



2020-21

Highlights from our Trust



Dear families,

As we all know, this year has been incredibly difficult with seemingly endless lockdowns, bubble closures and ever-changing guidance and regulations. Your support and understanding during this time have been invaluable. Without this we would not have been able to continue to provide outstanding education for your children.

In the next few pages, you will see just some of what our students and staff have achieved this year across both the Trust and our schools. Unfortunately, we don't have the space to show all of the great things that have been happening in our schools this year; I'm sure your child will be able to give you many more examples!

We also want to give you a behind the scenes glimpse of the work that is constantly going on in our central Trust team to support our schools as this will also benefit your child.

Just recently the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson MP, named our Trust as an example of "transforming education". We are extremely proud to be recognised at this level and we hope this shows what we are doing really is making a difference to your children.

I hope you all have an enjoyable summer break and that our students return to school in September ready for another year of outstanding learning.

Sir Mark Grundy

CEO, Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust

Trust in numbers:

We believe every person who passes through our doors deserves the very best we can offer.

4,140+

Students

780

Staff

2

Nurseries

5

Primary
Academies

3

Secondary
Academies

We purchased over **640** supermarket vouchers over October half term for those who usually receive free school meals when the government chose not to fund meal vouchers.

We tested over **500** students per day with in-school lateral flow tests in the first few weeks of the spring term when we returned after lockdown.

We are supporting 16-24 year olds at risk of unemployment with nearly **40** placements across our schools through the Government's Kickstart scheme. We are expecting **up to another 60** staff to join in September 2021.

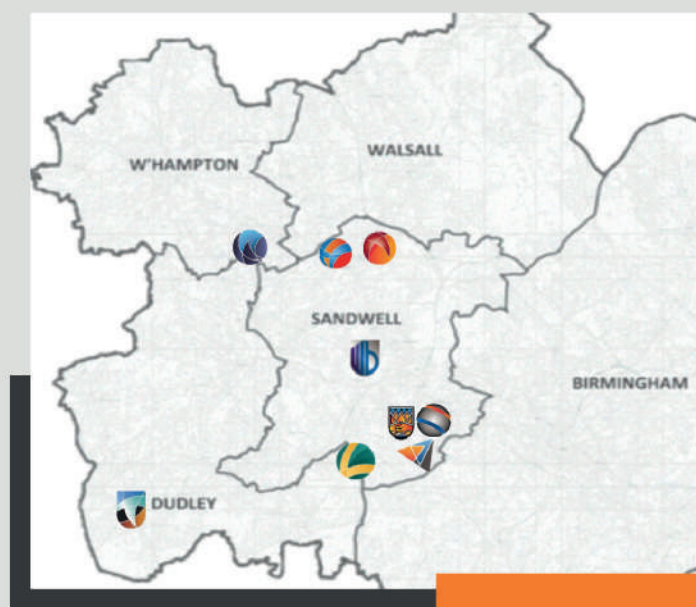
Over **90%** of our staff say they are proud or very proud to be part of their school.

We're growing!

Wallbrook Primary Academy in Coseley, and Lightwoods Primary Academy in Oldbury joined the Trust this year.

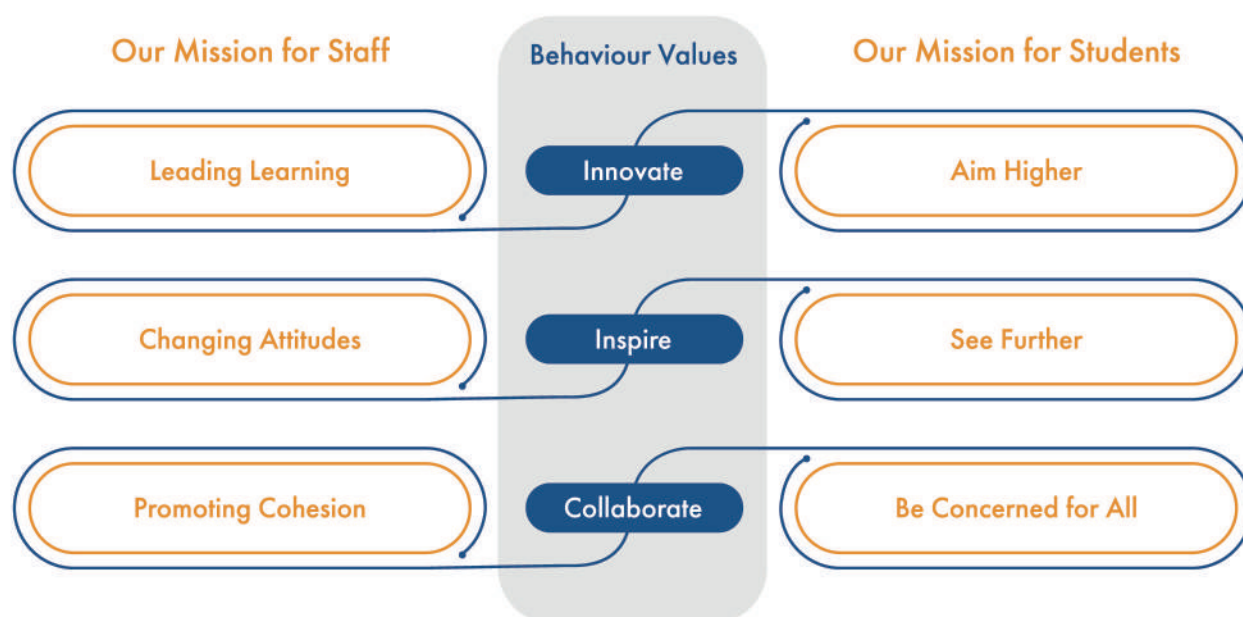
We are also in the process of completing due diligence processes for a number of other schools to join us over the next few years:

- 2022 – UTC Health Futures, West Bromwich
- 2022 – Wednesfield Technology Primary
- 2023 – Coseley Technology Primary
- 2023 – CBSO School, West Bromwich



We remain committed to being a local Trust, with all of our school in or around the Black Country region of the West Midlands. We will only take on schools who will fit with our ethos and values and be able to complement and support our existing schools. New schools will enable new collaborations, sharing of best practice and create new opportunities for our students.

Our beliefs and values:



Lead learning; Aim higher.

We believe in developing an ethos of learning for everyone in the school community and creating a culture of innovation and challenge which combine to create the very best learning experiences that drive forward school improvement and raise standards.

Changing attitudes; See further.

We believe that success is possible for every child, that high expectations are in place for every learner; that every pupil will make significant progress during their time at the school and that each academy has a strong, rigorous academic curriculum.

We recognise the importance of developing learners for life who will be able to build upon their primary education as they move through their secondary phase and beyond with a desire to expand their horizons and aspirations.

Promoting cohesion; Be concerned for all.

We believe in promoting a shared vision that all people in the community make a positive contribution and have a sense of belonging to improve their life opportunities. By developing a strong sense of rights, responsibilities and trust within the school community, across the wider local community and through technology reaching out to the global community, the academies will help contribute towards building a more understanding, tolerant and fair society.

We believe that it is vital for pupils to develop a sense of belonging and responsibility across the schools and beyond for their behaviour and conduct.

Trust Highlights

Trust named as example of “transforming education”

Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust has been named as example of “transforming education” by Secretary of State for Education, Rt. Hon. Gavin Williamson CBE MP, in his 2021 EducationFest Keynote speech.

The Secretary of State said, “From Harris Academies in London to Outwood Grange in the North, from the Shireland Academies Trust in the West Midlands to the Inspiration Trust in East Anglia, we are transforming education”.

Our impact

As a Trust we have a lot of experience in improving standards in our schools. The 2019 data for our four schools where this is available show that:



Shireland Collegiate Academy had the best overall data in Sandwell at Key Stage 4 over 3 years.



Thorns Collegiate Academy is currently the most improved secondary school for both Progress 8 and Attainment 8 in the Black Country area.



Holyhead Primary Academy moved to 5th from 58th in the Local Authority combined reading, writing and mathematics indicators at Key Stage 2.



Tameside Primary Academy has shown a 50% improvement in terms of its Key Stage 2 indicator.

Developing the primary curriculum

We have had our Excite, Explore, Excel (E3L) primary curriculum in place for around four years. This year we agreed to sell E3L to Hodder, one of the top three publishers in the country. Hodder are now publishing our E3L curriculum as their primary offer to all the schools they support across the country. They have about 8,000 schools who use their curriculum.

New outdoor facilities for schools

At most sites you will see building works over the summer and into the autumn term and keep an eye out for some new outdoor facilities popping up at your school soon!



Passport to Success and Family Enrichment

We have long history of working with our families and the local community to support learning in the broadest sense. The Trust offers a range of activities which are not only fun and enjoyable for children but will also raise standards in and outside the classroom through the Passport to Success Scheme.

Designed by the Trust, the Passport to Success award scheme has been specifically set up for parents and carers of our students who attend schools within our Trust. As a Trust, we recognise the importance of our students having a wider experience beyond the classroom, to develop their character and cultural capital. This scheme is a helpful tool used to support you and your family and encourage involvement in your child's education.

Meet the Team



Dan Donaldson
Family Enrichment Manager



Emma Billingham
Family Enrichment Apprentice

Encouraging collaboration across the Trust

Each term, the Enrichment Team organise a collaboration event that includes all the schools within the Trust.

In February 2021 we hosted our very first virtual family quiz. The multiple-choice quiz was open to all schools within the Trust, of which 50 families attended. We then had 21 families join us for our World Book Day quiz in March. By the time you read this we will also have hosted our third and final virtual quiz of the year themed around summer!

Supporting Families

During lockdown it was important to support our families as much as possible. We kept in weekly contact with a selection of families from all our schools to discuss any issues they were having at home. Families were very grateful for the extra support, and we continued to speak to these families once schools reopened.

Passport to Success and Enrichment in numbers:

18 yoga videos from the Hippodrome Education Network shared with primary pupils for them to follow during lockdown to support mental and physical health and wellbeing.

Over 60 different families offered personal support this year through phone calls and text messages with the Enrichment Team.

Over 70 families joining our virtual quizzes.

18 workshop sessions delivered across 4 schools.

7 schools participated in Hippodrome Education Network Showcases.



Presents...

THE ULTIMATE FAMILY QUIZ

What our families and staff thought about our activities:

"The whole family enjoyed it and gave some much needed relief from the boredom of lockdown".

"Involvement with Theatre school has supported the students with their skill development across the Performing Arts and has helped to provide a creative platform as an extra-curricular activity where students can express themselves."

How can I join in?

Schools will share information from us, but you can also keep an eye on our website for information on new activities and support you can access:

<https://www.shirelandcat.org.uk/support-for-families/>

If you have any questions or want to discuss how we can help you or your child, please get in touch: Daniel.Donaldson@collegiateacademy.org.uk

Lady Kirsty Grundy, Primary Director for the Trust and Principal of Shireland Technology Primary.

I have the privilege of supporting across all five primary schools, alongside the Principals, working together to improve the quality of our educational provision and get the best for our pupils and families.

Over the last year the staff at each of the schools have worked tirelessly to minimise the disruption and impact on the children in our care; whether this was producing high-quality remote learning experiences or supporting the mental health of pupils and families.

The schools were also able to support each other and work together to improve our provision collectively. We were able to use the time to plan to focus on how we better support the Personal Development of each child, resource our amazing E3L curriculum, re-imagine assemblies and continue with exceptional professional development of our staff.

We tried very hard not to let COVID set us back. The results of this continued drive have meant that each school has continued to push forwards with many pupils achieving 'Expected' in core subjects even with three lockdowns.

The pride that comes from seeing these successes and triumphs amidst such a bleak year, gives hope to what we will be able to build upon and achieve in the coming year.

Wishing you all a great Summer break and see you in September.



Holyhead Primary Academy Edible playground harvest

The very first harvest has taken place in the school's Edible Playground! Alongside juicy strawberries, the pupils have also harvested huge spring onions that made a very nice addition to lunchtime salads.

World Environment Week

The children were brilliant litter heroes and showed their way of supporting our school environment.



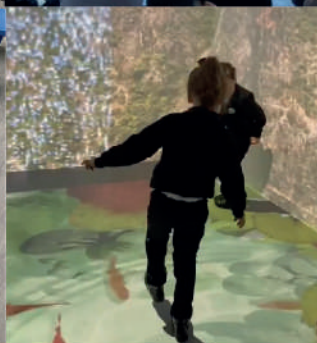
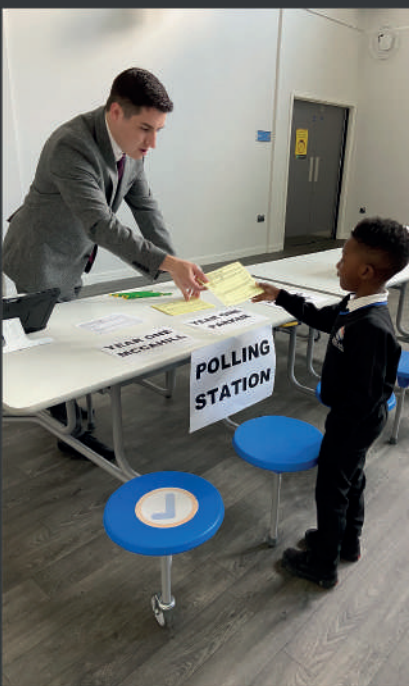
Lightwoods Primary Academy

Excite Day

Reception had great weather recently for their 'Excite' day to start their new theme: 'Ahoy all at sea'. The outside space was decked out with picnic blankets, paddling pools, beach balls and a bubble machine.

Sports Day

Pupils got in the competitive spirit for their sports days with activities including archery, obstacle courses and athletics.



Shireland Technology Primary

Exploring the Immersive Room

Pupils finally got their first experiences of the school's new immersive room this year and loved it. They can now travel around the world and through time all without leaving Smethwick! Pupils experienced life under the sea and met dinosaurs!

Election Day

Back in May, as adults across the country were voting in the local elections, pupils were holding their own crucial vote. They got the chance to learn all about the importance of democracy and how elections work to make important decisions about who will sit on the school's Sports Day Committee.

Tameside Primary Academy

School pupil governors improving wellbeing

Student Pupil Governors met with Principal Mr Hill about improving the wellbeing of each class. The Governors put together a presentation to persuade Mr Hill to buy each class wet play time games and activities that promoted sharing, talking and playing because they had missed this aspect of friendship during the lockdowns.



Wallbrook Primary Academy

Amazing Islands

Years 5 and 6 have been enjoying their first E3L theme of Amazing Islands and have produced some amazing artwork inspired by the artwork of Hawaiian artists and Stormy Seas by Finnish artist, Johan Knutson. They experimented with colour mixing to create different moods and the used acrylic paints to produce their own piece.



Mr Dave Irish, Director of Secondary Education for the Trust and Principal of Shireland Collegiate Academy

My role is to support the secondary school Principals to deliver a high-quality education for the students at their schools. This involves sharing good practice between the schools and ensuring that there is a good level of collaboration.

This has never been more important than during this year. During the pandemic we have supported each other through the delivery of virtual learning and sharing tips and strategies to make lessons as interesting as possible for students. We also centralised the creation of food parcels and these were then distributed to all the schools. We supported the asymptomatic testing programme by ensuring each site had enough additional staff to make the process run smoothly.

I am most proud of the way that the schools have supported families' and students' mental health and wellbeing during the pandemic through a whole series of events from the wearing yellow for mental health days to Mr Brogan's Run Every Day February challenge for Shireland students and staff, for which he received a nomination for National Teacher Awards.



Shireland Collegiate Academy Debate Mate Champions

Students from Shireland Collegiate Academy were crowned champions in the nationwide Debate Mate competition, as part of Comic Relief and GSK's partnership to fight malaria and inspire the next generation to take action and raise awareness of the deadly disease.



Red January/February 2021

Red January is a community initiative that encourages people to support their mental health and form good habits by doing something active every day. Mr Brogan and the PE team battled cold, rain, wind, ice, snow, and more snow but still managed to cover a distance of 573km in 31 days! Students then joined the staff for Red February and were set the task to run, swim, cycle or take part in any of their favourite fitness activities, to beat away the lockdown blues.



Thorns Collegiate Academy Wellbeing Ambassadors

We all know how important wellbeing is. Students in years 7-10 have had the opportunity to become 'Wellbeing Ambassadors'. The role is ideal for students who are interested in supporting their peers and making a positive contribution to the mental health of students at Thorns. The successful applicants were provided with half a day's training from their school counsellor.



Success in Junior Maths Challenge

Aimed at pupils in Year 8 or below in England and Wales, the challenge is a 60-minute multiple-choice quiz that encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency when using basic mathematical techniques. We're very proud to see Thorns students receive eight bronze awards and three silver awards alongside three 'Best in School' and one 'Best in Year' award. Well done to everyone!

West Bromwich Collegiate Academy Egg Watch

In late April the Academy received an incubator of Living Eggs in the Science lab. All students were able to see the incubator and observe the hatching and development of chicks and a few students were selected to monitor and care for them more closely. In just over 3 days the chicks had hatched and started to explore their home!

New building

The new build is coming along well and on track to be open for the next academic year. The second phase will include many new facilities including a football pitch, sports hall, science labs, immersive room, design workshops, art and music rooms and a behaviour counselling centre.



Get involved

Join your school's Family Forum

These influence the quality of provision, education and care of your children. Family Forums feed into the Standards and Performance Committee and are held three times a year.

Become a Parent Governor

We have a Standards and Performance Committee (SPC) in each of our schools as part of our Governance structure. The SPC acts like a traditional school governing body and monitors how the school is working and connects the Trust Board and Trust Central Team with the school.

Work with us:

We publish all our job vacancies on the Trust website. Take a look at the latest opportunities to join us: www.shirelandcat.org.uk



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