

TrustED

Connecting communities across the ACET Trust



Parent Newsletter September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you safe and well, having enjoyed a fantastic summer break with your families. I also hope the term has started well for your child/ren and thank you for choosing an ACET academy to provide your child's education.

There are a number of exciting things on the horizon at ACET, not least the implementation of a new 5-year strategic plan to secure further improvements across the Trust. One of the key priorities is to recognise and celebrate where we are making a positive difference to the lives of children, the working lives of staff and our contribution to the local communities we serve. Whilst we acknowledge there are areas for improvement in our organisation, it is also important to share with you the changes that are being made at Trust level and the rationale behind the implementation of these. Going forward, I will be providing a termly newsletter to parents, this one being the first, communicating with you, our parent body, where there is reason to celebrate and any forthcoming Trust-wide developments.

To coincide with the launch of the ACET 2025-30 strategic plan, a revised vision, and to update to a modern brand identity for ACET, we are implementing an organisational rebrand. We are proud of what has been achieved across ACET to date and are equally excited for the future. Having a strong brand identity will reinforce the collaborative approach we have embedded across ACET and further unify our identity. The rebrand also coincides with the Trust decision to rename the junior academies to primary academies (with the exception of Thurcroft Junior Academy).

Through the rebrand, each academy will adopt the new ACET logo (with the academy name) –



gone will be the two distinctive colours of yellow for the Rotherham/Sheffield academies and blue for the Derbyshire academies – we will present as one. In terms of implications for parents, these will be minimal.

As previously communicated with parents of primary-aged children, from September 2026, there will be no branded uniform items, therefore, the rebrand has no implications for the primary uniform.

In terms of the secondary academies, from September 2026, the new logo will be on newly purchased blazers, which will be phased in from Y7. There will be no expectation for students in Y8-Y11 to wear new blazers next September. At Shirebrook Academy, the colour of the tie and the PE top will change from blue/black to yellow/black and again, these will be phased in from Y7 with no expectations on students in Y8-Y11 to wear the new items.

Should any parents/carers need any clarification about any of the above, please liaise with the relevant staff in your child's academy.

In terms of any other changes that parents will see as a result of the rebrand, these will be minimal, but link to new signage and letterheads. The Trust Board and Executive Leadership Team remain the same, as do the Leadership Teams in each academy. There will not be any changes to the day-day running of the academies as a result of the rebrand. Academy websites will be updated throughout the autumn term.

The rebrand will officially launch on Monday 22nd September 2025...watch this space!

If you have any questions or feedback, we're always here to listen and support.

Here's to a wonderful autumn term – Christmas will be here before we know it!

Best wishes,
Rebecca Scutt
CEO



Ofsted Congratulations



Ofsted
Congratulations



Thurcroft Junior Academy

In March, Thurcroft received its fourth inspection since joining ACET in July 2012 – we were delighted that Thurcroft sustained Good in all areas and were overjoyed with an outcome of Outstanding for Early Years Foundation Stage.

While Thurcroft is a true junior school in that the statutory school-age pupils on roll are all Key Stage 2, Thurcroft does have a nursery, proving 26 full-time FS1 places, which is engaging, purposeful and a place where learning is tangible!

Well done to principal, Ruth Stone, for her inspirational influence and her highly effective staff team, in securing this outcome. What a fantastic achievement! **Way to go Team Thurcroft!**

“The school fosters a strong sense of belonging, ensuring that every pupil feels valued, supported and safe.”



Shirebrook Academy

Huge congratulations to Team Shirebrook! A fantastic Ofsted inspection where the academy was graded Good in all areas, under the transformative leadership of principal, Lindsey Burgin. Shirebrook joined ACET on 1st May 2017 and received two consecutive Requires Improvement judgements. Following this, key areas for improvement were SEND; assessment linked to teaching and learning; attendance and behaviour and personal development.

Working in a school with a Requires Improvement judgement is a hard slog – well done and thank you to all those staff who have demonstrated tenacity, resilience and determination and stayed to see the journey through – I hope you are now able to reap the rewards.

Well done to all staff at Shirebrook Academy and thank you to everyone who supported in any capacity. Your commitment has made a significant difference.



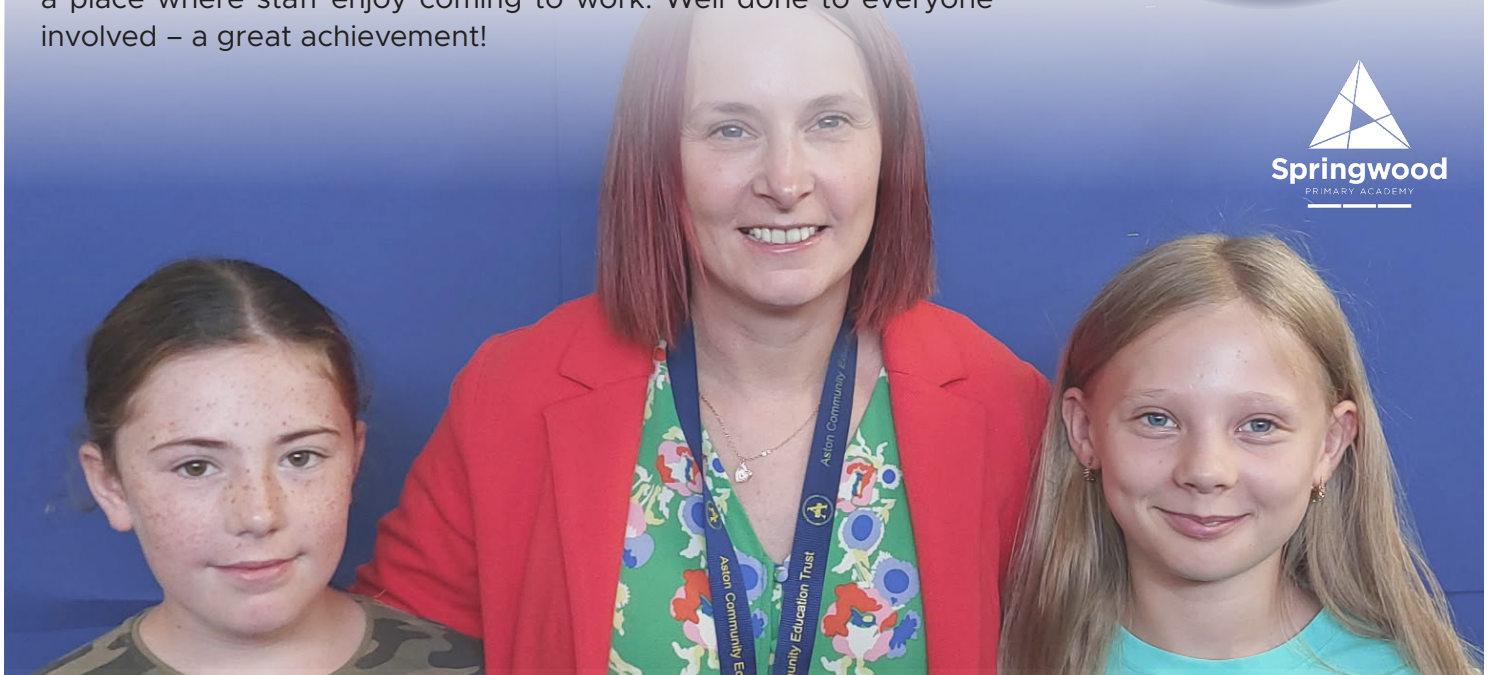
“The school identifies the needs of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) well.”

Springwood Junior Academy

And Springwood brought home the hat-trick...another Ofsted inspection in May, securing Good in all areas – well done to principal Beki Malton and the Team at Springwood!

Inspectors recognised the nurturing leadership approach and were highly complimentary about the academy’s approach to meeting the needs of children with SEND. Springwood was also recognised as a place where staff enjoy coming to work. Well done to everyone involved – a great achievement!

“The principal provides exceptional and dynamic leadership. She inspires staff to aim high and provide the best for every pupil.”



Primary Education @ ACET

Going from strength to strength

Y6 SAT results were issued at the start of July and there were many positives to be celebrated, not least the Trust's overall improved position at Expected Standard increasing from 62% in 2024 to 64% in 2025 (2025 National Average is 61%). Of course, SATs outcomes are not the only measure of success and at ACET, we believe in a well-rounded, holistic curriculum offer that provides children with experiences far beyond National Curriculum expectations. Given the higher-than-national level of deprivation across the Trust, it is a priority to ensure the curriculum

offer enriches the lives of the children we serve and unfortunately, Y6 outcomes do not always reflect the effort or hard work of a committed staff body and results do not reflect cohort-specific complexities.

Special thanks go to all academy teams who have worked relentlessly to improve the curriculum offer for ACET children, not least in Y6. Their tenacity and commitment are greatly appreciated.



There are three academies who must be individually recognised:

Brookfield Junior Academy – Best Ever Y6 SAT Results!

The collective efforts, hard work and commitment of the Brookfield Team, led by principal, Daisy Dunning, have culminated in the academy achieving its best outcomes since joining ACET in 2018.

Results at combined Expected Standard across Reading, Writing and Mathematics have significantly increased from 47% in 2024 to 72% in 2025. What an achievement! The outcomes are testament to the wider school improvements that have taken place, particularly during the last two years. All the changes and hard work have come to fruition – huge congratulations to the Brookfield Team!



Temple Normanton Junior Academy – Most Improved Y6 Results 2025

Well done to principal, Leica Carter and the Temple Normanton Team who have shifted Y6 outcomes at combined Expected Standard from 42% in 2024 to 70% in 2025!

A massive swing and one which puts the academy back to being securely above the national average.



Lowedges Junior Academy Significant Improvement in Outcomes

Following a turbulent year with lots of staffing changes in Y6, the academy, led by principal, Lindsay Jones, improved outcomes at combined expected standard from 50% in 2024 to 59% in 2025. Well done and thank you to all staff who supported the Y6 cohort.



Secondary showcase - GCSE Celebrations

We were delighted with a number of the achievements in the ACET secondary academy GCSE results this summer which were testament to the commitment and hard work of the student and staff bodies in each academy.

Aston Academy

Well done to the English Faculty at Aston, under the leadership of Emma Rogers as Head of Faculty - the English provision for students is constantly improving.

We were delighted by the performance of Aston students within GCSE English this summer. English performed very strongly and in particular, the results achieved within English Literature were very positive at 75% for 4+. When calculating Y11 students' best English score it resulted in 77% of students achieving a grade 4 or above, 63% achieving a grade 5 or above and 21% achieving a grade 7 or above in the summer exams. All the English headline figures were above targets.

The grades achieved by the English Faculty mean that the academy's English results are above Local Authority and national averages for grade 4+ and grade 5+. The results also place the academy third amongst the 16 Rotherham secondary schools for English provision.

Well done Emma and Team English! We continue to look up and are aiming for top spot in the Local Authority in 2026!

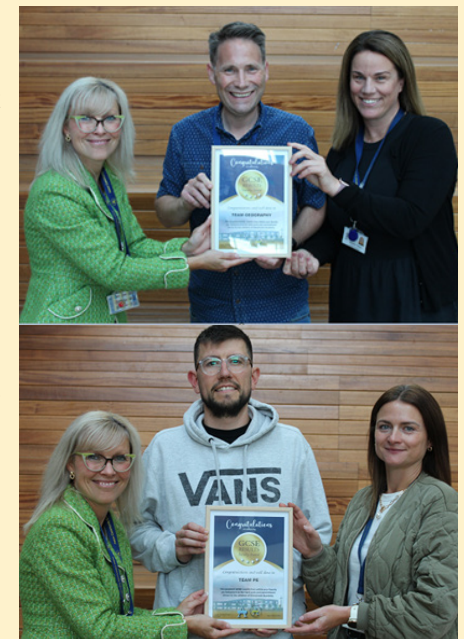


Shirebrook Academy

At Shirebrook, there were a number of faculty and subject areas to celebrate including GCSE Geography, with higher levels of student performance at grades 4+, 5+ and 7+ this year, with an astonishing 55.1% of candidates achieving a grade 5+ - twice the targeted average. We would like to celebrate and congratulate the efforts of Marcus Wimble, Head of Faculty – Humanities, and Alison Fidler – teacher of Humanities, who taught both GCSE Geography groups.

Team PE also achieved outstanding results this academic year, in the top quintile nationally for performance. 90.5% of students achieved a grade 4+, 85.7% a grade 5+ and a phenomenal 33.3% grade 7+ - with a value-added score placing them 14/100 nationally. We would sincerely like to congratulate the efforts and excellence of Louise Norwood – Head of Faculty – PE and Andy Dalby – Pastoral and Learning Lead and teacher of PE who taught both GCSE PE groups. What an achievement!

Excellent GCSE results were also achieved in Modern Foreign Languages, with French achieving a value-added score of 24/100 nationally and Spanish 31/100. Excellent performances at grade 4+, 5+ and 7+ were achieved in both subjects and we would like to extend a huge congratulations to Team MFL.



Swinton Academy

The Swinton PE Faculty under the leadership of Head of Faculty, Richard Hill, have excelled this year. This year, they have achieved the double... strong Post 16 and Y11 results! Their knowledge and understanding of the required elements of the courses, which include Health and Social Care (82.76% 4+) and Sport (83.33% 4+) qualifications, is superb. This has been bolstered by a rich extracurricular programme that helps build relationships with students, promote resilience and develop high aspirations, which are all key features in the success of #teamswinton.





Celebrating ACET Children



Connecting with **the community**

Thurcroft Tiny Forest

During the summer term, pupils at Thurcroft were busy planting tree saplings in the newly established 'Centenary Tiny Forest'. Pupils from nursery through to Y6 actively participated - planting, soil testing, wildlife observation learning with Earthwatch leading a "Discovery Day" during a recent check-in visit by Mayor Coppard, South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority.

This project has massive community benefits including improved mental/physical health, community cohesion, environmental education and problem-solving skills. The project brings with it ongoing community engagement through volunteering opportunities, including

'Tree Keepers' and 'Eco Warriors' from the academy and local community, who are involved in caring, monitoring biodiversity, and documenting growth—mirroring Tiny Forest programs elsewhere in the UK.

Special thanks to Helen McDonald, Assistant Vice Principal and Daniella Brookes, class teacher and geography subject leader, who launched and led the programme, with ongoing support and commitment from principal, Ruth Stone.

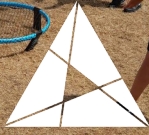
Thank you to all of you and a huge well done! A legacy that the children can be proud of now and in years to come once the forest is fully established.



Rotherham Baton Relay

During the summer term, all Rotherham-based ACET academies took part in the borough-wide baton relay, which had several key purposes all aligned with Rotherham's designation as the world's first Children's Capital of Culture. The relay was designed to explicitly raise the profile of the Capital of Culture Festival, through a borough-wide, youth-driven event, promoting fitness and outdoor activity. It goes without saying that such a focus also promotes mental health and wellbeing by encouraging children and young people to get outdoors, collaborate and communicate. With relay legs running between schools, through parks, greenspaces and local landmarks, the relay helped to spotlight active places across the town, highlighting to children and local residents where they can be physically active.





Listerdale
PRIMARY ACADEMY



Waverley
PRIMARY ACADEMY



Aughton
PRIMARY ACADEMY

It was wonderful to see ACET children and staff support this local initiative – well done and thank you to everyone involved!

ACET Pathways

ACET Pathways

Two years ago, ACET Trustees approved a trial of the 'ACET Pathway' provision, with the aim of providing some of the most complex children in Key Stage 4 with an alternative provision to mainstream secondary education. External alternative provision can prove extremely expensive and at a time when finances need managing effectively and efficiently, an opportunity was taken to establish ACET Pathway, with the vision of reducing permanent exclusions across the ACET secondary academies.

Two years in, and many lessons learnt, it is so rewarding to see the successes achieved to date from the first cohort of 7 who have just finished Y11. Six students completed every exam they were entered for and 6 students have secured Post-16 options for September with 1 student achieving an unconditional Level 2 brick laying course at Rotherham College and another receiving an unconditional offer for Level 2 Mechanics at Dearne Valley, both based on their outstanding work experience references.

Of the 12 students who will be accessing the provision this year, all have presented with serious behaviour concerns when accessing education in their home academies, and all have a high risk of permanent exclusion if they stay in mainstream education. There are huge benefits for such children attending ACET Pathway:

- Improved attendance
- Reductions in behavioural concerns
- Improved relationships with academy staff
- A belief that they can succeed and an increased understanding of the purpose of being in school.

ACET Pathway provision offers small group teaching with qualified teachers. Students complete 5 GCSEs including: English Language, Maths, Science, Sports Studies and Construction or Photography. Enrichment is also a highly important part of the curriculum offer, where students have opportunities to access learning outdoors and from September 2025, students will be able to complete various



vocational qualifications including Sports Leader Level 1 and Duke of Edinburgh Bronze.

A huge thank you to everyone who has been involved in this initiative from the start - your commitment really has made a difference to the lives of some extremely vulnerable children. My thanks extend to the staff working directly in the ACET Pathway provision but also to the wider body of staff who have been involved in identifying and supporting the correct students in order that they could go on and thrive. Thank you also to teaching staff who have had timetabled lesson delivery in the provision and to senior leaders who have supported throughout, even during the incredibly challenging first year. And last but by no means least, thank you to everyone involved in the transportation of students between the secondary sites - this again, has not always been smooth sailing - thank you for your patience, resilience and determination - this has been exactly what our students have needed.



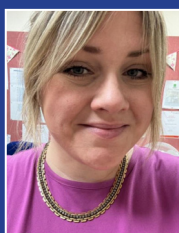
"Before my child joined the alternative provision, school had become a daily struggle. He felt anxious, unsupported, he was falling behind both academically and emotionally along with his behaviour being out of control. Since joining the alternative provision, we've seen a complete transformation. The staff took the time to understand my child's needs, building trust and creating a safe, nurturing environment where they could truly thrive. Their confidence has grown, they're more engaged in learning, and for the first time in a long time, they actually look forward to going to school. I'm incredibly grateful for the care, patience, and dedication shown by everyone involved. AP has given my child hope and a solid foundation to build on as he progresses his education at College and I can't thank Mr Green, Mr Gerrard, Mr Gregory, Miss Fletcher, Miss Palmer and all the other staff that have played a part enough for everything they have done for my child in the last two years."
Parent of Y11 AP student

Meet the September 2025 Team



Andy Green

ACET Strategic Director
for Behaviour & Attendance



Fran Haywood

Vice Principal,
Aston Academy



Carl Attwood

ACET Pathway
Co-Ordinator



Zoe Fletcher

ACET Pathway
Manager



Dave Gerrard

ACET Pathway
Behaviour Support

**POSITIVE
PARENT
VIEWS
MATTER**

Mellors Catering

We are delighted to announce that Mellors Catering Services is now providing our academy meals. Since the start of term, the team has been serving a wide variety of freshly prepared, healthy, and delicious food that is proving a real hit with both pupils/students and staff.

Mellors is known for its commitment to using fresh ingredients, creating balanced menus, and offering exciting daily choices. From hearty hot meals to lighter options and tasty snacks, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Feedback so far has been excellent, with pupils/students praising the variety and quality, while staff have welcomed the friendly service and the focus on healthy eating.

But this is just the beginning! Over the coming weeks, Mellors will be working with us on a rebrand of our dining experience, introducing a new look and feel to our food service. There are also plans for fun theme days, where menus will celebrate different cuisines, seasons, and events, bringing a little extra buzz to lunchtimes.

We are excited to see these developments take shape and look forward to working in partnership with Mellors to ensure that lunchtimes continue to be enjoyable, nutritious, and inspiring for all.

Through being part of ACET, academies are able to utilise the benefits of being part of a trust through economies of scale and efficiencies. Catering has been just one of the projects we have taken a trust-wide approach to through Education Commercial Services (ECS) who provide specialist procurement services to us to ensure best value. Other projects to date where the Trust has made efficiencies and huge savings through procurement are:

- Energy
- Printing
- Secondary academy uniform
- Mobile phones
- IT equipment
- Management Information System – BromCom



Waverley Primary Academy **Expansion**

We were delighted that the expansion project at Waverley Primary Academy ran to time and completed for handover in July, prior to the summer break. On returning in September, the academy opened as a three-form entry establishment. On site, there is the capacity for 630 children from FS2-Y6, alongside a 30 place 2-year-old and 60 place 3–4-year-old nursery. Currently, there are a few places remaining in Key Stage 2 as admission applications have been flying in since the start of May.

In terms of the staff team, 6 additional teaching staff were appointed for September, many of whom have moved across from other ACET primary academies. The increase in size of the Waverley staff team has supported reducing staff numbers in other academies where we have experienced a lower intake of FS2 pupils due to declining birth rates across the borough. This has also supported ACET in staying true to avoiding staff redundancies, which unfortunately, many other trusts are facing in the current financial climate.

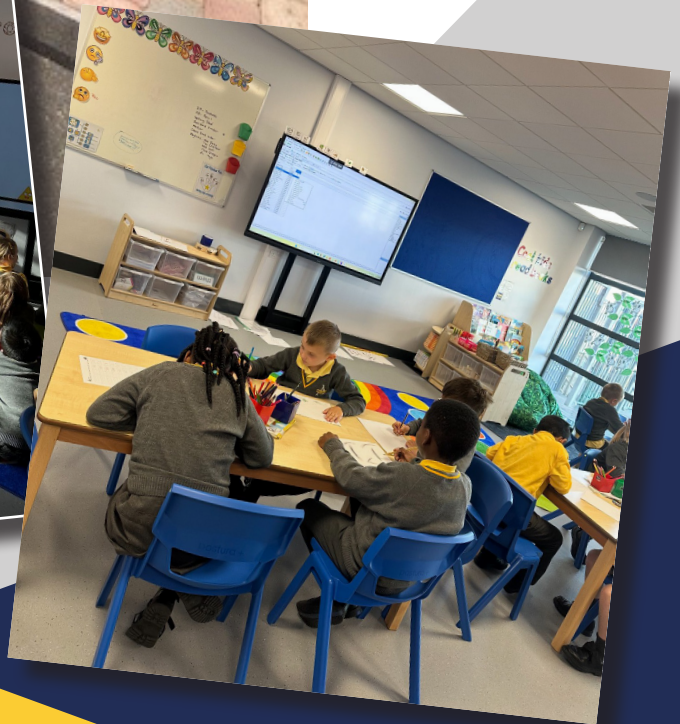
The Trust recognises the commitment from staff at the end of term and over the summer break as they have given of their own time willingly to ensure classrooms have been ready for September – as I'm sure you can imagine, the deliveries of resources from chairs to additional library books has been immense! Last year, staff continued to maintain teaching and learning in the 16 classrooms already on site despite the construction works and logistical implications to accommodate changes to entrance routes etc. The children must also be commended for their exemplary behaviour throughout and their adaptability to all the changes.

Our thanks extend to the Leadership Team on site, not least the principal, Rachel Bolton, for their highly efficient, logistical organisation during the last 12 months. Well done to them all and a sincere thank you for everything that has been achieved. Last but by no means least, thank you to the parent community for your patience and adaptability to the changes – you have worked in true partnership with us and it has been greatly appreciated.

Thank you!



Councillor Victoria Cusworth
visiting the site



ACET Governance – Who does What?

Ever wondered who makes the big decisions in our academies, or how parents and the local community have their say? Here's a simple guide to who does what in ACET governance, and how you can get involved too!

The Layers of Governance at ACET

1. The Members

Think of Members as the guardians of the Trust. They make sure ACET stays true to its purpose, setting the overall constitution and appointing Trustees. At ACET, we have 4 Members.

2. The Trust Board (Trustees)

The Trust Board sets the strategic direction for all ACET academies. Trustees oversee finances, safeguarding, staffing, standards, and compliance. They don't get involved in the day-to-day running of schools, that's for our principals and staff, but they make sure ACET delivers on its vision and values.

To do this well, Trustees bring a huge range of expertise in education, finance, law, HR, and leadership. They meet regularly as a full board and through committees focused on curriculum, standards, finance, risk, and people.

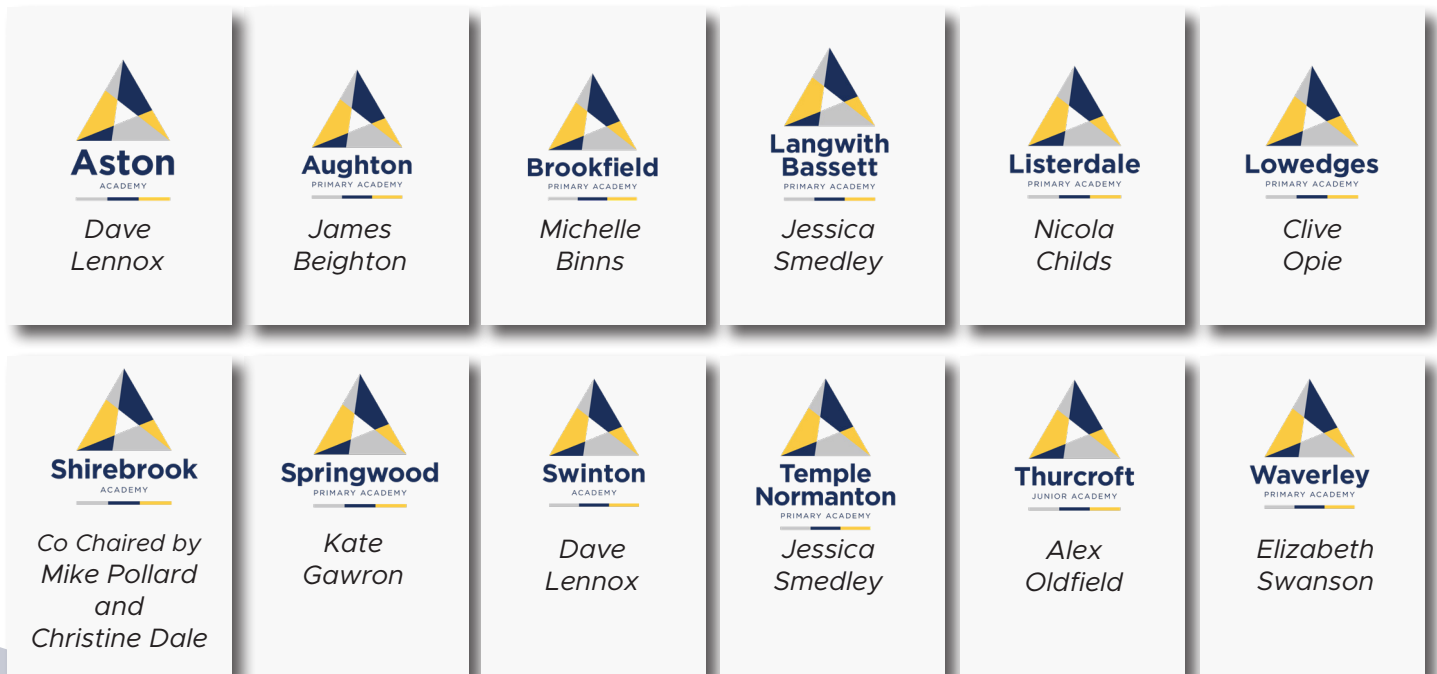
At ACET, we currently have 7 Trustees.

3. Local Governing Boards (LGBs)

This is where parent and local stakeholder voice really counts. Each academy has its own Local Governing Board (LGB) (with Langwith Bassett and Temple Normanton sharing one Board).

LGBs provide local insight, challenge, and support. They look closely at:

- attendance and behaviour
- pupil progress and achievement
- SEND and inclusion
- safeguarding and wellbeing
- how the school engages with families and the wider community
- voluntary fund and fundraising



They're local people, parents, carers, and community members, who know the context of each academy community and make sure voices on the ground are heard.



Hi, I'm Natalie,
ACET's Governance Leader
and Data Protection Officer.

4. The Governance Leader

My role is to make sure the Trust's governance runs smoothly and to connect the dots between the Trust Board, LGBs, and you, our families.

A little about me: I joined ACET in April 2024 and have worked in schools across Rotherham and Derbyshire in business management and executive leadership roles. I've also been Chair of Governors at one of our academies, so I know first-hand how important good governance is for our children. I've recently completed the Chartered Governance Institute Academy Governance qualification.

I'm also a parent of SEND children, which means I really understand how vital inclusion and support are. I feel privileged to use this perspective in my role, making sure ACET is not only compliant and well-governed, but also genuinely listening to parents to support improving outcomes for every child. Partnership working and communication is key to this and we're reaching out for you, our parents, to support by having a greater parent/community representation on our LGBs.

Why Your Voice Matters

At ACET, we believe that great schools are built on partnership. Trustees provide strategic oversight, but Local Governing Boards bring the views and represent the local heartbeat of each academy community.

Parents and carers play a vital role. You know what's working well and where things can improve. Your perspective helps shape everything from curriculum priorities to the way our academies support children with SEND, and from safeguarding to enrichment opportunities.

Get Involved and Become a Parent Governor!

We're always looking for enthusiastic parents and local community members to join our Local Governing Boards. You don't need to be an expert in education, just committed to supporting our academies and speaking up for our children.

As a Local Governor, you'll:

- represent parent and community voices, working in partnership with the principal and LGB
- help shape the direction of the academy – particularly to further community engagement and help the academy to support with areas of need in the local community
- gain valuable skills and training in leadership and governance

**Click here to see our
current governor vacancies
and apply!**

<https://mynewterm.com/jobs/2195/EDV-2025-ACET-46130#>

**If you'd like to know more,
get in touch with me directly:
natalie.borrington@astoncetrust.org**

**Together, we strive to ensure ACET
academies are safe, ambitious, inclusive, and
delivering the best for every child.
Curious about governance? Want to make a
difference in your school community? Apply
today, your voice matters!**



ACET

Striving for **Excellence**
Empowering Achievement
Shaping **Learning**



Waverley
PRIMARY ACADEMY



Aston
ACADEMY



Aughton
PRIMARY ACADEMY



Thurcroft
JUNIOR ACADEMY



Brookfield
PRIMARY ACADEMY



Temple Normanton
PRIMARY ACADEMY



Langwith Bassett
PRIMARY ACADEMY



Swinton
ACADEMY



Listerdale
PRIMARY ACADEMY



Springwood
PRIMARY ACADEMY



Lowedges
PRIMARY ACADEMY



Shirebrook
ACADEMY