

Newsletter

July 2022



<https://www.alternativelearningtrust.org.uk>

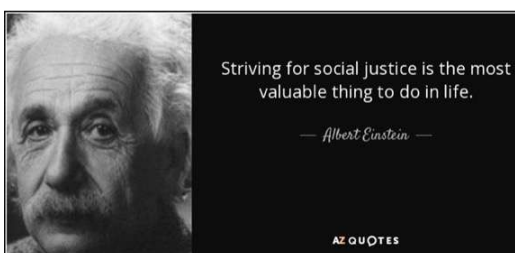
LOVE – we are the family



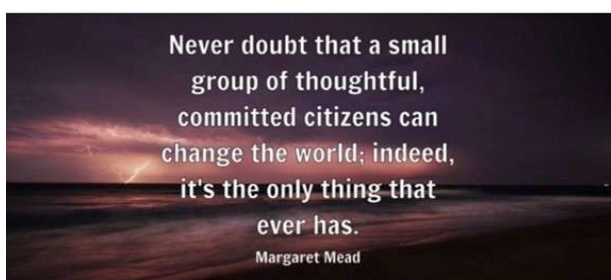
FLOURISH – our children achieve



SOCIAL JUSTICE - we are standing up for our children and families



COMMUNITY - in our local areas we are the centre of our communities



WHO WE ARE

UPDATE

We are just about getting ourselves over the end of term finishing line. I know I speak for all the schools in the Trust when I say that this has been such a long and challenging year.

- As a sector we have faced Ofsted challenges with a number of new inspectors who do not have experience of Alternative Provision (AP).
- A new way of working has been proposed in the AP/SEND Green Paper.
- Increases in numbers and needs across the sector and in all of our schools - we are seeing such a large rise in SEND needs and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) issues in all our partner mainstream schools.
- All schools (including AP and Special) needing to join a multi-academy trust (MAT) by 2030.
- A review of how we are measured, tailored to Alternative Provision, is welcome as is a review of how we are funded nationally; both are measures to make funding and outcome expectations fairer.

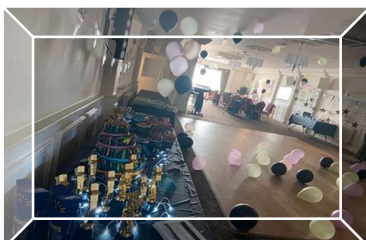
Yet here we are with smiles on our faces because we are about to finish strongly, as you will see below in the photo montages of some of the work our amazing academies have been doing. Staff are exhausted – compounded by high temperatures and Covid rates, in buildings not designed for either, yet we keep going. There have been many successes and exams have been completed, as pre-Covid, for the first time. We have managed to work with increased numbers of children, many of whom have been badly affected by the pandemic. We have destinations lined up for all students and they are going to struggle and need our transition support more than ever before. However, as organisations we are creative, flexible and as determined as ever to support our young people. We have committed teams who are making sure we are getting the outcomes our young people need and deserve.

SUCCESSES

North West Kent Alternative Provision Service

Our year's highlights have included:

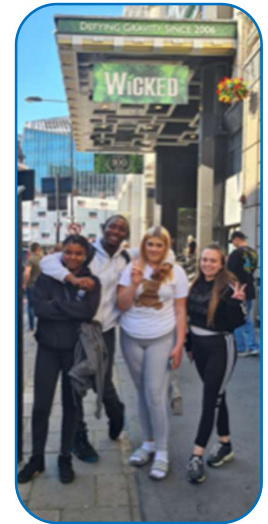
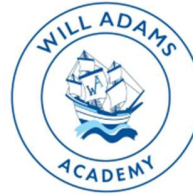
- Some amazing coursework completed by our students.
- A fantastic sports day.
- Rounding off our wonderful end-of-year with the Kent Jubilee Cake Competition – we got a 2nd and 3rd. They were there in County Hall in front of the Mayor – Go Team NWKAPS!
- Our Year 11 Prom – below, the NWKAPS' Prom is about to start ...



Will Adams Academy

Highlights have been:

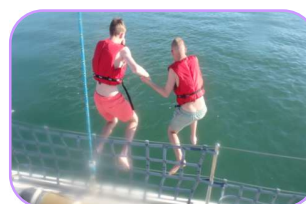
- Academisation, of course!
- Year 11 trip to Thorpe Park and an additional reward trip to see Wicked.
- An art exhibition.
- The school also contributed to the local drive for Clothes for Ukraine where our contributions filled ¼ of the articulated lorry!



The Limes College

Highlights have included:

- Prince's Trust work – a pop-up café to raise money for Night Shelter.
- Prince's Trust – homeless pet packs to be given to Night Shelter for pets of homeless people.
- Tall Ships trips and residentials in Wales and other locations.
- Army careers day.
- Mock interview day.
- The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.
- Art exhibition.



WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

We are already responding to the Schools White Paper and SEND Green Paper, looking at how we develop our out-reach, in-reach, and longer term provision. We are very fortunate to have leaders and SENCOs who are strong and can lead us through this. We have some key knowledge and skills to share with our local areas about how best to include students who have complex Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs.

SCHOOLS WHITE PAPER

[Schools White Paper delivers real action to level up education - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/schools-white-paper)
(www.gov.uk)

SEND GREEN PAPER

[Summary of the SEND review: right support, right place, right time - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/summary-of-the-send-review) (www.gov.uk)

We are looking at creative ways to retain and attract staff; exploring wellbeing days and through our pay harmonisation, supporting staff and narrowing the pay gap: how we recruit, and keep, the right staff.

We are also exploring how we develop our curriculum offers and broaden our curriculum to provide pathways to college and employment.

How we develop and enhance the work we do:

Developing more and more collaborative working and there will be a joint INSET day at High Ashurst Outdoor Education Centre in September, where we will explore collaboration in greater detail. Schools within the Trust maintain as much individuality as they can, responding in new and different ways in each of our communities and working closely with children, parents, schools, commissioners, local authorities, health and the Department for Education whilst ensuring the voices of our families are heard and listened to.



HIGH ASHURST OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

[Surrey Outdoor Learning & Development](https://www.surrey.gov.uk/outdoor-learning-development)
(SOLD)

The central team is developing and supporting all of our schools so that we all comply with the Education and Skills Funding Agency's requirements. The interim audit report shows that we are developing well and it is a 'work in progress' as schools join us with different systems and ways of working.

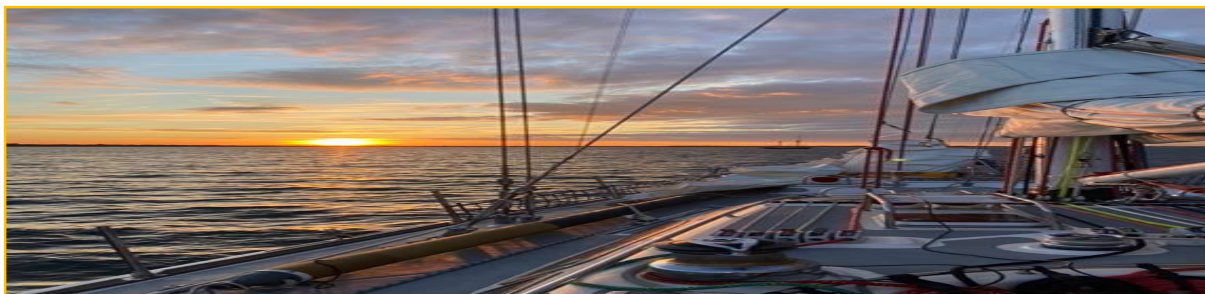
A key challenge for us is going to be how we prepare for new schools joining us and managing that process in a measured way. As MATs are growing in line with the Green Paper, we are seeking to review how we grow locally within the areas in which we are now established.



Thank you for all you do as Members, Trustees, Governors, and staff. You are an amazing group of people who all support the most vulnerable in our COMMUNITIES, where they are FLOURISHING, challenging systems and striving for SOCIAL JUSTICE, because you are forming quality LOVING relationships. You are all contributing to this and it is what enables us to deliver this work. Every year we collectively change the lives of over 400 children and families: for that work we should all be very proud as we take a well-earned summer break.

As the sun sets on this academic year, we look forward to it rising again in September. Below we see the sun rising on a boat anchored off the Isle of Wight and setting on the beach at Yarmouth. As I joined a residential for a week it reminded me of why I spend all those hours in meetings - and it is to see these young lives being put 'back on track'; even if it is challenging, it is the right thing to do.

Emma Bradshaw - Executive Principal



THANK YOU