



WELCOME TO OUR FIRST TRUST NEWSLETTER!

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the first edition of the new East Midlands Academy Trust newsletter.

The past year has been significant change for the Trust as we transitioned into a standalone multi-academy trust, separating from our charity sponsor, and relaunching with a new name and a new brand. It is an exciting milestone in the evolution of the Trust and marks the start of a period of consolidation and growth.

Another key milestone for the Trust has been Northampton International Academy's move into its new building. It goes without saying that moving into a building of this size is not without its challenges, but the reaction from staff, current pupils and prospective students has been fantastic.

We've got more exciting things coming up next term, including our first ever Trust-wide school awards, which I'm sure you'll all agree is a brilliant way to acknowledge some of the incredible achievements of our staff and pupils.

I hope you enjoy the first edition of our new Trust newsletter, and I wish you all a fantastic summer term.

Joshua Coleman
Chief executive



PROGRESS OF CASTLE ACADEMY PUPILS PLACES SCHOOL IN NATIONAL TOP 10%!

Castle Academy has been ranked in the top 10% of schools across the country for the progress made by pupils.

The combined progress score of +8.6 in reading, writing and maths means Castle Academy pupils on average make significantly more progress at Key Stage 2 as those with similar starting points.

Progress scores are centred around 0, with most schools within the range of -5 to +5.

Pupils performed particularly well in writing, scoring in the top 5% nationally.

Headteacher Lorna Beard said: "I'm very proud of our pupils and our staff for their hard work to achieve these incredible progress results."

PUPILS SUPPORT MAYOR'S BIG SLEEP OUT



Pupils from Stimpson Avenue Academy were invited to create a shelter for the Mayor of Northampton to take part in the Big Sleep Out in February.

HAVE YOU NOMINATED ANYONE FOR OUR TRUST SCHOOL AWARDS?

This summer East Midlands Academy Trust will host its first ever trust-wide school awards to recognise the efforts and contributions of pupils and staff across our seven schools.

Staff and members of our school councils and junior leadership teams will be invited to nominate pupils, teachers and other staff for an award.

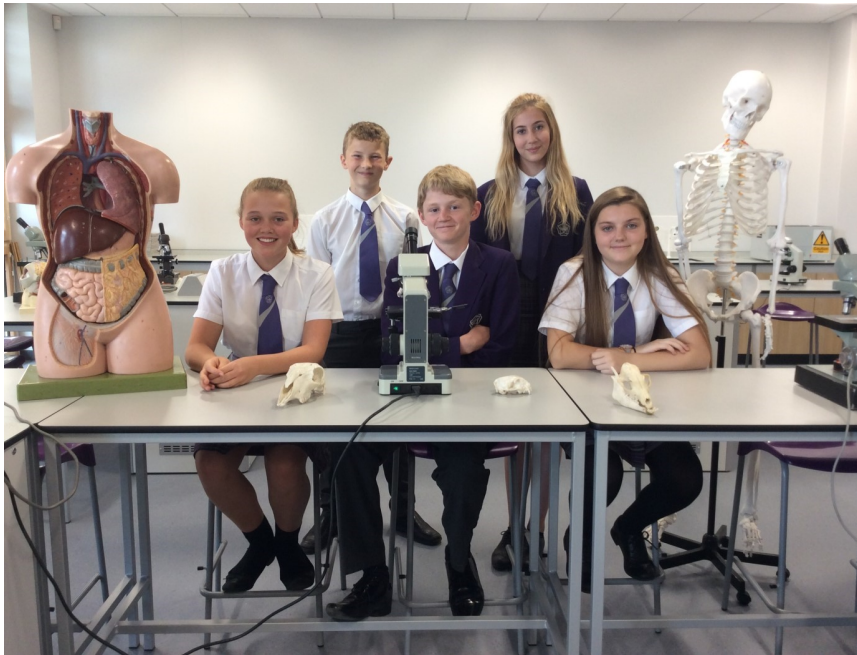
There will be a winner from each school per category, leading up to one overall winner – star of the year – for the whole Trust.

The categories will be inspirational pupil award, teacher of the year, support staff member of the year, and volunteer of the year.

Chief executive Joshua Coleman said: "This is set to be a wonderful celebration event and a great opportunity to recognise the amazing work of staff and pupils across the whole Trust."

Nominations to be submitted via email to schoolawards@eastmidlandsacademytrust.co.uk.

The winners will be announced at a special event in the Northampton International Academy theatre in the summer term.



MODERN NEW SCIENCE FACILITIES UNVEILED AT PRINCE WILLIAM SCHOOL

Pupils at Prince William School in Oundle have been enjoying lessons in their new science block, which opened last term.

The school welcomed Corby and East Northamptonshire MP Tom Pursglove to open the Francis Crick Science Building.

The new science block was named by a group of students after Francis Crick, one of Northamptonshire's most famous scientists and co-discoverer of the structure of the DNA molecule in 1953.

The two-storey science block boasts 14 well-equipped laboratories to ensure pupils can benefit from the very best teaching environment.

Principal Elizabeth Dormor said: "The new teaching spaces feature impressive laboratory facilities and equipment to help our students reach their full potential in the science subjects."



LONG-SERVICE AWARD FOR SHEPHERDSWELL'S SANDY



Staff and pupils at Shepherdswell Academy held a special assembly to celebrate teaching assistant Sandy Wakefield's 25 years at the school.

Sandy made a significant contribution to developing the school's foundation stage before moving on to support the staff and children as the Year 1 learning support assistant.

She also runs the school council and the eco-council.

As well as supporting Year 1, Sandy arranges birthday cards for her colleagues and organises the staff Secret Santa.

ORCHARD SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS NOW COMPLETE

Building works have been carried out at Orchard Academy to create places for an additional 180 pupils.

The single-storey building features eight new classrooms, a main hall and communal areas.



The school's new Multi-Use Games Area is also now complete and being used by the children.

It provides an additional hard-surfaced sport and play area on the field for PE lessons and break times.



TRUST HOSTS COUNTYWIDE EVENT TO ADDRESS RISING EXCLUSIONS

East Midlands Academy Trust hosted a special conference, supported by Ofsted, to look at issues around the rising number of exclusions in Northamptonshire.

The purpose of the event was to bring schools across the county together to find a new approach to keeping pupils at risk of exclusion in mainstream education.

More than 60 school staff attended the event in March to hear speakers from the Fischer Family Trust and neighbouring local authorities talk about their own experiences of reducing exclusions.

A number of schools have already come forward to express an interest in working with the

Trust in a new partnership arrangement which would see vulnerable pupils better supported without the need for a fixed-term or permanent exclusion.

Chief executive of the academy trust Joshua Coleman said: "We want to help to shape the way we support pupils at risk of exclusion by working with neighbouring schools to find the best place for them and thereby keeping them in mainstream education.

"This event was a fantastic start and I'm delighted with the level of support we received from schools who share our vision for improving the life chances of vulnerable pupils."



NIA SHORTLISTED FOR PRESTIGIOUS REGIONAL ARCHITECTURE AWARD



Northampton International Academy has been shortlisted for a prestigious regional architecture award.

Designed by Architecture Initiative, the school is one of 12 buildings to be shortlisted for a RIBA East Midlands Award.

It is the country's largest ever school conversion project, transforming a derelict Royal Mail building in the centre of Northampton.

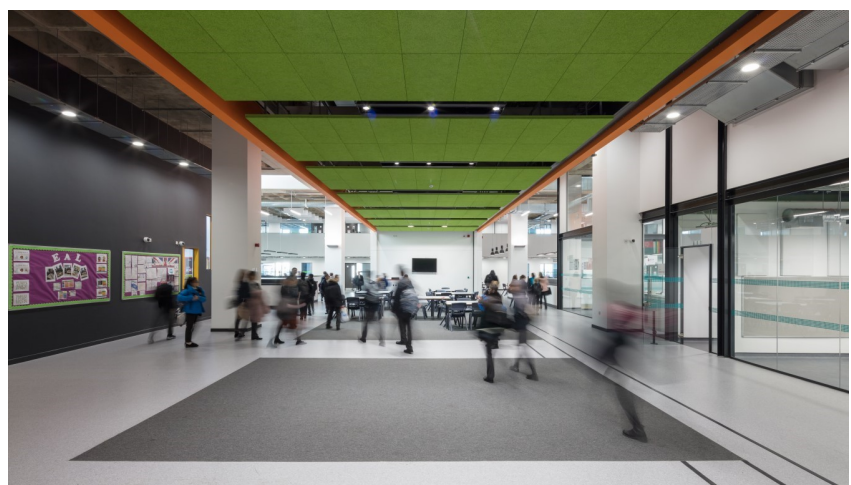
Facilities include a 400-seat theatre, four-court rooftop sports hall and specialist workshop and design class-

rooms.

The school currently has around 800 pupils in Years 1, 2, 7, 8 and 9, and will eventually reach a full capacity of

2,200 pupils.

The winner will be announced at a special awards ceremony on Thursday 9th May.



FENCERS MAISIE AND RACHAEL REPRESENT GREAT BRITAIN IN EUROPEAN TOURNAMENT IN ITALY



Prince William School students Rachael Lever and Maisie McCormack were selected to represent their country at the European Fencing Championships in Italy in February.

They competed in the individual and team under-17 Epee events at the championships, which took place in Foggia. Rachael finished 46th out of 100 competitors, while Maisie came 67th.

GB BADMINTON PLAYER CHRIS VISITS CASTLE ACADEMY



Olympic bronze medal-winning badminton player Chris Langridge visited Castle Academy to give a special talk to pupils.

Chris talked to the children about working hard and aiming high.

MEET THE TEAM: GOVERNOR BEN SHIRLEY

Health and safety inspector Ben Shirley is a member of the local advisory board for Northampton International Academy.

Here, he explains why he decided to become a school governor.

What made you first decide to become a school governor?

I wanted to do volunteer work and dedicate my time to something I would find fulfilling and rewarding. I also saw it as an opportunity to learn new skills and experience.

What do you enjoy most about being a governor?

I like being able to work collaboratively with the other Governors



on the Board and being able to question the SLT and help them achieve the best results.

How do you benefit personally from being a school governor?

It allows me to obtain new experiences outside of my chosen career and to feel like I'm having an impact in improving school standards and the community.