock debate of their own.

The visit showcased the value of collaboration, with pupils sharing ideas, working together, and learning from one another throughout the day.



St George's
Junior School

Kelly Lee
Headteacher

Working Together, Achieving Together

At St George's, we believe that the very best outcomes for children happen when we work together. Collaboration is woven through every aspect of school life, from the way pupils learn alongside one another to the partnerships we build with families, staff, governors and our wider community.

This year has provided countless examples of collaboration in action, and we are incredibly proud of what has been achieved collectively.

Pupils Supporting Pupils

One of the most rewarding aspects of life at St George's is seeing children support and inspire each other. Across the school, pupils regularly work together to solve problems, share ideas and celebrate success.

Our Year 6 pupils have shown excellent leadership by supporting younger children, acting as role models and helping to create a welcoming and inclusive environment. Whether through playground friendships, reading support or representing the school at events, they demonstrate our values every day.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Collaboration has been at the heart of many of our enrichment activities this year. Our Year 3 River Study and Year 6 Shropshire Hills visit provided fantastic opportunities for teamwork, communication and problem-solving.

During the Year 6 orienteering and map-reading activities, pupils worked together to navigate routes, overcome challenges and encourage one another to succeed. It was wonderful to see resilience, determination and cooperation in action.

Staff Working Together

We are fortunate to have a dedicated and talented team who continually work together to provide the very best education for our children. Teachers, teaching assistants, office staff and support teams collaborate daily to ensure that every child is supported, challenged and encouraged to thrive.

This teamwork extends beyond our own school. Through our partnership within Empower Trust, staff have worked alongside colleagues from other schools to share expertise, develop curriculum opportunities and strengthen teaching and learning for all pupils.

Celebrating Success Together

The recent Empower Trust Awards Ceremony was a wonderful reminder of the power of collaboration. We were immensely proud of both our pupil and staff nominees, whose contributions have had a positive impact on our school community.

Their nominations reflected not only individual achievements but also the collective effort, kindness and support that help make St George's such a special place to learn and work.

Partnership with Families

The collaboration between home and school is one of our greatest strengths. We are grateful for the support, encouragement and trust shown by our families throughout the year.

TOGETHER WE THRIVE

From attending school events and supporting learning at home to helping with

From attending school events and supporting learning at home to helping with fundraising activities and volunteering their time, parents and carers play a vital role in the success of our school.

Supporting Our Community

A special thank you must go to our incredible PTFA. Through their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment, they continue to create memorable experiences for our children and families. Events such as the recent Circus Evening bring our community together and provide opportunities for children to create lasting memories beyond the classroom.

Looking Ahead

As we reflect on another successful year, we are reminded that our greatest achievements are rarely accomplished alone. They are the result of children, staff, families, governors, the PTFA and our wider community working together with a shared purpose.

Thank you for being part of the St George's community. Together, we continue to create a school where children are supported to flourish, succeed and be proud of who they are.



St Peter's
CE Primary & Nursery School

Cathy Davies
Headteacher

BETTER TOGETHER: COLLABORATION IN ACTION AT ST PETER'S

Celebrating Our School Community

Summer 2026

The Benefits We're Seeing Every Day:

- ★ Strong friendships
- ★ Resilience and confidence
- ★ Effective communication skills
- ★ A positive sense of community

Collaboration in Action at St Peter's! ❤️

At St Peter's CE Primary School, collaboration is at the heart of everything we do and our pupils are leading the way!

★ Children across the school have embraced opportunities to learn, create and achieve together. Whether working alongside classmates on exciting classroom projects, supporting younger pupils through shared activities, or contributing their ideas during team challenges, our children have shown just how powerful collaboration can be.

👉 Collaboration Beyond the Classroom

Our pupils have also benefited from opportunities to work with children from different year groups, sharing experiences and celebrating successes across the school.

👉 Living Our Christian Values

As a Church school, we value the importance of serving and supporting one another.

👉 Working Together to Succeed

At St Peter's, collaboration isn't just something we do – it's part of who we are. Together, we are creating a school community where every child feels valued, empowered and inspired to succeed. ❤️

What Our Pupils Say

"Working together makes everything more fun and we help each other get better!"

"I love it when we do team projects – everyone has great ideas."

"Helping younger pupils made me feel proud and confident."

Teamwork Highlights This Term

From collaborative art displays to whole-school team challenges and cross-year group reading partnerships, St Peter's pupils have demonstrated exceptional teamwork, kindness and creativity throughout this term. We are incredibly proud of every single one of them!

TOGETHER WE THRIVE



Emily Kynaston
Head of School



This term has been a wonderful celebration of the power of collaboration at Greenacres. Our community truly demonstrates that together we are stronger, and the many successes we have achieved reflect the commitment, dedication and support of our staff, pupils, families and wider community.

We are incredibly proud to have been awarded the National Nurturing Schools Award, recognising the collective efforts of everyone at Greenacres to create a school environment rooted in the Six Principles of Nurture. This achievement reflects the strong partnerships between staff, pupils and parents, all working together to ensure that every child feels safe, valued and ready to learn.

Our collaboration with families continues to be one of our greatest strengths. This has been recognised through our achievement of the Bronze Award for Inclusive Attendance, highlighting our shared commitment to ensuring every child attends school regularly and thrives.

We have also worked closely with families joining our school community, helping children make successful transitions and ensuring they quickly feel welcomed and supported. Throughout the term, families have been at the heart of school life, joining us for a range of events including Sports Days, parent lunches, workshops and our special Father's Day Breakfast.



TOGETHER WE THRIVE



Beck Preece
Headteacher



Collaboration at Woodfield Infant School & Nursery is at the heart of everything we do. Guided by our vision of **“Happily Learning Together”**, we work as one community to ensure every child feels safe, valued and inspired to achieve their best. Staff collaborate closely across the school, sharing ideas, expertise and responsibilities to create engaging learning experiences and provide the highest level of support for every pupil.

Our shared values of **Be Kind, Be Responsible, Be Hardworking** underpin all our interactions and decisions – this is **The Woodfield Way**.

We believe that strong partnerships with parents and carers are essential to children's success. By working together through regular communication, meetings, celebrations of learning and school events, we build positive relationships that support children's development both in school and at home. Our collaborative approach ensures that families feel informed, involved and valued as important partners in their child's educational journey.

Children are also encouraged to embrace collaboration in their everyday learning. Through teamwork, discussion and shared problem-solving, pupils learn to listen to others, respect different viewpoints and support one another to succeed. By demonstrating kindness, responsibility and hard work in their interactions with friends and adults, children develop the confidence, resilience and social skills needed to flourish as lifelong learners.

Collaboration extends beyond Woodfield Infant School through our strong partnership with St. George's Junior School, Shrewsbury. Staff from both schools work closely together to ensure a smooth transition for pupils moving to Key Stage 2, sharing information, planning transition activities and building familiarity with the next stage of learning.

Alongside this partnership and our wider work with external agencies and the local community, we ensure that every child benefits from a joined-up approach that reflects our commitment to **Happily Learning Together** and living out **The Woodfield Way: Be Kind, Be Responsible, Be Hardworking**.



Emma Tibbetts
Headteacher



Collaboration is embedded in the school's culture and is viewed as a key driver for improvement, innovation, and efficiency.

The school values the importance of positive partnerships with families and the wider community. We work closely with the PTFA to organise a range of successful events throughout the year, including bingo evenings, discos and fundraising activities.

Through their continued support, the PTFA has helped celebrate Year 6 pupils through the purchase of leavers' books, funding additional playground equipment, subsidising educational visits across the school and providing funding for specialist art visitors to enhance the school's art curriculum. These partnerships demonstrate how communities can work together to enrich children's experiences and create opportunities beyond those available through the school's core budget.

The school actively seeks collaborations that place ambition into action through partnerships with local businesses, public authorities and community organisations. Representatives from Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council have worked with Year 6 pupils to explore sustainability and environmental responsibility. These sessions help children understand how organisations respond to environmental challenges while broadening their understanding of future careers, aspirations, and opportunities available within the local area.

The school has maintained a longstanding partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support, regularly hosting coffee mornings and cake sales. These events bring together pupils, families, staff and the wider community in support of a shared cause, promoting values of compassion, citizenship and social responsibility while strengthening community connections.

Local businesses have played an important role in developing both the Quad areas and the Outdoor Learning Environment. Their expertise, resources, and support have helped transform these spaces into engaging learning environments that provide exciting opportunities for outdoor education, exploration, and curriculum enrichment. These collaborations demonstrate the value of working with businesses to create meaningful and sustainable improvements for pupils. Strong links are also maintained with Market Drayton Methodist Church. Church staff contribute to assemblies, support pupils during key transition periods and accompany children on educational visits and residential experiences.

These partnerships strengthen the school's community network and provide additional support that enhances pupils' personal development and wellbeing.

In addition, the school collaborates closely with the Festival Drayton, using the venue for Christmas film experiences and the annual Year 6 Leavers' Assembly. Through partnerships such as these, pupils have access to cultural experiences and opportunities that enrich school life, celebrate achievement, and strengthen connections with our local community.

Collectively, these partnerships reflect the school's commitment to collaboration at every level—within the Trust, with families, with businesses, with community groups and with public organisations. By working together and sharing expertise, the school creates a rich, ambitious and supportive learning environment that enables all pupils to thrive.



Shropshire

Primary Partnership

Aspiration • Collaboration • Knowledge

Sam Scott

Director of Education and
Programme Lead

Collaboration Supporting the Next Generation of Teachers

This term, we are proud to celebrate the achievements of our Associate Teachers, who have successfully completed their Initial Teacher Training (ITT) programme. Many of this year's cohort have secured teaching positions and will begin their careers in schools this September, taking the next exciting step in their professional journey.

Their success is a reflection of the power of collaboration. Throughout their training, Associate Teachers have been supported by experienced mentors, facilitators and colleagues across our partner schools, all working together to provide valuable experiences and opportunities to develop their skills and confidence in the classroom.

We are delighted that so many of our Associate Teachers are progressing into teaching roles and making a positive impact on the lives of children and young people. We also continue to support one Associate Teacher who is following the part-time route and is due to complete their training in February 2027.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in supporting this year's cohort. By sharing expertise, providing guidance and working in partnership, we are helping to develop the next generation of outstanding teachers.

Congratulations to all our Associate Teachers, and we wish them every success in their future careers.



Shropshire
Wildlife Trust



Lakelands
Academy



Flourish Education



University of
Chester



Department
for Education

STP
Shropshire and Telford
Education Partnership



Empower

Multi-Academy Trust



Woodfield
Infant School



Wilfred Owen
Primary School

Aspiration • Opportunity • Knowledge



Greenacres
Primary School

Curiosity • Consideration • Confidence



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#buildingbrilliance

#AllIn

#togetherwehavegotthis