

Summer 2022, Edition 2

Reflecting on our academic year.

 **Staffordshire
University
Academies
Trust**

As the summer term and academic year comes to an end, we'd like to recognise some of the many key events and milestones achieved by our Academies across the Trust

Celebrating our Academies' Achievements

Year 2 pupils at Tynsel Parkes Academy have been learning about respecting the environment and making our world a better place.

They volunteered to go litter picking at our local Bramshall Park and had a lovely time collecting over six bags of rubbish, which is a fantastic effort!

Our thanks to Uttoxeter Lions for coming to support the children and The Globe Foundation for lending our enthusiastic pupils the litter picking equipment.

A massive thank you to all our pupils and staff that took part, you really are Litter Heroes! We also received a framed certificate of appreciation from The Uttoxeter Lions for our fantastic community litter pick.



We had INSET day at Birches Valley!

All Littleton Green Community staff went to Birches Valley on our minibuses and took part in Tree Hugging, Forest School - Den making, Yoga and a blind folded trust walk.

All followed by a team picnic.

We returned to school and planned into our curriculum not just local visits but using the local area usage across all curriculum areas.

Liz Pearce, Head Teacher, Little Aston:

"I would like to congratulate my Y6 pupils on their excellent Y6 test results which is a testament to their hard work and the commitment of my staff team, especially during and following the pandemic disruption. We used Google Classroom to teach the curriculum during school closure

periods and if pupils needed to isolate. Our catch up programme was implemented to make sure the children would leave primary school ready for their transition to Secondary having achieved their full potential."

	Y6 2022 Little Aston Primary Academy	National 2022	National 2019
Spelling, punctuation and grammar	89% Expected standard 49% Higher standard	72% Expected standard	78% Expected standard
Reading	94% Expected standard 57% Higher standard	74% Expected standard	73% Expected standard
Mathematics	91% Expected standard 46% Higher standard	71% Expected standard	79% Expected standard
Writing	80% Expected standard 20% Higher standard	69% Expected standard	78% Expected standard
Reading, writing and mathematics combined	80% Expected standard 20% Higher standard	59% Expected standard	65% Expected standard

SUA celebrates its evidence informed culture in style!

On Monday 27th June, Team SUA celebrated the hard work of staff in their second annual research showcase. Colleagues from across SUAT, including a member of the Trust Board and the interim-CEO, came along to see some of the excellent work that has been undertaken.

All staff at SUA (teaching, non-teaching, business and site) complete evidence informed research projects in an area of their choice to help them self-improve within their role. Some of the topics covered this year were staff wellbeing, curriculum conversations, SEN, SEMH support, motivating millennials, cost efficiency, site improvements and many, many more.

St Augustine's Academy

On March 12th, 2022, the equestrian team from St Augustine's CE Academy took part in a National Schools Equestrian Association competition at Eland Lodge. Our pupils were competing against teams from much larger schools than ours and represented our academy with confidence, resilience and pride!

We were delighted to come second and have qualified for the regional finals! These will be held in December in Yorkshire. We are so proud of them!



All Saints CE Academy, Denstone

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the children from All Saints CE Academy, Denstone were treated to a 'drive by' of the JCB machines that were to take part in the Platinum Jubilee Pageant on June 5th. Our pupils turned out with their flags to wave them off!

All Saints CE Academy Denstone have warmly welcomed three Ukrainian children who have recently arrived in the country. The Academy has also opened its doors one evening a week to allow the Ukrainian families from Denstone and the surrounding villages to have English classes.

All children are coming on well and picking up the English Language, to help with this, the Uttoxeter Rotary club have donated three new I Pads to help with translation.

St Peter's Academy, Alton

The children and staff have enjoyed a busy year with the return of lots of activities. It has been fantastic to be able to have face to face parents' evenings, visitors at sports day, a very well attended curriculum workshop for parents as well as services in church and an amazing end of year production.

As a staff, we have felt quite emotional seeing everyone at these events again! The children have also enjoyed going on a range of trips which have included a travelling theatre company, visiting the New Vic, a mine at Apedale, Lichfield cathedral and Whitemoor Lakes for year 4. These events are on top of a wealth of visitors to the school which have included members of the church, a visit from the air ambulance, a poet, a drum workshop and a circus workshop!



Dove Academy

One of our schools, Dove Academy has recently opened its very own Forest School, a nature-based community where trained practitioners nurture learner-led exploration and discovery, providing meaningful experiences for positive lifelong impacts.

Developing an awareness of nature and the natural world helps children to understand the importance of caring for plants, animals and other creatures.

Playing in natural spaces supports a child's sense of self, allowing them to recognise their independence while connecting with their ecological worlds.

Dove Academy's Forest School will foster resilience, risk taking and team building skills and we hope the children will have lots of fun exploring.



John Wheeldon Primary Academy

We're delighted to announce that one of our schools, John Wheeldon Primary Academy has achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2021/22 academic year.

The School Games Mark is a government-led award scheme which is facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust. It aims to recognise and reward each school's engagement in the School Games against a national benchmark.

Their pupils have been recognised for their success in school football, multiskills, athletics, basketball and cross-country competitions as well as climbing events.

SUAT are extremely proud of John Wheeldon Primary Academy for its dedication to keeping young people active. We'd like to say a huge well done to everyone involved!



JWPA has also achieved a Gold Healthy Schools Rating Scheme Award for 2021 – 2022!

The Scheme has been designed by the Department for Education to recognise and promote schools' contributions to supporting health and wellbeing.

In order to achieve the accreditation, the school was assessed against key criteria, including: Food education within the curriculum and teacher training, compliance with the school food standards, the amount of time children spends on PE each week and its participation in active travel schemes.



St Edwards CE Academy, Cheddleton, unveils community orchard

We're heartened to announce the opening of an orchard at St Edward's CE Academy, Cheddleton, which was planted in memory of beloved SUAT CEO, Keith Hollins.



On Monday 27th June, children, staff, county councillors and local residents joined Keith's family to dedicate the community orchard to the life and work of Keith. Keith was instrumental in making this Trust what it is today; a national MAT with a strong ethos of Rights, Respect and Responsibility. His passion and vision were remarkable and collectively, those within the Trust will continue his legacy in the same manner that Keith would have.

The event was led by St Edwards CE Academy Cheddleton's Eco Council children, who are supported by Mr Warrington. Visitors were blessed with sunshine and the unveiling began with a very warm welcome from the Academy's Principal, Mrs Sue Machin.

Children from the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) gathered around the orchard to sing a fantastic rendition of 'Roots, Trunk, Branches, Leaves'. It was a well-rehearsed, touching tribute to the young trees that will grow to provide fruit for the school children and surrounding community for many years to come.

The Academy was proud to have Tracy Ward officially open the orchard. Tracy was Keith's

wife and Principal of St. Edward's CE Academy Cheddleton up until August 2018, before she took up her current role with the Trust as the Director of Learning and School Improvement.

Tracy announced: "I am really pleased to have been invited to open the orchard and represent all of Keith's family, friends and dear colleagues. Keith was a dedicated member of the Woodland Trust so it is fitting that St Edwards' community orchard has been planted in his memory. Keith loved nature and cared for the environment. Above all else, he worked tirelessly for all children and young people in education, to improve opportunities for everyone."

Mrs Machin revealed a plaque that commemorates the orchard as well as Keith's devotion and loyalty to pupils across the Trust. She said: "I hope that all our children will grow and flourish, just like this orchard will. The assortment of beautiful trees will provide joy and wonder for lots of future generations. On behalf of the school, I'd like to thank Tracy for honouring Keith and opening this area for everyone to benefit from.

The trees planted will go on to bear fruits including, Granny Smith apples, pears, hazelnuts, elderflowers and berries. As they were grown locally in North Staffordshire, they will thrive in the soil and environment.

The opening concluded with a prayer and the whole school rejoiced in singing the Jubilee Anthem. As the children walked back to their classrooms, visitors enjoyed refreshments including apple themed cakes and reflected on Keith's incredible career. Keith has paved the way to excellence and everyone at the Trust is committed to carrying on his truly inspirational work. He will be greatly missed and always remembered.

St Edwards CE Academy, Cheddleton, unveils community orchard



Celebrating 125 years of John Wheeldon Primary Academy with commemorative mosaic

John Wheeldon Primary Academy, Stafford, has unveiled a six-piece mosaic mural of great significance.

The mural has been commissioned to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the school, taking inspiration from the Academy's five core values.

At the beginning of the project, which was overseen by artist and owner of 'Mosaic Madness' David Bowers, all pupils from John Wheeldon Primary Academy submitted sketches of what the core values meant to them.

The main piece of the mosaic is proudly displayed by the front office for future generations to admire for many years to come.

The poignant creation reads 'Celebrating 125 years of learning together', and 'Proud of all we do', whilst depicting children, animals and a beautiful rainbow made up of small pieces of colourful tile.

The remaining five creations are exhibited on the library wall, facing the playground. The installation is a permanent reminder to the school's pupils of the five core values: Persevere, Respect, Outstanding, Unique, Dynamic (P.R.O.U.D).



'Perseverance' tells the story of children climbing a tall, snow-capped mountain, surrounded by blue skies and clouds.

'Respect' depicts a lady walking her dog in a park, placing litter in a bin, whilst the dog admires a bird's nest in a tall tree.

'Outstanding' shows children wearing P.E. clothing standing on a green field, while a footballer scores a goal.

'Unique' portrays four people, expressing the pupils' individuality within the Academy.

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'Dynamic' illustrates a person developing an idea, using brightly coloured cogs which interlock to create a 'light-bulb moment'.

Five pupils, including, Ivy (Year 3), Ailbhe (Year 4) and Bailey (Year 5) were chosen to have their designs brought to life in the mosaic because of their well thought out drawings that best represented the core values.

The children were also given the opportunity to 'project manage' the whole process with their peers, from design all the way up to assembling the tile pieces, whilst working closely with David.

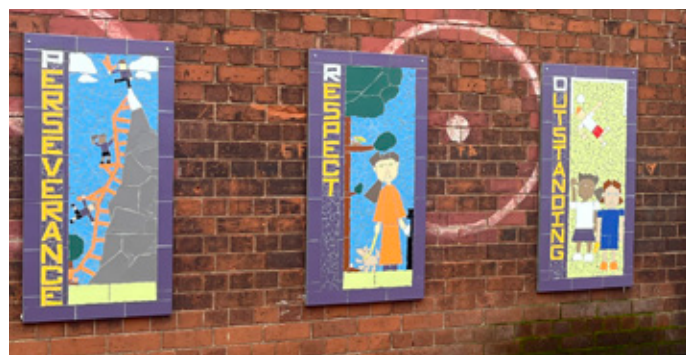
David, who collaborates with lots of schools and contributes to community projects all over England and Wales, commented on the project: "The mosaic was fun, inclusive and helped to develop skills for all of the pupils from John Wheeldon Primary Academy. Unlike some other art forms, a ceramic montage produces a lasting result that enhances the school and gets the message across in a beautiful way!"

John Wheeldon Primary Academy was able to include the entire school in the important commission, including pupils and staff members, demonstrating the inclusivity values of all our Academies.

David put together each piece from start to finish within John Wheeldon Primary Academy. He built the mosaic frame to house the 18mm marine ply tiles, which are suitable for displaying inside as well as outside. David also finished the mosaic with five coats of varnish to the back and sides before adding a plastic trim.

John Wheeldon Primary Academy's Principal, Richard Sutton commented: "I am impressed with the inspirational designs that the children have produced.

"We encourage our pupils to be respectful of their school and of each other. Our pupils are taught to have pride in every aspect of school life from their work to their uniform and I think this is clearly displayed in the hard work and collaboration between all."



One of our Academies has received the afPE Quality Mark!

St Edward's CE Academy, Cheddleton, has been awarded a prestigious Quality Mark from the Association for Physical Education (afPE). This is for its devotion to pupil's health and wellbeing through a development of curriculum and school day activities.

The afPE Quality Mark evidences the strength and quality of Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity (PESSPA) in schools.

We encourage all our Academies to provide a stimulating, varied and broad education. And so, our Academies share our vision to achieve better outcomes for all our young people by delivering a skills-based curriculum that is tailored to individual learning needs.

Staff at St Edward's CE Academy continuously develop the Physical Education programme and have implemented activities into classes and break times which supports the pupils in improving their health and wellbeing.

Jason Carter, Head of Physical Education at St Edward's CE Academy, said: "Without regular breaks, pupils can experience aching hands and waning concentration.

"Therefore, I've developed 'Active 15' which encourages all classes to introduce intermissions throughout the day to get the children up and moving.

"Activities include practising breathing techniques, star jump exercises and short dance sequences."

Sue Wilkinson MBE, the afPE Chief Executive Officer, wrote a letter to St Edward's CE Academy to congratulate the noteworthy achievement: "The school has a comprehensive curriculum in place that offers pupils a broad and balanced experience.

"There's a strong assessment system in place which is utilised well across the school to ensure pupils are making good progress.



“Over the last few years, the school has trained staff members through various CPD opportunities and continues to monitor and develop through further courses and in-house coaching opportunities.

“They use education, physical activity and outdoor learning as a tool for whole school improvements. This includes academic engagement and achievement, improved behaviour and attendance as well as to enhance learning in other areas of the curriculum.”

Jason said: “Achieving the prestigious afPE Quality mark, with distinction, is a fantastic achievement for St Edward’s CE Academy.

“Completing the application has showcased the vast opportunities for the children to develop physically, emotionally and socially at the school. Everyone at the school, from Governors, staff and the pupils, have worked hard to implement and embed a range of different initiatives and it’s brilliant to see this recognised.”

St Edward’s CE Academy strongly supports CPD for its staff, the teachers have received training through a Forestry School and Orienteering course which supports the Academy’s cross-curricular outdoor lessons.

Anne Hordern, Assistant Principal at St Edward’s CE Academy, commented: “We’re extremely lucky to have extensive wooded grounds for the children to explore.

“We’ve developed the area using the Academy’s Sports Premium grant which now provides a

fantastic range of opportunities for the children to enjoy, including ninja ropes, willow dens, hanging chairs, archery equipment and orienteering routes.”

Pupils at St Edward’s CE Academy are split into groups and allocated different areas to spend their breaktimes, fully utilising the abundance of green space.

Anne continued: “The developments mean we’ve seen far less arguing among the children as they’re happier and healthier.

“The Academy is now truly a better place for all children and staff because of the changes and reflects the visions that SUAT has for its Academies.”

Sue Machin, Principal of St Edwards CE Academy, wrote: “The Academy’s lunchtime developments see pupils accessing a wide range of activities to develop their skills.

“It’s evident from the visit how much pupils enjoyed these. Improving their physical activity levels and developing key skills such as teamwork through playing playground games co-operatively.”

We are pleased to say that the Academy’s award is valid for three years and will inspire all our Academies to strive to deliver outstanding education so that maximum progress by the pupils can be made.

St Edward’s CE Academy has also been presented with an engraved plaque to commemorate the achievement, while being listed on the afPE Quality Mark webpage.

We've secured funding for a new air sourced heating system!

All Saints CE Academy in Denstone is looking forward to reducing its carbon footprint and seeing its Energy Efficiency Rating improve, thanks to a complete new air-sourced heating system which has now been installed.

We applied for decarbonisation funding on behalf of the Academy, to enable this project to take place. The project supports the Trust's efforts in working towards carbon reduction and the Government's net zero targets.

The investment for the project totalled over £100,000, the majority of which was funded by the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and secured by SUAT, with the remaining costs of the project being funded by the Trust's school building condition improvement fund.

The Academy was built in 1999 and so the pre-existing oil-fired boiler system had been in situ for over two decades. As the boilers were reaching the end of their lifespan and suffered constant breakdowns, a Display Energy Certificate report designated an energy rating of F.

The new system was essential in ensuring that the building could be warm and energy efficient and provide an environment which supports quality teaching and learning.

Joanne Goodwin, Office Services Manager at All Saints CE Academy said: "The entire boiler room needed stripping out and this included the de-gassing and removal of the pre-existing oil tank.

"The new system now consists of three brand-new air-source heat pumps, a buffer vessel, a plate heat exchanger, pressurisation units complete with an expansion vessel, a dirt and air separator and dosing pots.

"Each classroom now also benefits from new overdoor curtain heaters, complete with thermostats and new pipework. The school has also



installed new radiators in the toilet areas, keeping the children and staff warm throughout the cold months.”

All Saints CE Academy has online access to the heating system which means the staff no longer have to walk across to the boiler house to assess the temperature of the school. As the system is also linked to the Academy’s property management company, the boiler scheme can be supervised over the holidays and weekends, remotely.

Rebecca Walker, Executive Headteacher at All Saints CE Academy said: “For so long now, we have had an inefficient boiler system at All Saints where we had constant breakdown issues. Our Energy Efficiency Rating was also a very poor F!

“We are incredibly proud that we are only one of two schools in the county to benefit from having an air-source boiler system fitted through this pioneering project.

“Throughout the project, we have been supported by our amazing Multi-Academy Trust, SUAT which has also funded the school’s contribution.

“Without their support, a small school like ours would not be able to fund such a project.



The school’s property surveyors have project managed the works and we are thankful to them for their expertise and guidance.

“As a school community, we are passionate about increasing our green credentials and this new boiler system is a huge step towards that. Our pupils completed lots of research and work during COP26 and have written to our local MP to inform them of our actions to support climate change and ask them to articulate Staffordshire’s commitment.

“We would like to thank Staffordshire University Academies Trust for all their support, not only with this project but for all they do for us. It’s reassuring and comforting to know we are in a safe pair of hands.”

Staffordshire University's new Catalyst Building 'sparks' inspiration for SUA6's students

Recently, students from one of our academies, Staffordshire University Academy 6th Form (SUA6) were invited to attend the launch of Staffordshire University's new flagship 8,800 sqm facility, The Catalyst.

Spread over four storeys, the inspiring building is now complete, following a significant £42 million investment by the University.

We're passionate about achieving the best outcomes for our pupils and students so it's fantastic to see young people given the opportunity to experience what's available to them, should they take the route of further education.

Owen Dyson, a Year 12 student at SUA6, was one of the first visitors to take a tour of the new digitally enabled space, led by Staffordshire University Ambassadors. With his peers, he took part in activities that had been planned by the University students to welcome the Academy including two Sports Therapy tests.

Aspiring to train as a P.E. teacher, Owen said:

"It's been a fantastic opportunity to visit the new Catalyst building here on Staffordshire University's Leek Road campus. I'm very impressed with the architecture and facilities that are available to students and the wider business community.

Staffordshire University was one of my first choices when considering my further education. After seeing the new facility, it's opened my eyes to what could be an incredible experience, should I apply for a Physical Education degree course here."



Dr Neil Silcock, Head of SUA6 commented:

"It's been incredible to see SUA6's students experience this remarkable facility. Some of our Year 12s were tentative about whether university would suit them, however I could quickly see a difference in their outlook."

The digital-first flagship facility augments the University's commitment to work-based learning as it's pledging to grow the numbers of skilled apprentices and raise education levels in Staffordshire.

Neil continued:

"The collaborative and innovative nature of the building establishes Staffordshire University as a digital practitioner in the education sector. I'm sure that, if our students decided to attend Staffordshire University as a traditional student or through a degree apprenticeship, they would not only ascertain valuable skills, but thrive here too."

At SUAT, we aspire to a sustainable future for our academies so that outstanding achievement and progress can be secured for generations of pupils. Through training and dedicated support, all of our Academy staff members are enthused to be inspirational leaders and outstanding practitioners.

The Trust's four core objectives aim to equip our pupils and students with real life skills that prepare them for the digital world. We strive to build their resilience so they can adapt to their circumstances and lived experiences.



Royal celebrations all round for our Academies!

We're delighted to see that the schools in our Trust recently hosted their own celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Children and their families were invited to take part in the individual events and had a thoroughly royal time!

Tynsel Parkes C.E. Primary

Tynsel Parkes C.E. Primary in Uttoxeter has been busy celebrating the Platinum Jubilee and decorated the school in traditional British bunting. The children were invited to wear red, white and blue clothes, and throughout the week they enjoyed taking part in many royal activities.

Celebrating the historic occasion, children at Tynsel Parkes made their own Jubilee themed biscuits, thrones and carriages fit for a Queen. They also designed royal pavilions and cushions to hold the royal crown. The nursery children even got a surprise visit from 'Her Majesty the Queen' and her Corgi!

Littleton Green Community School

Littleton Green Community School in Cannock invited their pupils' families to school during the week of the Platinum Jubilee for a royal celebration of their own. Staff were dressed in 1950s outfits and the children enjoyed coming to school in non-uniform.

They also took part in crown, bunting and decoration making and finished the week with an energetic street party, with six hundred people coming together to rejoice the Jubilee!

The Cannock Parish Council presented prizes for the best bunting, which was followed by lots of dancing, refreshments and more festivities in the afternoon. The school's summer fayre concluded with a bouncy castle for the children to enjoy, music and plenty of sweet treats all around.

St Edward's Academy

St Edward's Academy Cheddleton also hosted celebrations on Wednesday 1st June, where the whole school relished a Jubilee-themed street party to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's 70 years on the throne. Pupils wore clothing inspired by the colours of the British flag and were invited to a party lunch with home-made Jubilee cupcakes!

Each year group from the school sang a song from the last seven decades, including hits from musical legends such as Elvis Presley, The Beatles, Oasis and even 'Let it Go' from the movie Frozen. The whole school serenaded guests with the new Jubilee anthem, which was followed by Chairman Harold Jennings and Vice-Chair, Lisa Salt from



Cheddleton Parish Council presenting all children with a Platinum Jubilee mug and coin. Everyone had an incredibly joyful day making lots of special memories that they will cherish.

Across the Trust, each of our Academies offered plenty of fantastic celebratory opportunities for pupils, parents and staff to enjoy. We've shared just a small selection of events that took place; all activities truly reflect the strong community values that our Academies share.

St Luke's welcomes Liz Million to school to celebrate its new library

One of our wonderful academies, St Luke's CE in Endon has celebrated the opening of its newly refurbished library and book vending machine with a full day of workshops with renowned author and illustrator, Liz Million.

Known more recently for "There's a Crocodile in this House", Liz dedicated the whole day to giving illustration workshops to the pupils of St Luke's.

Each group created illustrations relating to their current learnings such as animals in the Rain Forest and the Tudors.

Week commencing 31st January 2022 was National Story Telling Week, which coincided beautifully with the opening of St Luke's stunning new library.

The Academy looked the part for the whole week too with all class doors, dressed as book covers.

The pupils were set tasks to boost reading for pleasure in school and at home. St Luke's is already a "Good" school for reading and so Principal, Mrs Nicky Danylyk and her staff took the school off timetable for the week to further the pupils' passion for reading.

All week, various challenges were set, encouraging children to read in new places, discover new types of books, read to different people and more. They were also set a challenge to read 20,000 minutes in total last week. The enthusiastic pupils exceeded that target, totalling 31,120 minutes of

reading time between them, instead!

The Academy proudly celebrated its new library all week, an investment which was made possible thanks to various fundraising events. A large portion of the £9k investment came from the Academy's Fireworks event in November, topped up with money raised by the Academy's PSA which held various fairs, discos and shops throughout the year.

Mrs Danylyk said: "It was a fantastic week for getting the community involved. Parents and pupils all played a part in completing the challenge and supporting reading for fun.

"It was perfect that we could welcome such a well revered author such as Liz to the Academy as a final event to celebrate a week of reading and our new library facilities. We can't thank Liz enough for visiting, she was brilliant with the pupils and they really enjoyed themselves."

What's more, throughout week commencing 7th February, the Academy ran a sponsored Bingo with 100% of profits going towards more books for the library.



Littleton Green Community School's new ultramodern nursery building encourages creative learning!

A bespoke, purpose-built nursery building has created a valuable space for the children at Littleton Green Community School in Cannock which is part of our Trust.



The significant project began in May 2021 and opened its doors to the children in October 2021. It includes a 90m² building which is accompanied by an external soft play area, completing the already extensive early years playground.

We supported Littleton Green Community School in managing the project from implementation to completion. The school self-funded the building with support from our financial department to gain best value. At SUAT, we support our Academies in achieving outstanding performance through partnership, encouragement, and collaboration.

The energy-efficient building is clad with cedar and features safety glass panelling which reflects the aesthetics of the school's estate. Inside, LED lighting is installed throughout to help limit the carbon impact of the building. Alongside this, the building is heated with ultramodern air source heat pumps, ensuring a perfect climate year-round to allow the pupils to learn effectively.

Pupils are now able to use this dedicated space throughout the academic day and are supported by appointed trained and qualified Early Years Practitioners who're suitably equipped with tools for teaching and learning. The building has also offered the school the opportunity to extend their before and after school provision, ensuring our working families are supported.

The pre-existing building had met its limit of available space through Littleton Green Community

School's continuing success and growth, with pupil numbers increasing by 32% from 2018 to 2020, and further increases predicted in the current academic year.

Littleton Green Community School plans to utilise the new building as a group teaching space, enabling its teachers to tailor to individual needs in an environment that supports the capability for smaller teaching groups.

Mrs Lynn Thorneycroft, Head Teacher at Littleton Green Community School said: "Our whole school curriculum involves practical, hands-on activities and environments that encourage creative learning, this all starts in our early years department.

"Our emphasis is on developing pupils' artistic expression, social capacities, creative arts and analytical thinking. This runs throughout our school, fostering a love of learning and encouraging children to be unique."

The school has provided exceptional internal and external learning space that aligns with Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) standards. It looks to supply a quality and consistent learning experience in all early years settings, so that every child makes good progress.

This space will go a long way in offering rich learning and development opportunities which are planned around the needs and interests of each individual child, equally and without discrimination.

Connecting our schools through students' creativity and voices

At Staffordshire University Academies Trust, we work hard to connect together all of our schools, and to support them in sharing the best of what they do as they work to achieve better outcomes for their students.

Our Academies have been hard at work this term, creating podcasts that share the thoughts, feelings, ideas and creativity of the students and school staff.

All the podcasts are recorded independently by teachers working with the children within each school, and are edited together into a termly episode, with each one having a different theme.

The latest SUAT podcast has been published and shared with our Academies! One of the highlights of our Academies' spring term was World Book Day, so that inspired Episode 4: The Joy of Reading. The podcast highlighted our Academies' commitment to reading and the importance of developing these skills, as well as the enjoyable benefits of reading for everyone!

We were so pleased to have Church Eaton Primary School, Dove CE Academy, St. Augustine's CE Academy, and Horton St. Michael's CE First School and Nursery give their contributions and take part.



The podcast features: a 'Masked Author' quiz, children expressing their love for their favourite books and reciting their favourite poems. What's more, we discover all the fantastic activities that the children took part in to celebrate World Book Day.

There are also some great tips on reading, for both children and parents from SUAT teachers, as well as famous local children's author, Ben Davis.

Richard Anderson, from Hyett Education, who presents and edits the podcast, said: "It was an absolute pleasure to work with the four participating schools and the central MAT Team on this episode. The lead teachers in each school did a magnificent job of capturing the thoughts, feelings, creativity and enthusiasm of their children and staff. We hope that everyone enjoys listening to the latest episode as much as we enjoyed making it!"

The idea came to start creating podcasts as Moorgate Primary Academy wanted to create a way for children to perform their Christmas play to their parents virtually, during the COVID19 restrictions. It's blossomed from there and we look forward to creating more episodes in the upcoming Academic year.



Thank You.

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