

OUR BLUEPRINT FOR FUTURE GROWTH

Welcome to the latest edition of our Trust newsletter—and what a term it's been!

First of all, I'd like to say a massive welcome to all of our new starters who joined the Trust in September. We welcomed almost 100 new staff across our family of schools and I'm hearing great things about many of you already.

We kicked off the term with the Trust's first ever strategy event, which brought together headteachers, governors and other Trust staff to talk about our vision and values for our family of schools and hear about the future plans for the Trust. We also discussed how we plan to grow the Trust in the future, bringing more schools into our MAT and opening up learning and career opportunities for our staff.

We've also been celebrating some incredible successes, including a fantastic set of GCSE and A level results for Prince William School. It came top in East Northamptonshire for both progress and attainment at GCSE, while its A level results were significantly higher than last year—a real testament to the hard work of both pupils and staff.

There was also good news for Northampton International Academy, with its first ever Ofsted inspection resulting in a well-deserved 'good' rating.

Inside you'll find more news from all of our schools. I'd like to wish all of you a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year, and I look forward to seeing you all in 2020!

Joshua Coleman
Chief executive





FUTURE GROWTH OF TRUST AGREED AT OUR INAUGURAL STRATEGY EVENT

The Trust’s first ever strategy event took place in September, bringing together trustees, members, school governors, headteachers and the Trust central team to establish the vision for the future of the East Midlands Academy Trust.

As a result of the event, we were able to agree a vision, mission and values for the Trust, shown in the pyramid above.

Alongside our purpose – “every child deserves to be the best they can be” – these

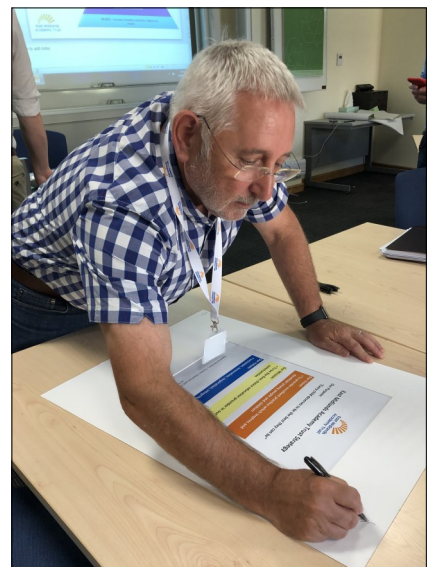
statements represent who we are as a Trust and where we want to reach.

Chief executive Josh Coleman said: “It was a fantastic event and I am hugely grateful for the input of everyone who attended to help us shape the ethos and future direction of our family of schools.

“I have always been clear that I want us to pursue a strategy for sustainable growth.

“This growth will enable us to share best practice across a wider group of schools, learning from each other, as well as

opening up a wealth of career development opportunities within the Trust for our staff.”



CASTLE ACADEMY FOOD BANK SUPPORTS FAMILIES IN NEED DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS



Castle Academy in Northampton has launched a food bank to help support families in need.

The school's food bank will provide vital food and clothing parcels to families struggling with increased costs during the holidays of feeding children who receive free school meals during term time.

Family support worker Louise Thomas said: "We started our food bank to help one of our families who needed some help during the school holidays and we're now helping a small number of families from Castle and Northampton International Academy with

food and clothing parcels.

"During the holidays, families can find it really tough to cope with the increased costs of having to feed their children, who normally get free school meals.

"Some of our families are trying to get back into work but due to delays in the universal credit system, they're finding it really hard. Hopefully our food bank will ease that pressure and help them get back on their feet."

Anyone who would like to contribute can contact Louise by emailing Louise.Thomas@castle.emat.uk.

PUPILS AT NIA BECOME FGM PEER MENTORS

Girls at Northampton International Academy have been learning about female genital mutilation as part of a new peer mentoring programme.

The project, funded by Northampton Borough Council and the Home Office, is run by the charity Creating Equalz and it encourages pupils to look for potential warning signs in fellow students, including long unexplained absences from school and spending longer than normal in the toilet.

Headteacher Tim Mars-ton said: "FGM can be a really difficult topic to talk about, so I'm incredibly proud of our students for taking part in this peer mentoring scheme to help raise awareness of this vital issue."



PLANNING BEGINS FOR NEXT YEAR'S INCLUSION EVENT

Plans are under way for the Trust to host a conference looking at special educational needs provision.

The event will follow the success of the Trust's exclusions event earlier this year, which saw speakers from neighbouring local authorities share their learning about dealing

with exclusions and off-rolling.

Next year's inclusion event will look at special educational needs provision in mainstream education and how it can be achieved with reducing funding levels.

More details about the event will be announced in the New Year.

NEW EXECUTIVE HEAD ROLE AT STIMPSON AVENUE AND HARDINGSTONE FOR ZOE

Hardingstone Academy headteacher has been appointed executive head at Hardingstone and Stimpson Avenue Academy.

Zoe was selected for the role because of her excellent track record at Hardingstone Academy and it offers a fantastic opportunity for another of the Trust's schools to share the benefit of her experience.

Zoe will continue to be the headteacher for Hardingstone Academy and will be supported by Sue Neighbour as Head of School.

At Stimpson Avenue, she will be supported by deputy headteachers Luci Clapton and Christina Hodges.

Alongside this increased leadership capacity, a new federated local advisory board will be introduced, made up of governors from both Hardingstone Academy and Stimpson Avenue Academy, chaired by Suzanne Fairey, currently the Chair of Hardingstone Academy Local Advisory Board.



Zoe's appointment follows the resignation of Stimpson Avenue Academy headteacher Alison Hawkes in July and the publication of Ofsted's latest inspection report on Stimpson Avenue Academy, which found the school continues to be 'requires improvement'. Zoe will lead the next phase of improvement at the school, supported by the Trust's academy improvement team.

NIA CELEBRATES AFTER BEING RATED GOOD IN ITS FIRST OFSTED

Ofsted inspectors have praised Northampton International Academy for its high aspirations for pupils and quality of teaching following the school's first inspection.

The Ofsted report rated Northampton International Academy as good, describing it as 'a school with an international focus where pupils can thrive'. It says leaders are passionate and committed to securing the very best outcomes for all pupils, irrespective of their background.

The all-through school for four to 18-year-olds opened in September 2016 and will be one of the biggest free schools in the country when it reaches full capacity in 2023.

The Ofsted inspection team also found pupils enjoy school, have positive attitudes to learning and feel safe and happy.

The report states: "On entering the school, there is a palpable sense of excitement about the possibilities it offers those who study



and work there.

"Staff are wholly supportive of the school's international ethos and they are passionate about the pupils and the local community. A typical parent comment was, 'The enthusiasm and dedication of the staff is reflected in how much my children enjoy school'."

Northampton International Academy currently has 1,352 pupils across reception, Year 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12, welcoming its first sixth form

cohort this year.

Headteacher Tim Marston said: "We are hugely proud of all of our pupils, parents, staff and the wider community for contributing to what is a massive undertaking.

"Our academy trust, East Midlands Academy Trust (EMAT), has provided fantastic support to us as a new and rapidly growing school and we look forward to making a huge impact as we continue to develop."

SCHOOLS GO CAKE-TASTIC FOR MACMILLAN!

Pupils and staff at schools within the Trust put their baking skills to the test with special events in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support in September

Our schools welcomed dozens of parents for the special coffee and cake event to raise money towards cancer research.



SHEPHERDSWELL ACADEMY'S ISOBEL SCOOPS A NATIONAL ART AWARD

Shepherdswell Academy pupil Isobel Wallace has won a national arts competition aimed at promoting race equality and diversity in schools.

Isobel, who is in Year 1, was the winner of the 2019 Arts & Minds competition organised by teaching union NASUWT in the primary school artwork category.

The judges praised Isobel's entry, called 'Diversity Arts', describing it as a cheerful, brightly col-

oured drawing of two girls from different ethnic backgrounds with the message "different is OK".

Chris Keates, of the NASUWT, said: "Congratulations to Isobel for producing an excellent piece of artwork that shows just how deeply children can understand these important issues.

"The high quality of entries is a credit to the skills and abilities of the pupils and their teachers and support staff."





OUTSTANDING EXAM RESULTS FOR PRINCE WILLIAM SCHOOL PUPILS

Staff and students at Prince William School celebrated an outstanding set of A level and GCSE results in the summer.

In total, 56% of the A level grades awarded were A* - B, up from 32% last year, and 79% were A* - C, significantly higher than the 61% last year.

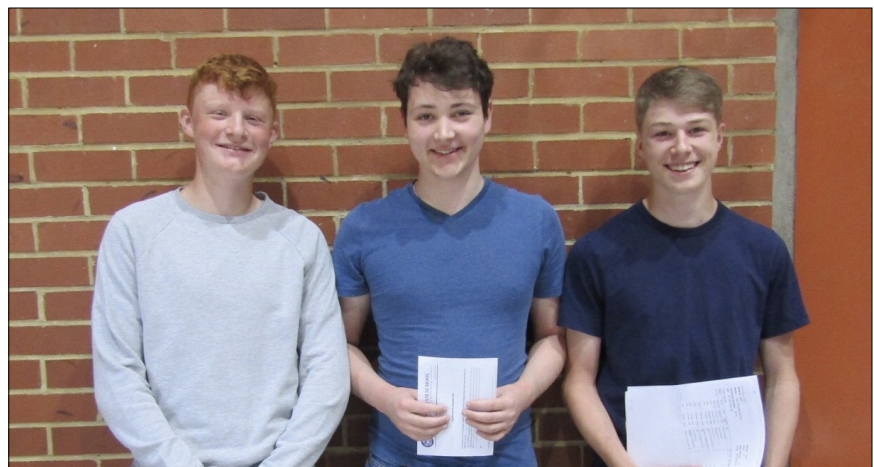
The overall pass rate also increased from 96% A* - E last year to 98% in this year's results.

At GCSE, 72% of pupils achieving both English and Maths at grade 4 or above – up 5% on last year's results.

Students attaining both English and Maths at grade 5 or above has also risen from 45% last year to 52% this year, while overall, 20% of the grades awarded this year to Prince William School pupils were grades 7 to 9 (the

new A*/A measure).

Headteacher Elizabeth Dormor said: "These are a fantastic set of results which reflect the hard work our students have put in, supported by the incredible staff here at Prince William School. "



MEET THE TEAM: TRACEY FROHAWK, LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE MANAGER AT NIA



Tracey Frohawk manages the library at Northampton International Academy.

Here she explains more about her role.

“There are so many aspects of my job I enjoy; the library is truly a wonderful place to spend my day.

“I appreciate sharing my love of books with our students. It can be challenging when students say they don’t like reading because it’s bor-

ing. Then the most fulfilling part is when they return the book and tell you how much they enjoyed it and can they borrow another book—job done!

“I am in the process of setting the library up from nothing and eventually I hope it will be the heart of the school.

“No two days are the same, but I can honestly say I love my job.”

DOUBLE WIN FOR PWS AT SPORTS AWARDS

Prince William School in Oundle has received two awards at the East Northamptonshire Council Sports and Physical Activity Awards 2019.

The school was the winner in the secondary sports school of the year category, while pupil Rachael Lever, who became a double British under 17 and under 18 fencing champion this year, received the award for sports person of the year.

The East Northamptonshire Council Sports and Physical Activity Awards celebrate the local sports clubs and personalities across the district and the excellent work they do in local communities.





OUR TRUST WIDE AWARDS ARE RETURNING IN SUMMER 2020!

The Trust Awards, held to recognise the achievements and hard work of pupils and staff across our schools, are returning for summer 2020.

The awards are a fantastic opportunity to bring our family of schools together for one special event, honouring the successes and unsung heroes throughout the Trust, and will take place on Tuesday 16th June.

The categories are:

- Inspirational Pupil Award
- Teacher of the Year
- Support Staff Member of the Year
- Volunteer of the Year

We're adding a new category for 2020 — SEND Star of the Year Award — to recognise

excellence and dedication from a pupil with special educational needs or a staff member who works in SEN provision.

We'll also have our overall Star of the Year Award for the whole Trust.

You can submit your nominations now by emailing schoolawards@emat.uk.

