



ACET together

The Parent Newsletter from
Aston Community Education Trust

Together, achieving, believing and thriving.

Thank You for Your Continued Support

Dear Parents/Carers,

As another successful academic year draws to a close, I would like to thank you for the continued support, trust and partnership you show our academies every day.

The recent period of exceptionally hot weather reminded us just how important that partnership is. Across our Trust, our academies adapted quickly to ensure children and staff remained safe while learning continued with as little disruption as possible. Whether that meant relaxing uniform expectations or making temporary adjustments to the school day, I am incredibly grateful for the understanding and flexibility shown by our families.

This term has been one of real progress across Aston Community Education Trust.

We have celebrated national recognition for inclusive education, seen exciting developments in major investment projects, strengthened our leadership and continued supporting academies on their improvement journeys.

Every decision we make is driven by one simple belief: every child deserves an excellent education, exceptional opportunities and a school where they feel safe, valued and inspired to succeed.

Thank you for the confidence you place in our academies. Together, we continue to build an ambitious and inclusive Trust where every child can **achieve, believe and thrive**.

I wish you and your family a safe, restful and enjoyable summer and look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Rebecca Scutt -
Chief Executive Officer



Summer 2026



Leading Our Trust Forward

Strengthening Leadership for the Future



Strong leadership creates great schools.

This summer marks an exciting new chapter for Aston Community Education Trust as we welcome **Craig McGowan** as our new Chair of Trustees, alongside several new trustees who bring extensive experience from education, finance, governance and business.

Our Board of Trustees plays an important role in shaping the long-term future of the Trust. Working alongside the CEO, our Principals and senior leaders, the Board provides strategic oversight, supports continuous improvement and ensures every decision is made with children at its heart.

Together, they share one ambition: to ensure every ACET academy continues to grow, improve and provide exceptional opportunities for every child.

Welcome to all of our new Trustees.

I am incredibly proud to be taking on the role of Chair of the Board of Trustees for Aston Community Education Trust. Having been actively involved with ACET since September 2019, I have had the privilege of seeing first-hand the dedication, care and ambition that exists across our schools, our staff, our leaders and our wider communities.

My journey with ACET began as a governor, and later a trustee and vice chair, and it has been especially meaningful to support schools that played such an important part in my own life. I attended Brookfield Primary Academy (Brookfield Junior School) and Swinton Academy (Swinton Comprehensive School) and later had the honour of serving as a governor at both during my time with the Trust. Being able to give something back to the schools and communities that helped shape me has been one of the most rewarding parts of my ACET journey so far.

Alongside my work with ACET, I have built my career in senior leadership roles within the construction and engineering sector. I am currently Group Commercial Director at NG Bailey, having previously spent 17 years with Balfour Beatty in a range of leadership roles. Throughout my career, I have seen how strong leadership, collaboration, ambition, and investment in people can make a lasting difference. These are values I strongly believe in and principles I am keen to bring into my role as Chair as we look to strengthen and develop ACET for the future.

As I step into this new role, I would like to personally thank John Barton, our outgoing Chair, not only for his leadership of ACET, but also for the support and trust he has shown in my leadership throughout my time as a trustee. John, along with the trustees who are now stepping down, has been instrumental in helping to drive ACET to where it is today. Their time, expertise and commitment have created strong and stable foundations on which we can now build with confidence.

Looking ahead, I am excited to work closely with Rebecca Scutt, ACET's CEO, alongside our current trustees, and to welcome new trustees to the Board who will bring fresh perspectives, energy and experience. Together, our focus will be on supporting every school within the Trust to be the best it can be, strengthening outcomes for all learners and ensuring ACET continues to evolve to meet the needs of our young people and communities.

After nearly seven years with ACET, I am more ambitious than ever for what comes next. By building on our strong foundations, maintaining high expectations and working in genuine partnership, I believe we can lead ACET towards even bigger, brighter and more sustainable outcomes for the children, families and communities we serve.

Craig McGowan

Celebrating Success

National Recognition for Inclusive Excellence at Aughton Academy

Every child deserves to feel that they belong.

That belief sits at the heart of everything Aughton Academy does and has now been recognised nationally through the award of the **Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM)**.

The prestigious award celebrates schools that create environments where every child is supported, valued and encouraged to achieve their full potential.

Inspectors praised Aughton's inclusive culture, the quality of teaching, the strong relationships between staff and pupils and the personalised support available throughout the academy.

This recognition reflects the dedication of staff, pupils and families working together to create a community where everyone can flourish academically, socially and emotionally.

It is a wonderful achievement and perfectly reflects ACET's vision of building an ambitious, inclusive community where everyone is inspired to become the very best version of themselves.



**Congratulations
to everyone at
Aughton Academy.**





Investing in Our Academies

Behind every successful school is an environment designed to help children thrive.

That's why exciting progress continues to be made on the School Rebuilding Programme at Swinton Academy.

Following the successful completion of the feasibility stage, colleagues from ACET have been working closely with the Department for Education to complete the detailed surveys and technical assessments that will shape the next phase of the project.

Although much of this work happens behind the scenes, it is laying the foundations for modern, inspiring learning spaces that will benefit generations of students.

We know families are excited to see the plans develop and we look forward to sharing further updates as the project progresses.

This represents a significant investment in Swinton Academy and a lasting investment in the future of our children.



School Improvement in Action

Building on Strong Foundations at Aston Academy

School improvement is a journey, and over the past 18 months Aston Academy has continued to move forward with purpose under the leadership of Principal James Graham.

Together with his dedicated staff, James has led a programme of improvement focused on raising expectations, strengthening teaching and learning and creating a culture where every student feels supported to succeed.

The academy's recent Ofsted inspection recognised the progress that has been made while also identifying the next steps that will continue to strengthen the school even further.

Improvement also means making decisions that will have the greatest long-term benefit for pupils.

Following approval from the Department for Education, Aston Academy's Post-16 provision will close from September 2027.

While we recognise this will be disappointing for some families, the decision enables greater investment in teaching, learning and student support across Years 7 to 11, ensuring resources are focused where they will benefit the greatest number of young people.

The progress already made at Aston Academy gives us confidence for the future. Under James' leadership, supported by dedicated staff and a strong partnership with families, the academy continues to build on solid foundations and remains committed to providing every child with the opportunities, support and ambition they need to succeed.

Together, We Continue to Move Forward

Every edition of this newsletter will celebrate the achievements, improvements and opportunities taking place across **Aston Community Education Trust**.

Whether it's recognising the success of our pupils, investing in our academies, celebrating our staff or sharing exciting developments for the future, our aim is simple - to keep our families informed and to celebrate the incredible work happening across our Trust.

Thank you for being part of our community.

We look forward to sharing many more success stories with you in the new academic year.

Have a wonderful summer—

we look forward to working in partnership
with you again in September.

